AWM4

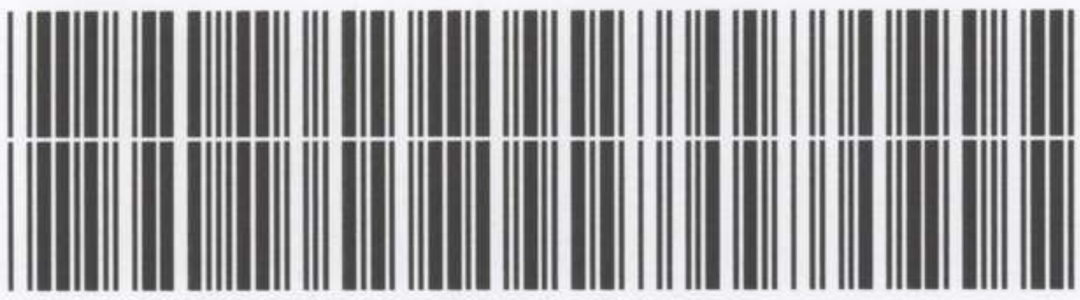
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries, 1914-18 War

Machine Guns

Item number: 24/9/25

Title: 4th Australian Machine Gun Company

July 1918



AWM4-24/9/25

R.20,000—5/18—11069.

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Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

No. 4 Aust. M.G. Coy.

FOR

July 1918

No. 4 AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN COMPANY
Date
A. I. F.

Signature of Officer compiling Maxwell Reid

Signature of Officer Commanding Maxwell Reid

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1007736

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WAR DIARY
or
~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~
(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VAIRE WOOD SECTOR (AUBIGNY)	1918 JULY ~~2~~ 1st		A great number of communications and operation orders regarding the forthcoming operations are coming in but no definite date & time have yet been notified. Three sections, Nos. 1, 3 and 4 are to go forward with the attacking Battalions, and No 2 Section will be on Barrage work. All plans seem to be well laid and if the present programme is adhered to the stunt will be eminently successful	118
	2nd		In addition to the Gun Teams of 7 men each 2 infantrymen have been attached as carriers to each team that is to go forward - 24 men in all, from the 14th Bn Battn. The men are all thoroughly versed in the various tasks allotted to them and are now having a complete rest before the operation. The Hon W.M. Hughes inspected the Brigade today, or at least representatives from each unit in it, and this Coy sent 2 officers and 45 OR. A supply of comforts from the A.C.F. arrived today - Cocoa & Milk Tinned milk, sweets, tobacco, cigarettes etc. - & they will be very acceptable after the "Hop over"	118.
	3rd		This morning every preparation was made for moving up to the line to take part in the operations of tomorrow morning. The objective is a line running the further sides of VAIRE and HAMEL wood. All sections received twenty four hours rations and a proportion of the comforts before	118

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VAIRE WOOD SECTOR	1918 JULY 3rd.		moving out. All sections fell in at 9 pm. with the exception of No 2 which had already moved to its Barrage position, & who are to co-operate with other M.G. companies in laying down a barrage. Nos 1, 3 & 4 Sections moved off to join their respective Infantry units & these were allotted as follows:- a sub. section of 2 guns of No 1 Section	
	4th		to 13th Battalion, with the task of protecting the Battalion's right flank. This subsection was in charge of Lieut Chapman M.M. and did its work admirably. The other two guns, under Lieut Hopkins, were allotted to a platoon of Infantry & were to establish two strong posts. These positions were consolidated, but as the enemy did not counter-attack during the night the Guns had no occasion to fire. This Section, especially the two forward guns did fine work and some members of the ~~brilliant~~ crews have been recommended for rewards for their splendid conduct. After consolidation of the strong posts Lieut Hopkins took up the duties of Liaison Officer, and obtained the dispositions of all 12 guns. No 3 Section's task was to protect the left flank of the 15th Battn. Two guns went forward with the first wave of Infantry & brought a withering fire to bear on the retreating enemy. The remaining two guns of No 3 accompanied a	

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Army Form C. 2118.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VAIRE WOOD SECTOR	1918 JULY 4th		platoon of infantry whose work was to consolidate the support line. Unfortunately the infantry met with resistance, but the sub-section officer, Lieut J.J. DWYER V.C. grasped the situation immediately and deployed. He came into action and silenced the enemy M.G. that had caused the trouble. No 4 section had much the same work as the other two sections but was very unfortunate in losing a complete gun team which was blown out by one of our own shells. The Section officer Lieut Dovey had been wounded a few yards from the "jumpling off" mark, but was determined to carry on., Unhappily, he was killed before the objective was reached. The Section Sergeant immediately took charge of the Section and showed splendid initiative in handling the situation and chose excellent positions for his guns. This N.C.O. is being recommended for a decoration for his action at this most critical time. The first report received was from Lieut Wright, working with the 15th Battn. It was received at Boy Hqrs at 5.30am, 2hrs 20mins after Zero hour. To ensure the constant supply of S.A.A there was established an "aerial" transport Beside 4 of the gun positions was a huge white "V" as a guide	118

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VAIRE WOOD SECTOR	1918 JULY 4.		to the airmen. The S A A boxes was depended from parachutes but as a strong wind was blowing the boxes often landed wide of the mark. The company has to its credit 2 Light Machine Guns and approximately 50 prisoners - these were escorted to the rear by Infantry guards as gunners could not be spared. Our casualties were 1 off & 10 OR killed 11 OR. wounded. The forward guns ~~do~~ fired 10000 rounds & did great damage.	118
5			At 9-30 last night the enemy launched a counter attack against the 5th Division who were occupying a position extending over a knoll to our left which had been an enemy "strong post" & in part of which he was still established. The line was forced back a slight distance but the advantage to the enemy was only temporary, the whole of the "strong post" eventually passing into our hands. This knoll, which commands the position occupied by us, has been subjected to an almost incessant bombardment since yesterday morning. During the attack our indirect guns opened up & two of our guns on the left of the Brigade front did direct firing. Heavy shelling by both sides continued until about midnight, but no casualties were sustained by us	118

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Army Form C. 2118.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Vaire Wood Sector	5		During this bombardment one of our heavy guns (estimated to be an eight inch howitzer) which had been consistently shooting short continued to fire into our lines, fortunately doing no damage. Our rear guns continued on indirect work after firing on the barrage line & expended 5000 rounds on enemy roads & communication Trenches. The day was very fine & enemy aircraft were very active flying low observing our lines & occasionally using their machine guns. They also appeared to be dropping rations & ammunition to their troops in the forward system of trenches.	WB
	6		Everything fairly quiet although our artillery put down heavy barrages at 3.15 am & 10.30 pm, the enemy replying on both occasions with a fairly heavy barrages on our front system, lasting about 3/4 of an hour. The weather has been very fine - a day of bright, warm sunshine. No suitable targets appearing, our direct fire guns did not open, but 4000 rounds of indirect fire were expended on enemy forward communication roads & tracks.	WB

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Army Form C. 2118.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Vaire Wood Sector	7 July		Apart from the usual morning & evening "Strafe" our artillery was very active, doing a good deal of harassing fire on enemy communications, a considerable amount of movement in the neighbourhood of WARFUSE-ABANCOURT being successfully dealt with. The enemy's shelling was more or less confined to morning & evening barrages in reply to ours & fell on our forwarded system. One man in No 2 Section was sniped today whilst moving about in the support line. Although badly wounded he was moved to the dressing station successfully. Our direct fire guns were again silent owing to lack of suitable targets, whilst our indirect guns fired 4000 rounds on enemy roads, tracks & forward communications Targets:- Road P22c; Trenches P22a, P21d. X Roads P27d The weather still holds good	WB.
	8		Our artillery fired the usual morning & evening barrages and also considerable harassing fire with some counter battery work. The enemy replied with counter barrages on our front system but did very little damage. During the night there was increased artillery activity on both sides	WB.

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Army Form C. 2118.

2118

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Varre Wood Sector	July 8		due to a minor operation on our left. About 5 pm Lieut Creany of No 2 Section was very seriously wounded in the left leg by a sniper, a compound fracture resulting. He was quickly invoked to the dressing station & has a good chance of recovery. Direct fire was not used - no suitable targets presenting themselves. 4000 rounds were expended by the indirect fire guns on enemy forward communications. Targets:- Roads P.27 d; Road through P.22 c; Trenches P.22 c.; Trench enfilade P.21 c.	106
	9		Our artillery carried out the daily programme of harrassing fire. The enemy's artillery showed more activity today - firing at small parties & replying vigorously to our barrages. During the night two of our forward guns were put out of action through having the barrel casing pierced by fragments of shells - fortunately no one was wounded! These guns were replaced as soon as possible. Two guns were moved from the O.P. at P.19.a.75.70. to the new support line in front of VARIRE WOOD & were placed at P.21.a.00.50. & P.21.a.10.90. - two of the reserve guns at O.24.b.4.3.90.	108

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Army Form C. 2118.

2118

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Vaire Wood Sector	July 9		being moved up to replace them. Our direct fire guns fired 250 rounds into the tree tops of ACCROCHE WOOD, where several snipers, who were very active, were reported to be concealed. Our indirect fire guns expended 4000 rounds on enemy forward communications Targets:- Road P.22.c.; X Roads P.27.d.; Trenches P.21.a; P.22.a The weather has been showery today, but it promises to be fine tomorrow.	
	10		a comparatively quiet day: Our artillery continued harrassing fire, besides a considerable amount of firing at small parties by direct observation. Except for replying to our set barrages the enemy's artillery was very quiet. No suitable target was found for our direct guns & 4000 rounds were fired on forward enemy communications by our indirect guns:- Targets: X Roads P.27.d., Road P.22.c., Trenches P.22.a., P.21.d. The weather has again been showery, though between showers the visibility has been excellent.	

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Army Form C. 2118.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Vaire Wood Sector	July 11		Our Artillery has been more than usually active on harassing fire all day. The enemy artillery has been quieter than usual, though a new 77m battery opened today for the first time - firing about 50 shots all of which fell well within his own lines. Owing to considerable enemy movement being observed the alert has been ordered, but he has not much chance of breaking through here. No targets appearing our direct fire guns remained silent, but our indirect guns fired 10,000 rounds on enemy forward communications. Targets :- Roads P.27.d; Road P.22.c; Trenches & tracks P.22.a; Trenches (enfilade) P.21.d. The weather is still good & the visibility excellent. The O.C. 10th Company was here today, arranging for the relief of 10 of our guns. The relief will be made in daylight	118
	12		Everything has been very quiet today though our artillery has been fairly active on harassing fire. Enemy artillery has been exceptionally quiet. The 10th Company arrived at 3.30 pm & were sent out with the guides; the relief being completed without casualties at 6 pm	118 v

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Vaire Wood Sector	July 12		The company returned to the nucleus where they will remain for the night - moving out to the new camp in the morning.	18
Querrieu	13		This morning the company moved out from the nucleus Camp at H 35.b.60.80. to take over the camp just vacated by the 10th M.G. Coy. We marched out at 9.50 am & passed the other Company on the road. The new camp was found to be in a delightful spot with the tents pitched on a grassy slope on the banks of the Hallule. The day was spent is cleaning up camp, digging shelters, latrines, etc.	18
	14		Arrangements have been made to hold a company sports meeting while in this area & on Saturday next Brigade Sports will be held in the local Chateau grounds. Lieut Fawcett has been appointed sports officer & a committee has been formed & is now drawing up a programme for the Company meeting. While in this area we are under the direct control of the G.O.C. 4th A.I. Bde. & as a unit of that Bde we are to be employed in the defence of Amiens in the event of an enemy attack	18

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Army Form C. 2118.

2118

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Querrieu	July 14		There are at present in the company who have recently been transferred from Infantry & who have had no opportunity of instruction since joining. A syllabus of training has been drawn up & it is hoped that before we again go in the line these men will be well grounded in Machine Gunnery.	108
	15		As we are now 5 kilos from Bathn H.Q. it has been decided to open a branch of the canteen at this camp. The first stock arrived today & business was brisk. Those who are competing in the company sports have been allowed the whole day for training. Entries for the various events are coming in freely & everything points to a successful meeting. A comprehensive course of machine Gunnery was commenced today.	108
	16		Routine work was carried out today & the new men being very keen showed good progress in their gun work. Two guns have been mounted for anti-aircraft defence. This evening an enemy plane destroyed two of our observation balloons; it however did not come quite within our range & retired immediately	108

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Army Form C. 2118.

2118

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Querrieu	1918 July 17		Company Sports were held today & were a splendid success. The weather was fine, and, thanks to the organisation of the officials everything went off without a hitch. Aquatic events were run off in the morning, and land events in the afternoon. The atmosphere was just that of an Australian Sports Meeting, everyone was enthusiastic and every event was keenly contested. The best performers in todays sports will be entered for the Brigade Sports, to be held on Saturday next. A spice was added to the days enjoyment by the presence of two bookmakers who made business brisk and proved themselves to be fine sportsmen. There was more than the usual amount of risk, for every competitor was to a certain extent, a "dark horse" and his merits were not even known to the "bookies". Notwithstanding this, however, when the day ended they were only 12 francs out of pocket.	118
	18		Today was devoted to carrying out a programme of training and Section Commanders delivered Lectures on "Points observed & Lessons Learned in recent operation. In the afternoon those who are to compete in the Brigade Sports were allowed to train for their respective events.	118

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Army Form C. 2118.

Place	Date 1918	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
QUERRIEU	JULY 19		An opportunity was taken today to put the "new" men through a course of Range work and most of them are shaping well. The afternoon was devoted to training for Sports.	18.
"	20		4th Brigade Sports were held today but the weather was not quite as favourable as for our boy Sports. a few showers falling during the ~~morning~~ afternoon. Although our representatives got few prizes in the water events, there was not one athletic event in which we did not get a place. A cup was offered to the unit gaining highest aggregate points - 5 for each first 3 for second and 1 for third, and at the end of the day when the points were counted, it was found that this Company had won the cup, with the 15th Battalion as runners up. This is certainly a splendid achievement for so small a unit!	18.
	21		A Brigade Church Parade was held today at which Lieut-General Sir John Monash V.D, K.C.B. presented medals ribbons and the prizes won at yesterdays sports.	18.
	22		The 4th Division Race Meeting was held today at ALLONVILLE, at which, through unfortunate accidents, two officers were killed. Our Company secured two prizes - a first and a second - this, considering the number of competitors, was quite good.	18

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Army Form C. 2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
QUERRIEU	1918 JULY 23		The 4th M.G.Battn Sports which were to have been held today, were postponed on account of the very unfavourable weather conditions which prevailed all day. As our Coy had already marched to ALLONVILLE before news of the postponement came, no training could be done today.	118.
	24		The day was devoted to training: Gun Instruction and Lecture "Fire Direction"	118
	25		Fine weather conditions prevailed for the Battalion Sports today & they proved a great success. Two of this Corps officers ran a totalisator and in addition some bookmakers catered for the gambling element. Points were awarded - 5 for first 3 for second and 1 for 3rd in each event and when these were totalled up this Coy led the others by 32 points; ~~and~~ so again we brought off the Cup.	118.
	26 27 28 29		A programme of training was carried out. While in this area the new men have been instructed separately from the competent gunners, and their improvement is more marked as each day goes on. In these few days they have been put through a comprehensive course both in range work & gun instruction	118

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Army Form C. 2118.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
QUERRIEU	1918 JULY 30		Advice has been received that we are to relieve the ~~French~~ 37th French Division on right of VILLERS BRETONNEUX on night 1st/2nd proximo. Accordingly ~~C~~ T/O.C. and section officers reconnoitred the Sector today and chose gun positions. The sector is one over which the enemy has good observation & very little movement can be made before 10pm. Soon after the officers returned tonight, word came that the relief is to take place tomorrow night instead of the night after. The Battn Nucleus will be at BOVES.	
	31		All preparation had to be made this morning to go into the Line tonight. "C" boy 123rd American Nº 6 Battn is attached to this boy and in addition to our own 16 guns, 12 guns of the American boy will be in with us, making 28 in all. Capt. McQUADE, commanding ~~123rd~~ "C" boy, 123rd American Nº 6 Battn has collaborated with Lieut HUNT T/cmdg this boy and the sections will be made up as follows. No 1 - 3 guns each from American & this Coy. No 2 3 guns each from American & this Coy. No 3 - 2 guns each from this boy & American Coy No 4 - 8 guns of this Coy - 4 guns American Coy. boy Hq is to be at U26b 70.10. Nucleus ~~will~~ was to move to BOVES, but on arrival there tonight the town was found to be out of bounds & camp was established in BOVES Wood. S18d 40.30.	

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Army Form C. 2118.

2123

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
QUERRIEU	1918 JULY 31		The Coy moved out at 12.30pm to go into Line. As all gun gear had to be carried, every available man went up, and tomorrow when teams are established, a number will return to Nucleus. This is the first time the Coy has relieved the French, and it is fitting to record this companys appreciation of the cleanliness of the trenches and vicinity vacated by the 37th French Division. The trenches were found to be deep & well kept and everything was satisfactory. Relief was carried out quickly & without casualty & was complete by 2am. The night was fine & clear & the enemy remained fairly quiet, there being very little shelling near our positions	18

Harold H. Lunt
for O.C. 4th A.M.G. COMPANY

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20,000—5/18—11,069

Appendix 17

WAR DIARY

OF

No 4 Aust M G Coy

FOR

July 1918

No. 4 AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN COMPANY
No...../.....
Date.....
A. I. F.

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1	Battery Chart No 5 gun
2	Gun Chart - No 1 Gun
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4	" . 3 .
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6	" . 5 .
7	Barrage Map: Hamel Offensive
8	Operation Report. 4th M G Coy
9	4th Aust Div. Memo G.5/61/L.
10	4th A. I Bde Preliminary Instructions re Hamel Offensive . 28.6.18
11	Further Instructions re above - 29.6.18
12	Plan of Formation for offensive
13	4th Div Memo G 32/209 4/3.
14	4th a I Bde Order No 18
15	Operation Instns No 1 - ref above
16	4th a I Bde Order No 19.
17.	4th M G Batn Memo M.G 1/57/1 re S.O.S
18	Operation Instn No 2.
19	4th a I Bde Instructions G 1-1/21
20	" " G 8/7/9
21	4th Aust Div. Instn No 2.
22	Maps showing Bde Final Objectives
23	Field Artillery Barrage Maps.
24	Notes on Enemy opposite Corps Front.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1007736

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Appendix 18

WAR DIARY

OF

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No 4 Aust M.G. Coy

FOR

July 1918

LIST OF APPENDICES.

(Continued)

No.	Subject.
25	Map showing probable dispositions of Enemy troops
26	Map showing new gun positions after offensive.
X 27.	4th A.A. Bde Admin Instns - 10.7.18
28	Dispositions Map - 4th Aust Div. 15.7.18
29	Programme 4th M.G. Batn Sports
30	Training Programme - 4th M.G. Coy.
31	4th M.G. Coy Order No 8.
26a	Operation Report 4th M.G. Coy

J. Bancroft Lieut

for O.C. 4th A.M.G. Coy.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1007736

Army Form W.3767.

Ref. Appl

BATTERY CHART.

Battery ..... Place .....

Group No. ..... Date .....

Composition: 5 Vickers Guns.	No. of Directing Gun: one	SPECIAL ORDERS:
Commanded by: Lieut M.B. Sawrett	Frontage of Battery: 150x	
Location of Directing Gun: P.19 B.2.7.	Grid bearing to R.O.:	
Zero Line from through	~~Grid~~ M.B bearing of Zero Line: 88°	

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Tasks	Guns (No.)	TARGETS	Clock Time From	Clock Time To	Zero Time From	Zero Time To	Angle of Switch of Directing Gun	Dist'b'n Angle	RANGE	V.I.	Q.E.	Q.E. differences	Traverse	Range to Own Troops	CLEARANCE	Rate of Fire R.P.M.
A.	5.	Enemy M. Guns. P16 C1.0 to 1.9.			+3	+53		6°40'	2010' 2500x	7 metres	7°20'	—	1° R&L.	450x	75 metres	100.
B.	5'	Enemy M. Guns P22 A42 to 8.6 and S.O.S. nil.			+93	+123	15° Right	~~6°20'~~ 10° 7°40'	2800 to 2500	23 metres to 13 metres	9°30	30' depression	1° R&L.	1800x	197 yds	100.

Tasks	No. 8 Gun	No. 7 Gun	No. 6 Gun	No. 5 Gun	No. 4 Gun	No. 3 Gun	No. 2 Gun	No. 1 Gun	
A.				~~8°40'~~	~~6°30'~~	~~4°20'~~	~~2°10'~~	~~nil~~	
B.				~~17°40'~~	~~17°~~	~~16°20'~~	~~15°40'~~	~~15°~~	
				6.40'	5 -	3.20	1.40	nil	Dist 1/40'
				16°	15.45	15.30	15.15	15°	Dist 15'

NOTES.—1. The Clearance shewn must be the minimum clearance which occurs at any part of the trajectory over our own troops.

2. The Table on the left shows the angle of deviation for each gun from its Zero line for any particular task.

Appendix 1

Signature M Sawrett. Lieut Battery Commander.

3/8/18

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AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1007736

Appendix 2 20

Army Form W.3768.

GUN CHART.

No. 1 212 Gun. D. Battery. Gun Commander.....

~~Grid~~ Bearing of Zero Line 88° magnetic N.C.O. i/c.....

Task	Clock Time		Zero Time		Angle of Deviation from Zero Line	Normal Q.E.	Corrected Q.E.	Traverse	Rate of Fire R.P.M.
	From	To	From	To					
A.			+3	+53	Nil	7°20' ~~8°20'~~	—	1° R+L	100
B.			+93	+123	15° ~~Nil~~	9°30'	—	1° R+L	100

CHART OF CONCENTRATION POINTS.

No. of Point	Angle of Deviation from Zero Line	Normal Q.E.	Corrected R.E.	Traverse	Remarks

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Signature..... W Dawes Lieut
Battery Commander.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1007736

Appendix 3 21

Army Form W.3768.

GUN CHART.

No. 212 Gun. D Battery. Gun Commander.....

~~Grid~~ Bearing of Zero Line 88° magnetic N.C.O. i/c.....

Task	Clock Time		Zero Time		Angle of Deviation from Zero Line	Normal Q.E.	Corrected Q.E.	Traverse	Rate of Fire R.P.M.
	From	To	From	To					
A.			+3	+53	1° 40' ~~2° 10~~	7° 20' ~~8° 10~~		1° R & L	100
B.			+93	+123	15° 15" ~~15° 10~~	9°		1° R & L	100

CHART OF CONCENTRATION POINTS.

No. of Point	Angle of Deviation from Zero Line	Normal Q.E.	Corrected R.E.	Traverse	Remarks

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Signature..... W Bairsfield Lieut
Battery Commander.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1007736

Appendix 4 22

GUN CHART.

Army Form W.3768.

No. 3. Gun. D Battery. Gun Commander.....

~~Grid~~ Bearing of Zero Line 88° Magnetic N.C.O. i/c.....

Task	Clock Time		Zero Time		Angle of Deviation from Zero Line	Normal Q.E.	Corrected Q.E.	Traverse	Rate of Fire R.P.M.
	From	To	From	To					
A.			+3	+53	3° 20'	7° 20' [redacted]		1° R & L	100
B.			+93	+123	15° 30'	8° 30'		1° R & L	100

CHART OF CONCENTRATION POINTS.

No. of Point	Angle of Deviation from Zero Line	Normal Q.E.	Corrected R.E.	Traverse	REMARKS

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Signature. W Bassett Lund
Battery Commander.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1007736

Appendix 5 23

Army Form W.3768.

GUN CHART.

No. 4 Gun. D Battery. Gun Commander.....

~~Grid~~ Bearing of Zero Line 88° magnetic N.C.O. i/c.....

Task	Clock Time		Zero Time		Angle of Deviation from Zero Line	Normal Q.E.	Corrected Q.E.	Traverse	Rate of Fire R.P.M.
	From	To	From	To					
A.			+3	+53	5°	7°20'		1°R+L	100
B.			+93	+123	15°45'	8°		1°R+L	100

CHART OF CONCENTRATION POINTS.

No. of Point	Angle of Deviation from Zero Line	Normal Q.E.	Corrected R.E.	Traverse	REMARKS

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Signature M Bawden Lieut
Battery Commander.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1007736

Appendix 6 24

Army Form W.3768.

GUN CHART.

No. 521 Gun. D Battery. Gun Commander.....

Grid Bearing of Zero Line 88° Magnetic N.C.O. i/c.....

Task	Clock Time		Zero Time		Angle of Deviation from Zero Line	Normal Q.E.	Corrected Q.E.	Traverse	Rate of Fire R.P.M.
	From	To	From	To					
A.			+3	+53	6° 40	7°20'		1°R+L	100
B.			+93	+123	16° [illegible]	7°30'		1°R+L	100

CHART OF CONCENTRATION POINTS.

No. of Point	Angle of Deviation from Zero Line	Normal Q.E.	Corrected R.E.	Traverse	REMARKS

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Signature..... Bawett Lieut

Battery Commander.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1007736

MACHINE GUN BARRAGE MAP

HAMEL OFFENSIVE

3rd M.G Bn. Group

5th M.G Bn. Group

24th A.M.G. Coy Group

13th A.M.G. Coy Group

2nd M.G. Bn. Group

INFANTRY LINE

ARTILLERY LINE

START TAPE

Fire lift on or before

+10 +13 +16 +19 +22 +25 +28 +41 +45 +49 +53 +57 +61 +65 +69 +73 +77 +81 +85

A B C D E F G H J K L M N P

A² B² C² D² G²

2 7 13 17 22 23

Legend.

M.G. Battery.

Standing Barrage.

Protective Barrage.

NOTE.—(1). These traces are intended to facilitate the communication of information as to the position of targets, which have been located on a squared map.
(2). The squares on this trace are 600 yards in length on the 1/10,000 scale, 1,000 yards in length on the 1/40,000 scale, and 2,000 yards in length on the 1/20,000 scale.
(3). The squares on the trace are fitted to the squares of the map showing the targets, which are then drawn on the trace. Sufficient letters and numbers must also be added to enable the recipient to place the trace in the correct position on his own map. A little detail may also be traced, but this is not essential. The name and scale of the map to which the trace refers must be always given. The trace can be used for the 1/10,000, 1/20,000, or 1/40,000 scale.

G.S.G.S. 3023.

Tracing taken from Sheet Bayonvillers

of the 1/ 20,000 map of

Signature Date 2·7·18.

Appendix 17

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1007736

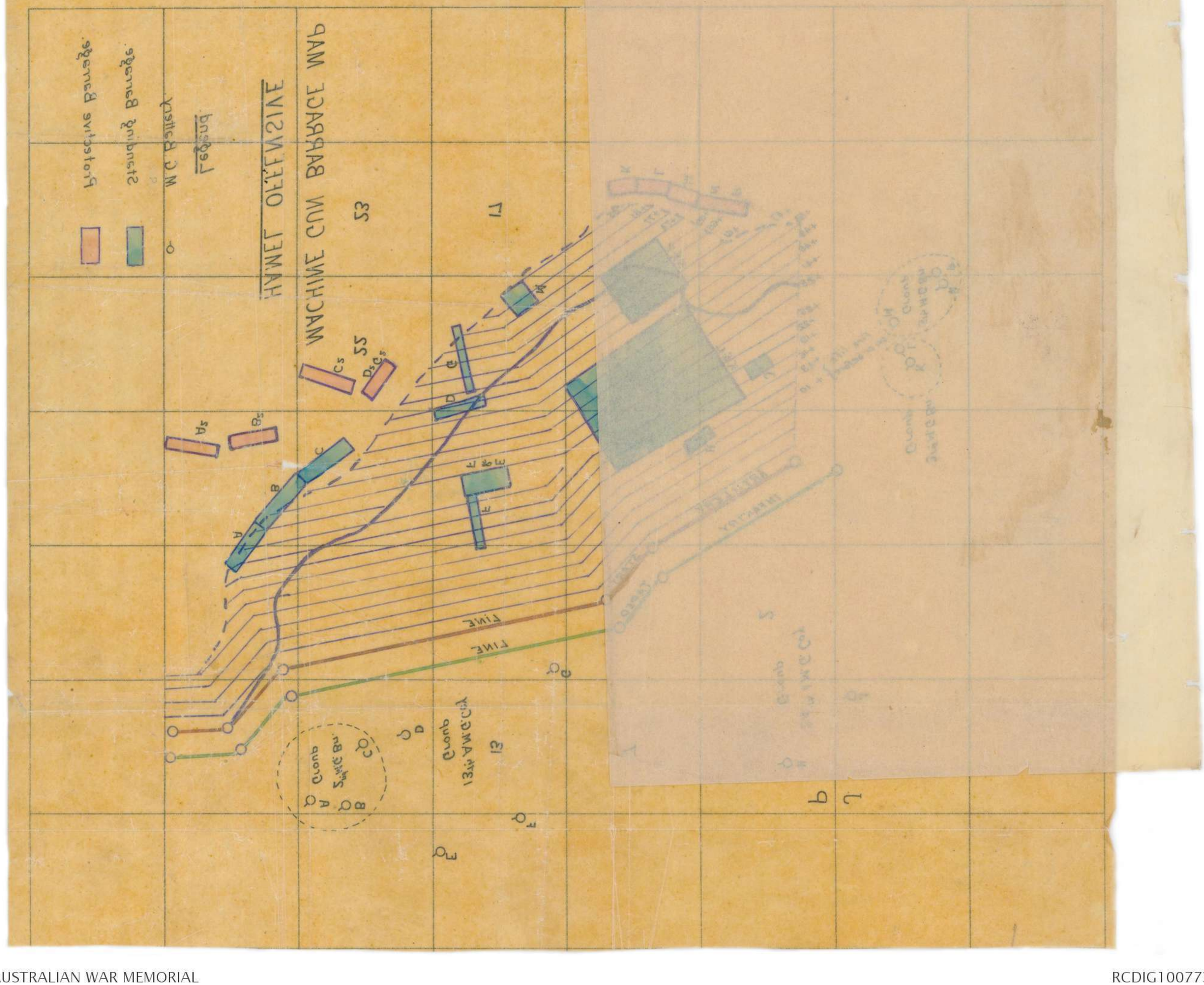
Appendix 7.

C.S.C.S. 2052.

NOTE.—(1). These traces are intended to facilitate the communication of information as to the position of targets, which must perforce be given [illegible] on the 1/40,000 scale.

(2). The advance on this trace are 500 yrds in length on the 1/10,000 scale, 1,000 yrds in length on the 1/20,000 scale.

(3). The advance on the trace are fitted to the edges of the map showing the targets, which are then drawn on [illegible] lettered and numbered. Such data be added to enable the receiver to bring the trace in the correct position on his own [illegible] map also be traced, but this is not essential. The map scale of the map to which the trace refers must be [illegible] can be used for the 1/10,000, 1/20,000, or 1/40,000 scale.


HAMEL OFFENSIVE
MACHINE GUN BARRAGE MAP
53
54
55
W.C. Ravine
Protective Barrage.
Standing Barrage.
A5
B5
C5
D5
E5
A
B
C
D
E
Tank
Tank
Tank
Quarry
Quarry
Quarry

~~4/4/28~~

Appendix B 26

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Report

4th Aust M G Company

concerning operations in VAIRE Wood Sector

4-7-18

In compliance with 4th Aust M G Battn Instructions No. the 16 guns of the 4th A M G Coy. were employed in support of the 4th A I Bde. in Naire Wood Sector on night 3/4 July.

Of the 12 guns allotted for close support to the advancing Infantry the dispositions were as per App "A".

Six guns for consolidation of final objectives and six to strengthen a chain of strongposts formed approximately 300 yards in rear of final Objectives.

The distribution of officers was one to each pair of forward guns, one to control Strong post guns and one for general liaison - Lieut Hopkins.

These will be so placed that the two guns in support of each pair of forward guns will be of same section and each section was told off to obtain best liaison & conformity to Infantry movements to support one each of the 3 advancing Battns.

The details of tactical M G requirements were laid before Section Commanders two days before the operation

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1007736

All Officers then attended conferences of the Coy. Commanders of the respective Battalions in whose sector they were to operate, and by this means all officers became thoroughly acquainted with the anticipations of the Infantry

Sections moved out from AUBIGNY camps with transport at about 9.30 pm and at unloading point broke off into subsections moved to their allotted places on the taped here all guns were lined up ready for advance by 2.40 p.m. not less than 50 yards apart.

Each gun team was of eight men, carriers attached from Infantry Battns thickened the teams to this strength this enabling an average of 14 boxes per gun to be carried.

On the commencement of forward movement at zero plus 10 all gun teams moved forward in Artillery formation, the 3 forward pairs closely following the first wave and the 3 strong rear pairs moving off with fourth wave of Infantry.

The left forward pair of guns under Lieut WRIGHT closely followed the left flank of the 4th Bde. No resistance was experienced which necessitated the employment of Vickers Guns until the final objective was reached. It was then that the enemy

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1007736

Appendix 8.28

retreating from defences at P16 b6o.6o presented an excellent target.

This was engaged by both guns with such effect that the object of these parties in reinforcing enemy Strong Post at P16 b8o.6o - owing at that time considerable trouble, was frustrated

It is estimated that of the party of 80 who were attempting to cross the small gully in front of the strong post, only 30 attained their object these were harrassed by the two guns from P16 b4o. 80 with great effect

After consolidation both guns were moved to positions from which the commanded the break of about 400 yards between flanks of 4th & 11th Bdes.

This effectively protected the break & safeguarded our flanks.

At approximately 10 o'clock on the 11th inst heavy enemy shelling followed by heavy firing & bombing in vicinity of P10b and P16 indicated enemy activity Both guns immediately delivered from their commanding positions an enfilade of the gully a belt of fire along a line to our left for a distance of 600 yds.

Darkness prevented observation, but to ensure protection of gap, fire was

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1007736

maintained incessantly for 10 minutes, then intermittently for 20 minutes & so on, throughs the night Ammunition expended 7000 rounds.

The centre forward two guns were conducted over by Lieut DOVEY. They moved forward conforming to Inf. movement did not come into action during advance. Shortly after leaving the tape Lieut DOVEY sustained a shell wound in the arm but carried on with his team.

After passing VAIRE WOOD a shell bursting short from our own barrage fell amongst a gun team killing the officer & NCO and rendering the remainder of the Gun team casualties with exception of one man

Charge of this sub section was immediately taken by Sgt TYLER who was in charge of the other gun who in a very capable manner reorganised from the remainder of the men two teams displaying great initiative throughout. The delay caused by this unfortunate incident however, resulted in the teams not arriving at the objectives until positions were being consolidated. The front that these guns covered was in a crop of wheat about 3 feet high. This masked their fire & prevented any special targets being engaged, though during a subsequent

They laid a protective band of cross fire along their sector.

These two guns expended 1000 rounds

The right pair of guns moved forward under Lieut CHAPMAN in artillery formation deploying with the Infantry. They consolidated in protection of right flank of Brigade front.

The enemy retreating in detached parties offered excellent targets to these two guns of which full advantage was taken. The consolidation of left gun was hindered by a sniper from 150 yards distance. The NCO in charge of this gun, Sgt LYNCH, displaying great initiative rushed this point which proved to be a post, killing two, wounding one, & capturing eight.

Shortly an enemy M.G. was brought into action but was immediately engaged & silenced by this same gun crew. Then, rushing forward they captured the gun and two wounded enemy. These two guns also provided flanking covering fire for a party of about 100 Infantry who rushed an enemy trench. The piece of trench was successfully mopped up, and a light M.G. & 6 prisoners brought back.

Subsequently parties of enemy moving towards WARFUSSE-ABBENCOURT along road

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1007736

were engaged and about 50 casualties inflicted. In all these guns fired 2000 rounds.

Liaison was established with the M. Guns protecting the 6th Brigade.

Our strong point guns were attached on the take to the platoon with whom they were to consolidate their respective posts and moved forward with them.

No targets presented themselves to these guns.

for O.C. No 4. A.M.G.Coy.

Appendix 9 32

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1st Memo Received.

COPY.

SECRET. No. G. 5/614

Headquarters,
4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.
29th June, 1918.

C.R.A., 4th Aust. Div.
4th Aust. Inf. Bde.
6th " " "
11th " " "
12th " " "
13th " " "
4th Aust. M.G. Bn.

1. Until further notice a test will be held each morning with a view to determining the most favourable zero hour for an attack during the 1st week in July bearing in mind the following considerations :-

(a) That it is essential that the Infantry should not have to remain on their taped lines after the visibility conditions have improved sufficiently to cause danger of discovery by aircraft or ground observation.

(b) That tanks cannot operate effectively in darkness or semi-darkness. As, however, their approach lines to the Infantry taped line will be marked they can perform movement to this line before Zero.

Reports of the tests will be made daily to this H.Q., with a final recommendation by 8 a.m. on "Y" day as to the time suggested.

(sgd) J.D. LAVARACK,
Lieut-Col.

G.S., 4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

M.G.1/53

4TH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION.
Headquarters,
30th June, 1918.

Officer Commanding.
4th Aust. M.G. Coy.

Please furnish above report to reach this office by 10 a.m. daily.

Capt.

Adjt. 4th Australian Machine Gun Battalion.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1007736

S E C R E T.

Appendix 10

33

FOURTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

212

Brigade Headquarters.
23th June, 1918.

Headquarters,
4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

The following are the preliminary arrangements and requirements in connection with the forthcoming operations, based on the conclusions arrived at at the conference on 25th/26th June :-

(1) For the purpose of reference Zero Day will be called "Z" day, one day before Zero Day will be called "Y" Day and two days before Zero Day will be called "X" Day.

(a) On "X"/"Y" night the Brigade will take over that portion of the Front and Support Lines now occupied by the Right and Centre Battalions of the 13th Brigade together with the Communication Trenches between the Reserve and Front Line systems.

Battalion Headquarters and one half of the 15th Battalion will move into those portions of the Front and Support Lines situated between the Centre Battalion left boundary and the communication trench in P.7.a. and c.

Battalion Headquarters and one half of the 16th Battalion will move into the Front Line between the communication trenches in P.7.a. and P.1.a.

Battalion Headquarters and one half of the 14th Battalion will move into the Support Trench between the communication trench in P.7.c. and P.2.d.

Battalion Headquarters and one half of the 13th Battalion will move into the Front and Support trenches between the 13th Brigade right boundary and the communication trench running through P.1.a. and a.

The balance of the Brigade will remain in the Reserve Area until "Y"/"Z" night when the remainder of all Units will join up.

(2) Assembly positions. Assembly positions will be a taped line parallel with and 150 yards from the Zero Barrage line already indicated in a former communication.

The assaulting troops will be drawn up on the assembly positions by Zero Hour and on the fall of the barrage will move up under it as close as possible in order to avoid the enemy barrage.

(3) Disposition of troops for the operations.

The 16th Battalion will deal with VAIRE and HAMEL WOODS.

The 15th Battalion will be detailed to attack on the North side of VAIRE and HAMEL WOODS with their final objective on the BLUE LINE junctioning with the 11th Brigade at approximately P.10.d.5.4. and with its right at approximately P.15.d.9.5.

The 13th Battalion will attack on the South side of VAIRE WOOD and will have for its final objective the BLUE LINE from P.21.c.9.7. to P.15.d.9.5.

The 14th Battalion will be the Reserve Battalion and at ZERO will move to that portion of the Front Line vacated by 16th Battalion and thereafter will move with stores and supplies to a line approximately 500 yards in rear of the BLUE LINE, dump their stores, and proceed to dig the Support Line.

The 16th Battalion when VAIRE and HAMEL WOODS have been completely mopped up will be withdrawn into the old Front Line now occupied by the Right and Centre Battalions of the 13th Brigade and will become Reserve Battalion.

P.T.O.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1007736

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(4) Responsibility for the Defensive Line.
(a) The 4th Brigade will assume responsibility for the defence of the area now occupied by the Right and Centre Battalions of the 13th Brigade on "X"/"Y" night.
(b) All elements of the 13th Brigade should be withdrawn from the Front and Support Lines in this area on "X"/"Y" night with the exception of Vickers Machine Guns and nucleus garrisons consisting of Lewis Guns with minimum crews.

(5) Headquarters. Brigade Headquarters will be established at O.12.b.9.5. (which is the present Headquarters for the Centre Battalion of the 13th Brigade).
Headquarters for the Battalions are being arranged for in the Front and Support Lines. Their exact localities will be notified later.

(6) American Troops. It is proposed to allot 1 Company to the 13th Battalion and 1 Company to the 15th Battalion to take part in the attack.

(7) Dumps. Forward Dumps have already been established at P.13.c.8.5. and P.8.c.2.1. (both these refaerences are approximate only) and are now being filled with the various engineer and other material that will be required in the forward area after the assault has been delivered. Forward dumps will subsequently be established in exact localities yet to be determined in P.15.b. and c.

(8) General. Three Platoons are being specially trained in the rapid construction of Strong posts. These troops will be sent forward immediately in rear of the last assaulting waves and will dig in on the forward crest of the ridge to the West of VAIRE and HAMEL WOODS at approximately 400 yards in rear of the BLUE LINE and spread at equal intervals along the whole front. With each of these Platoons there will be two Vickers Guns and an Engineer Officer.
When the 14th Battalion subsequently moves up they will dig a Support Line on the general line indicated by the establishment of these three Platoons.

(9) Prisoners. 20 Military Police will be required to report at Forward Brigade Headquarters at 10.p.m. on "Y"/"Z" night for the purpose of collecting and evacuating prisoners captured.

(10) 4th M.G.Company. Three guns will report to and go over with each of the 13th and 15th Battalions.
Two guns will be attached to and will go over with each of the special platoons mentioned in para. 8 above.
Four guns will remain in Reserve in the vicinity of Brigade Headquarters.

(11) 4th T.M.Battery. Two Trench Mortars will be attached to and go over with each of the 13th and 15th Battalions. The balance will remain in Reserve.

(12) Medical arrangements. Early information is requested concerning medical arrangements. As the carry will be very long bearer assistance will be required forward of the jumping off position.

Lieut-Colonel.
Comdg. 4th Aust. Inf. Brigade.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1007736

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1007736

Appendix II 35

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SECRET.

Fourth Australian Infantry Brigade.
HEADQUARTERS.
29th June, 1918.

Headquarters,
4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Further to my communication of 28/6/1918. The following additional requirements of this Brigade are now set forth:-

(1) Medical Arrangements.
In the first instance R.A.P's. will be established as follows :-
13th Battalion in P.19.b.2.3.
14th Battalion) in Sunken Road at P.8.c.
16th Battalion)
15th Battalion P.8.d.central.
14th Battalion will subsequently move to a point clear of VAIRE WOOD in P.15.c.
The A.D.S. for Brigade will be at O.12.b.8.4. (Quarry).
To assist in evacuation of casualties in later stage of operations 32 Stretcher Bearers from Field Ambulance will be required. It is requested that Officer in Charge of this party report at A.D.S. in Quarry at midnight on "Y"/"Z" night.
In addition to foregoing it is requested that 8 additional bearers be sent to each of 13th, 14th and 15th Battalions to report to respective M.O's. by 10.30.p.m. on "Y"/"Z" night.

(2) Accommodation in forward area.
It is requested that 1 Battalion of 13th Brigade be withdrawn from forward area on "X"/"Y" night. This will relieve congestion and suits convenience of O.C. 13th Brigade who suggests that they be withdrawn to AUBIGNY LINE. Remaining 2 Battalions of 13th Brigade, less nucleus, as indicated in a former communication, will remain in Reserve Line and Headquarters of both these Battalions should be at O.12.d.1.1.

(3) Headquarters.
(a) It is requested that arrangements be made for Brigade Headquarters from "X"/"Y" night to completion of operations to be at O.12.b.9.5.
(b) It is requested that following Headquarters be arranged from "X"/"Y" night:-
(i) 13th and 14th Battalions in existing Hea dquarters for Right Battalion of 13th Brigade at O.24.a.3.7.
(ii) 15th Battalion in M.G. dugout in approx. P.7.b. 75.50.
(iii) 16th Battalion in O.12.b.9.5.
(c) Battalion Headquarters which will be occupied on "Y"/"Z" night will be established as follows :-
(i) 13th Battalion at P.19.b.2.3.
(ii) 14th Battalion at P.19.a.central.
(iii) 15th and 16th Battalions in P.8.c.2.2.
With regard to Battle Headquarters required by 14th Battalion it is requested that Artillery personnel who have peacefully penetrated into the dugout be reduced to a minimum.
(d) Can the Commanding Officer 4th M.G.Battalion be asked to provide a Headquarters as near as possible to Brigade Headquarters for Headquarters of 4th M.G.Company and the 4th T.M. Battery in view of the several M.G. dugouts at his disposal in this Area and notify Brigade of location of these Headquarters by Noon on 1st July.

ACKNOWLEDGE.

Copy No. 13

Lieut-Colonel.
Comdg. 4th Aust. Inf. Brigade.

4th H.M.G.Co.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1007736

212

Officers to report tomorrow to Bn

Two Guns on 15th Left Flank 15th Bn

Two Guns on Right 13th Bn

Two Guns on Left Flank 13th Bn

these Guns to split up and one go to the right Flank of 15th Bn and one to left flank of 13th Bn

Zero + 90 Planes will call for Ground Flares

Look out Z night for a strong counter attack

APPENDIX II

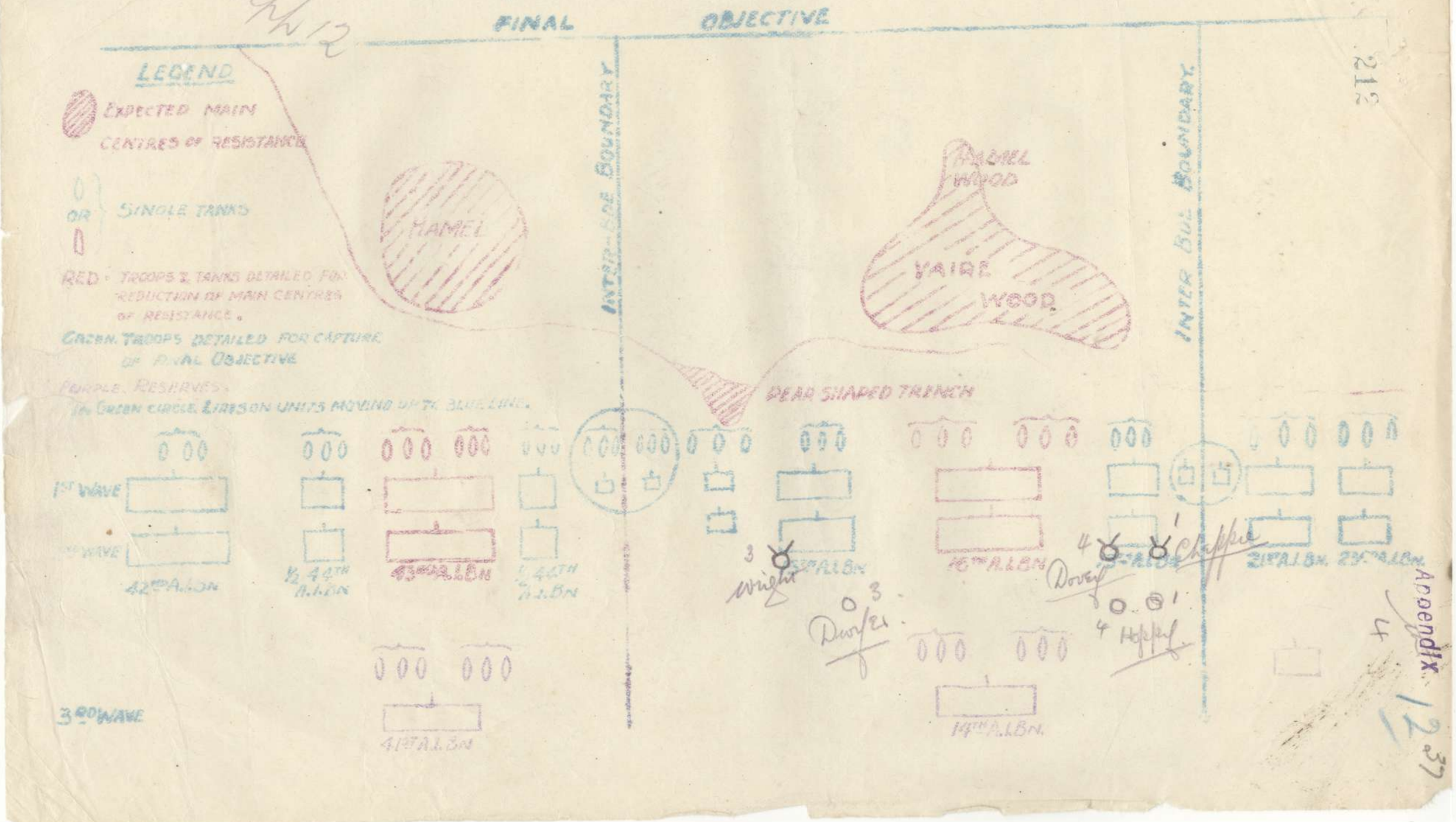
36

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1007736

SECRET

C

212



Appendix 4

12 37

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1007736

212

app/13

COPY.

5th Appendix 13 38

SECRET.

No.G.32/2094/3.

Headquarters,
4TH AUSTRALAIN DIVISION.
30th June, 1918.

4th Aust. Inf. Bde.
6th " " "
11th " " "
4th Aust. M.G. Battalion.

During the forthcoming operations one squadron (No.9 R.A.F.) will be detailedtto transport ammunition to the front line. A maximum total of 150 boxes will be carried on the day of the battle and will be dropped for Infantry and Machine Guns at pre-determined points.

Brigades will fix these points and notify this Office by 12 noon, 1st July, amount to be dropped and location of dropping stations. The points selected should be specially marked. Vickers Guns will display a white 'V' at the point where ammunition is to be dropped. The Arms of the 'V' to be 6' in length and 1' in width. Ammunition planes will have the underside of the lower planes painted black for a distance of 2½ feet from the tips.

The ammunition to be carried is to be provided by Australian Corps at the aerodrome of 3rd Squadron A.F.C.

(sgd) L. CRAIG, Capt.
for Lieut-Col.
G.S., 4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Copies to 12th Aust.Inf.Bde.)
13th " " ") For information.

M.G.1/54/1.

4TH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION.
Headquarters,
1st July, 1918.

Officer Commanding,
4 th Aust. M.G. Coy.

For information.

H.W.Crouch Capt.
Adjt. 4th Australian Machine Gun Battalion.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1007736

Appendix No. 14

Copy No. 13

SECRET.

FOURTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER NO. 18

Reference Sheet 62.D. B.E. & S.W. 1/20,000.
VAUX 1/20,000.

Brigade Headquarters,
1st July, 1918.

1. On a day and at an hour to be fixed the 4th Australian Infantry Brigade will capture VAIRE and HAMEL WOODS and consolidate on the Spur East of those Woods.
The exact task allotted to the Brigade is shown on attached map "A".
Simultaneously the 6th Brigade on the Right will advance and capture and consolidate a line as indicated on the attached Map "A", and the 11th Brigade on the Left will capture the village of HAMEL and consolidate a position on the old British Line East of HAMEL (see attached Map "A").

2. Tasks.
(a) The 16th Battalion will deal with VAIRE and HAMEL WOODS.
The 15th Battalion will attack on the North side of VAIRE and HAMEL WOODS with their final objective on the BLUE LINE as indicated on the attached map marked "A".
The 13th Battalion will attack on the South side of VAIRE WOOD and will have for its final objective the BLUE LINE as indicated on the attached map marked "A".
The 14th Battalion will be the Reserve Battalion and at ZERO will move to that portion of the Front Line vacated by 16th Battalion and thereafter will move with stores and supplies to a line approximately 500 yards in rear of the BLUE LINE, dump their stores, and proceed to dig the Support Line.
The 16th Battalion when VAIRE and HAMEL WOODS have been completely mopped up will be withdrawn into the old Front Line now occupied by the Right and Centre Battalions of the 13th Brigade and will become Reserve Battalion.
(b) The three Platoons specially trained in the construction of Strong Posts will go forward immediately in rear of the last assaulting waves. The Platoons supplied by 15th Battalion moving in rear of that Battalion and Platoons supplied by 13th and 14th Battalions will move in rear of 13th Battalion.
The Engineer Officers attached to these Platoons will determine the localities for Strong Posts to be constructed in the Support Line to final objective.
(c) The O.C., 4th A.M.G.Company will detail 3 guns to go over with each of 13th and 15th Battalions: 2 guns will be attached to and go over with each of the special platoons mentioned in (b) above. 4 Guns will remain in Reserve. Gun Crews with Guns &c. complete will report to the respective Commanding Officers concerned at a time to be arranged mutually.
(d) Two Trench Mortars are allotted to each of the 13th, 14th and 15th Battalions. T.M. Crews with Mortars will report to the Commanding Officers concerned at a time to be arranged mutually. The remaining two Trench Mortars will be held in Reserve.
(e) The 13th, 15th and 16th Battalions will be responsible for mopping up the areas respectively coloured Red, Blue and Yellow on the attached map marked "A".

3. American Troops.
Five Companies of American Troops are allotted to the Brigade to take part in this operation - 1 Company is attached to each of the 13th, 14th and 15th Battalions and 2 Companies to the 16th Battalion.

4. Brigade Battle Headquarters will be at O.12.b.9.5. (Quarry).

P.T.O.

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2/2

5. Tanks. Will co-operate in these operations. The distributions of the Tanks allotted to this Brigade are as shown on attached diagram "C". Battalion Commanders concerned will make arrangements direct with Tank Unit Commanders for guiding Tanks to their positions of assembly and from there to Infantry starting point.

6. The Infantry Jumping Off Line will be a taped line as indicated on attached Map "A". This tape will be put out by Units concerned on "Y"/"Z" night under supervision of Brigade Intelligence Officer.

7. Artillery.

(a) The artillery will put down normal harrassing fire, (in accordance with the programme lately instituted) with the exception of gas, from Zero minus 8 minutes to Zero, to drown the noise of approaching tanks, who will leave their forming up line not less than 8 minutes before Zero. The Tank Commander will make arrangements to ensure as accurately as possible synchronisation of arrival at the Infantry Taped Line.

(b) The actual barrage will drop at Zero on the "Start Line" shown on the attached map, and after remaining thereon for four minutes will advance by lifts of 100 yards at intervals of three minutes, as shown on the barrage map, (to be issued later), to the "HALT LINE" shown on the attached map "A" where there will be a pause of 10 minutes. After the pause the barrage will lift 100 yards at intervals of 4 minutes up to 400 yards beyond the BLUE LINE.

(c) On arrival at the "HALT LINE" a thick smoke screen will be built up to indicate the beginning of the 10 minutes halt. Eight minutes afterwards a thick smoke screen will again be built up to indicate that the advance is about to be resumed.

(d) After passing the BLUE LINE the barrage will advance at a rate of 100 yards in four minutes, to a line 400 yards beyond, where it will continue as a standing barrage to cover consolidation, for a period of 30 minutes.

(e) From Zero hour on, a special programme of intense Counter-Battery action will be carried out.

8. Infantry Formations.

The 16th Battalion which is detailed for the capture and neutralisation of HAMEL and VAIRE WOODS will move in two waves supported by Tanks detailed for the purpose.

The Troops allotted for capture of final objective (13th and 15th Battalions and attached American Troops) will move in two waves and will be supported by special Tank formations which will move round the flank of VAIRE and HAMEL WOODS.

The 14th Battalion will move in Artillery formation behind the assaulting troops at a sufficient distance to avoid being involved in initial fighting and will dig a Support Line in rear of BLUE LINE on a line which will be indicated by the establishment of the three Strong posts mentioned above. This Battalion will carry forward with it engineering material and ammunition. Special instructions concerning this are being prepared and will be issued later.

9. Special Task for 15th Battalion.

The Commanding Officer, 15th Battalion, will detail 1 Company to co-operate with three Tanks allotted for the purpose of the capture of the "Pear Shaped" Trench.

10. Flank Liaison.

Close Liaison must be maintained with the units co-operating in these operations on the right and left. The Commanding Officer, 15th Battalion, will arrange with Commanding Officer, 44th Battalion, for a mixed Platoon of the two Battalions to move along the inter-Brigade boundary on the left. The Commanding Officer, 13th Battalion, will arrange with Commanding Officer, 21st Battalion, for a mixed platoon of the two Battalions to move along the inter-Brigade boundary on the right. The Officers detailed to go with these parties will be responsible for keeping direction by compass bearing.

P.T.O.

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11. Synchronisation of Watches. Watches will be synchronised at 8.p.m. and 1 hour before Zero Hour on "Y"/"Z" night. Units will send an Officer to Brigade Headquarters for this purpose.

12. Signalling. Brigade Advanced Report Centre will be established at P.8.c.2.2. in the first instance. A party under Lieut. S.M.LARKINS will move forward with the Reserve Battalion (14th Battalion) and establish Brigade Forward Station at P.15.c.3.8. (approx.).

13. ACKNOWLEDGE.

R.W.Lovell
Major.
Brigade-Major.
4th Aust. Inf. Brigade.

Issued at 3 p.m. through Signals.

Distribution -
1. 4th Aust. Division.
2 - 4. War Diary.
5. G.O.C.
6. Brigade Major.
7. Staff Captain.
8. 13th Battalion.
9. 14th Battalion.
10. 15th Battalion.
11. 16th Battalion.
12. 4th A.M.G.Company.
13. 4th A.L.T.M.Battery.
14. 6th Aust. Inf. Brigade.
15. 11th Aust. Inf. Brigade.
16. 13th Aust. Inf. Brigade.
17. 8th Tank Battalion.
18. 4th Field Coy. A.E.
19. 4th Aust. Div. Artillery.

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SECRET. Copy No....

OPERATION INSTRUCTIONS NO. 1.
Reference 4th Aust. Inf. Brigade Order No. 18.

Brigade Headquarters.
2nd July, 1918.

1. Tank Signals from Tanks to Infantry.
(a) "Infantry come on" Green and White Flag.
(b) "I am out of action" Red and yellow Flag.

2. Infantry Signals to Tanks.
(a) Steel helmets on rifles held up perpendicularly mean "There is a point that the Infantry requires the Ranks to deal with".
(b) The firing of No. 27 Grenades on to or in the direction of a point indicates to the Tanks that such is a place required by the Infantry to be dealt with by Tanks.

3. Signals to Aeroplanes.
Contact aeroplanes will call for the show of ground flares to indicate the whereabouts of Infantry at Zero plus 90 minutes. Contact aeroplanes will sound a Klaxon Horn and fire very lights to so call. Commanding Officers must ensure that all ground flares are not lighted at one time as it may be difficult for aeroplanes to pick them up in the first instance. Arrangements must therefore be made that flares issued are so used that the infantry will be able to answer a number of calls.

4. Spare Lewis Guns.
A dump of spare Lewis Guns is being arranged at Zero forward dumps. Replacements required by Battalions will be made on requisition to Brigade: it must be borne in mind however that the Brigade has to account strictly for all issues of Lewis Guns to Battalions from dumps.

5. Communications.
(a) Previous to Zero Hour two metallic overland circuits will be established from Brigade Headquarters to Advanced Report Centre. A visual station will also be established at the Advanced Report Centre to work to the Divisional Visual Station at O.30.a.9.8. (approx.) and later, to work forward. power Buzzer and Amplifier communications will also be established between Brigade Headquarters and Advanced Report Centre. The popham panel will also be set up at Advanced Report Centre for the purpose of communicating with contact planes. Rockets will also be used between Brigade Headquarters and Advanced Report Centre.
(b) The forward party will move with the 14th Battalion and will lay two metallic circuits from the Advanced Report Centre to the Brigade Forward Station which will probably be established at P.15.c.3.8. or in that vicinity. The site will be marked by a rectangular Blue and white flag. A Lineman and Runner relay post will be established in the hostile front line system but the exact location will depend on circumstances.
(c) When the Brigade Forward Station is established it is expected that the following communications will be available to the rear :-
i. Two metallic message and speaking circuits to Advanced Report Centre.
ii. Wireless (Loop set) to Brigade Headquarters.
iii. Visual to Advanced Report Centre and Divisional Visual Station.
iv. Rocket to Advanced Report Centre.
v. Runner to Advanced Report Centre.
(d) When the Battalion Forward Command Posts are finally established two metallic lines will be laid by Battalion personnel from their position to the Brigade Forward Station. Two linemen from the party laying the lines will be kept at the Brigade Forward Station for the maintenance of their own circuits. Each Battalion

P.T.O.

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will also send i n two Runners to the Forward Station who will remain there for duty.

(e) Battalions will be supplied with pigeons and Rockets. The latter must be fired to the Advanced Report Centre and not to the Brigade Forward Station.

(f) Units will also endeavour to get in touch with the Brigade Central Visual Station at P.8.c.2.2., or, failing that, the Divisional Visual Station at O.30.a.9.8. (approx.).

(g) Popham panels will be set up at Battalion Command posts for the purpose of communicating with contact planes. The code will be found in S.S.135 Appendix "B".

(h) Although every effort will be made to do so it is not expected that the telephone lines will be able to be satisfactorily maintained owing to their length and the absence of shelter for the establishing of lineman posts. The necessity for briefness, therefore, must be impressed on all concerned with the originating of messages as the alternative methods of communication, compared with speech, are necessarily slow and tedious.

(i) All lines laid must be at least 50 yards apart between test points and Signal Offices.

(j) An increased supply of pigeons may be available but is not to be counted on. If possible pigeon stations will be established at the Advanced Report Centre and the Brigade Forward Station

(k) Six visual men and eight runners will be supplied by Units as under :-

13th	Battalion	2	runners	1	visual man.
14th	"	2	"	2	" "
15th	"	2	"	1	" "
16th	"	2	"	2	" "

This personnel will report to Brigade Signal Officer at 2.p.m. on the 2nd instant.

6. American Troops.

The American Companies attached to Battalions may be divided up and portions thereof attached to our Companies provided that such dividing up shall not divide the American Companies into smaller Units than Platoons.

7. ACKNOWLEDGE.

R.W. Powell
Major.
Brigade-Major.
4th Aust. Inf. Brigade.

Issued at 7 a.m. through Signals.

Distribution -
Normal.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1007736

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S E C R E T. Copy No.....

FOURTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER NO. 19.

Reference Sheet 62.D. S.E. & S.W. 1/20,000.
VAUX 1/20,000.

1. The 4th Aust. Infantry Brigade will relieve the Right and Centre Battalions of 13th Aust. Inf. Brigade in the Front Line area on night 2nd/3rd July and 3rd/4th July as under :-

Date.	Unit.	Relieves.	Location after relief.	Route.	Remarks.
2nd/3rd July.	4th Bde.H.Q.	13th Bde.H.Q.	O.12.b.9.5. (Quarry.)	Any route South of E. & W. grid line through P.8.central	On completion of relief 49th Bn. will move into area at present occupied by two Companies of 14th Bn. with H.Q. at O.12.d.1.1
"	13th Bn.	portion of 50th Bn.	Front, Support & Reserve lines between Bde. Right boundary & PIONEER SWITCH (H.Q. at O.24.a.3.7.)		
"	15th Bn.	portion of 49th Bn.	Front, Support & Reserve Lines between PERTH C.T. & 49th Bn. North boundary (H.Q. at P.7.d.4.5.)		
"	16th Bn.	portion of 49th and 50th Bns.	Front & Support Lines between PIONEER SWITCH & PERTH C.T. (H.Q. at O.12.b.9.5.)		
"	4th T.M. Btty.	13th T.M. Btty.	Front Line Area.		
"	14th Bn.	Portion of 49th Bn.	Reserve Line between PIONEER SWITCH & PERTH AVENUE. (H.Q. at O24a3.7.)		

2. All details of relief, except where provided in this order, will be arranged mutually between Commanding Officers concerned.

3. On completion of relief Brigade boundaries will be as follows :-
Southern Boundary - Present Divisional Boundary.
Northern Boundary - Line P.8.central - P.1.c.O.O. - CANAL at O.6.a.5.O. - thence along the CANAL.
The 6th Aust. Inf. Brigade will be on the Right and the 11th Aust. Inf. Brigade on the Left.

4. Battalions of 4th Aust. Infantry Brigade will leave certain details in their present areas until night 3rd/4th July when they will move into the forward area, but these details must close up to provide accommodation for 50th and 51st Battalions who will move back on night 2nd/3rd July.

5. Completion of relief will be notified to Brigade Headquarters by Code Message "B.M. 6 Noted".

6. ACKNOWLEDGE.

Issued at 9.p.m. through Signals.

R. Rutovell
Major.
Brigade-Major.
4th Aust. Inf. Brigade.

Distribution.
Normal.

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SECRET.

No. MG. 1/57/1.

4TH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION
Headquarters.
1st July, 1918.

O.C.
4th A.M.G.Coy.

S.O.S. SIGNAL.

1. Beginning at 12 noon, 2nd July, the "S.O.S." Signal on the Fourth Army front will be a rifle grenade bursting into three green lights, one over another.

2. Australian Corps "Q" will arrange to issue to each of the Divisions in the line 300 of the above signals.

3. All "S.O.S." Signals now in use will be collected for return by the 2nd, 4th, and 5th Aust. Divisions, after the 2nd July. Divisions will inform the Ammunition Officer, Australian Corps M.T. Column where to collect.

4. ACKNOWLEDGE.

Captain
Adjt., 4th Aust. M.G.Battalion.

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SECRET. Copy No.....

OPERATION INSTRUCTIONS NO. 2.
Reference 4th Aust. Inf. Brigade Order No. 18.

Brigade Headquarters.
2nd July, 1918.

1. PRISONERS.
(a) Brigade Collecting Station will be established at the QUARRY (Brigade Headquarters).
(b) Prisoners sent back by Units must be properly escorted and not merely sent towards the rear as has occasionally happened on previous operations.
(c) Officers and N.C.O's. only will be searched by a responsible Officer and all documents and maps taken from them immediately after capture. These will be sent at once to Brigade Headquarters.

2. DOCUMENTS.
Three, or at least two, reliable N.C.O's. or men will be detailed by each Battalion Commander for the purpose of searching dugouts, trenches and enemy dead for documents and maps, etc. All such documents, maps, etc. will be forwarded without delay to the I.C. Officer at Brigade Headquarters.

3. 16th Battalion will detail Capt. D.S.AARONS, M.C. to be stationed at A.D.S. at O.15.a.5.7.. This Officer will interrogate our own slightly wounded as to the progress of the battle, opposition met with, and any other useful information. Any information so gained will be transmitted to 4th Aust. Division, 4th, 6th and 11th Brigades by priority telegram.

4. AEROPLANE SIGNALS.
(a) Counter attack aeroplanes will indicate any counter-attack spotted by dropping a parachute flare over where the counter-attack is developing. This flare remains suspended for about 15 minutes. In the daytime it emits a good deal of smoke.
(b) In addition to the usual unit Ground sheets the Units hereunder indicated will display on the ground close to its ground sheet close to its Headquarters a number composed of white calico as under :-

Unit.	Number.
13th Battalion	6
16th "	7
15th "	8
14th "	9

The above material will be supplied by Signals.

5. COMMUNICATIONS.
A Divisional Visual Station will be established at Pagoda at O.24.d.5.0. This station is for receiving messages from Brigades, Brigade Forward Parties, attacking battalions, companies or platoons after Zero. Visual Stations will be established at or near Brigade Headquarters and each Brigade Forward Station.

6. ACKNOWLEDGE.

R.W. Tovell
Major.
Brigade-Major.
4th Aust. Inf. Brigade.

Issued at 3.p.m. through Signals.

Distribution -
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S E C R E T.

Fourth Australian Infantry Brigade.
HEADQUARTERS.
3rd July, 1918.

C. O.,

SYNCHRONISED SHOOTS TO BE CARRIED OUT DURING NIGHT 3rd/4th JULY.

Time.	Task No.	Unit.	Task.
10.20.p.m. for 3'	I	RIGHT	P.14.central and post at P.14.c.9.5. also M.G. P.20.a.9.4.
		CENTRE	M.G. nest at P.8.d.8.7.
		LEFT	New work in progress K.31.c.6.3. to K.31.c.6.0. and M.G. at P.5.b.9.9.
11.40.p.m. for 3'	II	RIGHT	Dugouts P.21.b.90.05. - P.21.d.9.7.
		CENTRE	Road in P.10.b., especially P.10.b.8.3. and 5.3.
		LEFT	Posts at J.36.a.20.35., J.36.a.07.28. and J.36.a.4.4.
2.a.m. for 4'	III	RIGHT	Eastern half of P.14.d.
		CENTRE	(Trenches in N. half of P.10.d. (- 1 Section on road at P.5.c.10.05.
		LEFT	(M.G. at J.35.d.55.40., 75.35., and 4.2. (One Section on Strong Point K.26.c.0.2.
ZERO minus 8 minutes to ZERO.	IV	SOUTHERN GROUP	(Trench and work P.26.c.05.40. - 00.85. (Centre of activity in P.26.b. (Trench and work P.20.d.15.30. - 30.90.
		RIGHT	VAIRE Trench P.14.d.1.0. - P.8.d.75.00.
		CENTRE	Trench P.9.c.00.85 - P.4.c.45.00.
		LEFT	M.G. at J.35.d.8.7., 55.40., 9.0., 75.35. and 4.2.

NOTE.
In connection with the above table of Synchronised Shoots to be carried out during the night Y/Z the following instructions are to be observed :-

(1) Gas will not be fired by 4.5" Hows. at any time during the night without orders from Headquarters 4th Aust. Div. Artillery.

(2) All guns and Hows. engaged in harrassing fire TASK IV will expend ammunition in accordance with the following :-
(a) ZERO minus 8 min. to ZERO minus 4 min. -
100% A X for 18-prs.
100% B X for 4.5" Hows.
(b) ZERO Minus 4 min. to ZERO HOUR -
10% Smoke Shell.
90% H.E.

(3) For the purpose of TASK I V Group Commanders will arrange that one Section per Battery of the Group is employed, in order that the total number of guns shooting may correspond to the total number normally engaged in harrassing fire. The remaining 2 Sections per Battery will thus be enabled to devote ample time to making preliminary arrangements for laying on the ARTILLERY START LINE (in the case of the LEFT GROUP the S.O.S. Line), and carrying out the examination and checks indicated in ORDER No. 160.

(4) The 4.5" Hows. employed in TASK IV will gradually work back from their harrassing fire targets, the lifts being so arranged as to ensure their fire being directed on the 4.5" How. ARTILLERY START LINE at ZERO.

ACKNOWLEDGE BY WIRE.

G.114/21

Major.
Brigade-Major.
4th Aust. Inf. Brigade.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1007736

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a/m/20

12 a.

S E C R E T.

Fourth Australian Infantry Brigade.
HEADQUARTERS.
3rd July, 1918.

C. O., 4th Aust. Fus. Coy

Reference 4th Aust. Inf. Brigade Order No. 18 of 1st July, "Zero" hour will be 3.10.a.m. on 4th July.

2/8/7/9

Major.
Brigade-Major.
4th Aust. Inf. Brigade.

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S E C R E T.

Copy No.____

FOURTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Headquarters,
2nd July, 1918.

Instructions No.2 issued under Divisional Order No.128.

AIRCRAFT.

1. PREPARATORY.

a. One F.E. Aeroplane is out all night along the whole Corps front working on defensive lines, i.e., it remains over the enemy area and drops flares as if trying to discover enemy movement.

b. Two aeroplanes patrol the Corps front at dawn.

c. It has become the habit of the enemy to send up a plane immediately after our dawn reconnaissance is completed. To deal with this a scout plane is on the front daily.

d. A plane of No. 3 Squadron A.F.C. will watch the Corps area daily to note the extent to which our preparations can be ascertained from the air by hostile aircraft.

e. These arrangements hold good up to ZERO hour and will at the same time conceal the movements of tanks.

2. DURING THE OPERATIONS.

a. From Zero On a contact plane will be be over the line a and will call for flares, at Zero plus 90 minutes, by dropping a white flare and sounding a succession of A's on the Klaxon. Flares will be lit, one every 15 yards, at the final objective only.

b. Special Squadrons have been told off to bomb enemy centres. Attention will be directed on to M.G. Strong Points, horse lines, possible assembling positions and human targets.

c. Special counter attack planes will fly at about 3,000 feet throughout the day and will signal the S.O.S. by Wireless, white parachute and smoke flares over the centre of the impending attack.

d. No. 9 Squadron will transport ammunition to the front line and will drop ammunition for the infantry at the following points :- P.20.d.8.5., P.15.d.2.2., P.15.b.8.8., P.10.d. 00.82., and P.4.d.2.2. Brigades will arrange to display a white 'N' (6' in length and 1' wide) at these points. Vickers Guns requiring ammunition will display a white 'V' at the point where ammunition is to be dropped. The arms of t the 'V' to be 6' in length and 1' wide. C.O., M.G. Battalion will arrange these dropping stations.

3. MESSAGE DROPPING STATIONS.

The Divisional Dropping Station is at H.34.d.Central. O.C., Div. Signal Coy. will arrange for circular ground sheet to be displayed at this point.

4.

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Appendix "21"

4. MARKING ON PLANES.

a. CONTACT PLANES can be identified by two small black flags about one foot square on the rear edge of lower plane.

b. AMMUNITION CARRIERS. will have the underside of the lower plane painted black for a distance of 2½' from the tips. The parachutes used by these planes will be of a dull colour and will harmonise with the ground.

5. Brigades will arrange for each infantrymen to carry a piece of white material rolled up under the back of the steel helmet. During consolidation this will be allowed to hang down over the back as a signal to aeroplane contact machines.

(sgd) J.D. LAVARACK,

Lieut-Col,

G.S., 4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Issued to all recipients of Div. Order 128.

Extra copies to - No. 9 Squadron R.A.F.

CORRIGENDUM. to instructions No. 4 'SIGNAL ARRANGEMENTS'.

In para. 4, VISUAL, line two, for 0.24D.5.0. read 1.24.D.5.0.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1007736

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1:20,000

VAUX

Parts of 62° NW. 62° NE. 62° SW. 62° SE.

Left Bde HQ

Centre Bde HQ

Left limit of Barrage

Bde Boundary

Bde Boundary

Scale · 1:20,000

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(APPENDICE II/23)

Appendix 23

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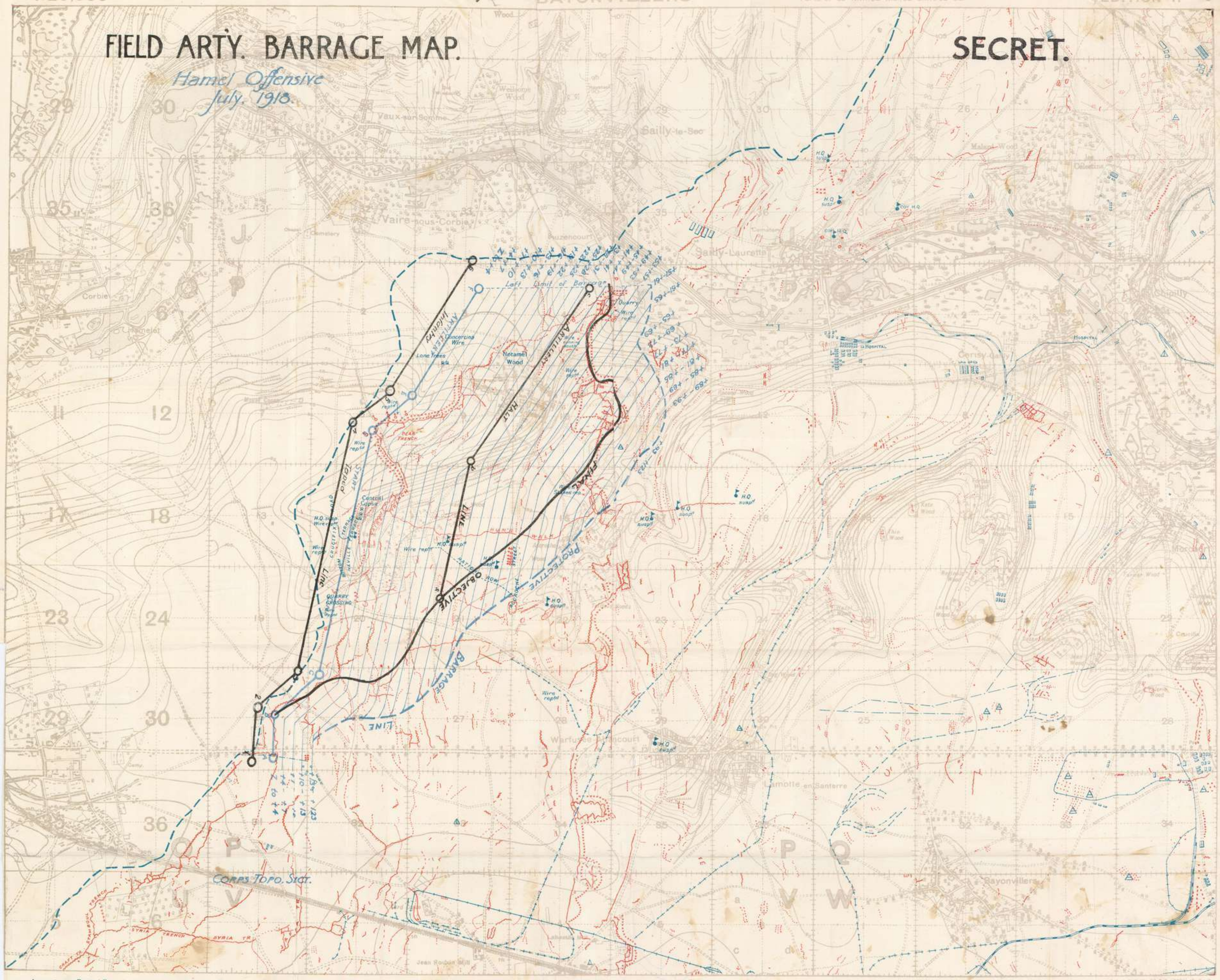
1:20,000 BAYONVILLERS EDITION I.

FIELD ARTY. BARRAGE MAP.

SECRET.

Hamel Offensive
July. 1918.



Approximate British Front Line — — — — 22-6-18

Scale 1:20,000

TRENCHES CORRECTED FROM INFORMATION RECEIVED UP TO 24-6-18.

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M G Coy

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Appendix 24 53

NOTES ON THE ENEMY

OPPOSITE THE CORPS FRONT.

APPENDIX 24.

Contents

(1) ENEMY'S DEFENCES.

(2) ORDER OF BATTLE.

(3) ATTITUDE.

(4) SHORT HISTORY OF DIVISIONS OPPOSITE THE CORPS FRONT.

APPENDIX

DISPOSITION OF ENEMY TROOPS.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1007736

(1) ENEMY'S DEFENCES.

Up till recently the enemy has displayed little energy in the construction of forward defences opposite the Corps Front, and as yet there are no signs of new work in the immediate back areas at all.

During the past fewweeks, however, there are increasing indications that he intends tod evelop a co mplete two line system with the usual saps, dugouts, and communication trenches. In certain areas the work is nearing completion and a considerable defence scheme is evidently contemplated, the tendency being to link up the already existing chains of rifle pits and incorporate them in the trench lines.

From the report of patrols, there is no doubt that wire obstacles do exist, but they appear to be hastily improvised and should not afford any great obstacle.

The only work on rear defences has been on the old French line, which has been cleaned out in places and wired. This should prove quite an effective line of resistance when the work is completed. Mined dugouts have been constructed in numerous places in the forward and battery areas, particularly in the sides of embankments for protection against our artillery fire.

(2) ORDER OF BATTLE.

50th Reserve Division. - 230th R.I.R.
229th R.I.R.
231st R.I.R.

The 50th Reserve Division came into the MEAULTE Sector at the end of May, relieving the 54th Reserve Division. Its southern boundary is the River ANCRE.

107th Division. - 52nd R.I.R.
227th R.I.R.
232nd R.I.R.

This division relieved the 54th Division on 20/21st June in the MORLANCOURT sector.

43rd Reserve Division. - 203rd R.I.R.
201st R.I.R. (?)
202nd R.I.R.

This division relieved the 24th Reserve Division in the SOMME sector on June 22/23rd, but it is probable that, unlike the latter division, it has 2 regiments north of the SOMME, not one, owing to the sideslipping further south.

77th Reserve Division. - 332nd I.R.
419th E.H.R.
257th R.I.R.

This division relieved the 108th Division in the HAMEL Sector on 16/17th May. Its relief has been imminent since the beginning of the month.

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108th Division. - 137th I.R.
265th R.I.R.(?)
97th I.R.

This division relieved the Jager Division in the VILLERS BRETONNEUX Sector on 19/20th June and is due for relief.

Previous to this it had been in the HAMEL Sector, where it relieved the 9th Bavarian Reserve Division on April 30th, the relief of the Jager The relDivision being effected by sideslipping. For the first half of May the 2nd Bn.,265th R.I.R. was attached to the 107th R.I.R., 24th Reserve Division, north of the SOMME.

(3) ATTITUDE.

The enemy's general attitude is obscure in this area. North of the SOMME, there seems little doubt that he is apprehensive of further operations on our part similar to those at VILLE-sur-ANCRE and north of SAILLY LAURETTE, and this nervousness has led to the hasty construction of a defence system during the past few weeks, with which he was content to dispense for so long. This and the appearance of trench mortars of heavier calibres point to a passive attitude, at any rate for the time being, though the absence of any rear organisations for defence seems to indicate that his present attitude is temporary.

South of the SOMME, the enemy's intentions are still more obscure and have been co mplicated by the recent sideslipping northwards, and the temporary withdrawal of the 265th R.I.R. from the 108th Division. This regiment was apparently the least shattered in the division and its withdrawal must have imposed a heavy strain on the two other and weaker regiments which had to hold their own sectors in addition, though there was an unconfirmed rumour that they had been reinforced by a battalion from another division.

To sum up, the attitude of the enemy is, at any rate for the present, purely defensive and he is apprehensive of our intentions. This attitude is abundantly disclosed by the frequent bombing of his own wire, amongst other signs of nervousness, and in general by the policy implied by his defensive works.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1007736

(4) 107th Division.

Engagements. After being on the Galician Front till 1917, the 107th Division proceeded to the Western Front. It has just arrived in the CAMBRAI area where our attack on the CAMBRAI front took place.

On the 20th November, 1917, the 107th Division was drawn into the battle and lost heavily in prisoners. It took part in the German advance south of the CAMBRAI area on the 30th November and remained in the GONNELIEU sector till March of this year. It participated in the advance on the SOMME, on the 21st March and was relieved south of MERCATEL on the 20th April. After resting and training near CAMBRAI it came into line in the MORLANCOURT Sector on 16th May and remained in the line until the 23rd. It suffered heavily from our raids and artillery fire, particularly in our attack on VILLE-sur-ANCRE on the 18th May, when 150 prisoners were captured from one regiment alone. It went into rest near CAMBRAI until the 21st June when it again returned to the MORLANCOURT Sector.

Quality. The moral of the 107th Division is fair but it is not a good fighting division.

108th Division.

Engagements. The 108th Division was on the Eastern Front - GALICIA - till the end of 1917. At the beginning of April of this year it came into the line at WINTERBERG in the VOSGES and was relieved on the 13th April and went into rest at JUVENCOURT.

It came into line on the SOMME front near MARCELCAVE at the beginning of May and relieved the Jager Division by sideslipping northwards about May 18th. The 265th R.I.R. suffered heavily during its tour in the line, particularly in our operation on the 10th June.

It was last identified on the 22nd. inst. and is probably now relieved.

Quality. The moral of the 108th Division is good. As a fighting division it is not of the best as it has spent most of its time on the RUSSIAN Front.

43rd Reserve Division.

Engagements. The 43rd Reserve Division was first engaged in October, 1914, in the First Battle of YPRES. Part of the division remained in BELGIUM, proceeding to SERBIA about July, 1915. The remainder of the division was seriously engaged in the fighting about SOUCHEZ during the French offensive. One regiment lost 26 officers and 1320 men during the fighting. About the beginning of July elements of the division took part in the Mackensen offensive in POLAND, and one regiment, during 4 months, lost 63 officers and 3511 men.

After a short spell in SERBIA, the division returned to the Western Front, and was heavily engaged in the VERDUN fighting in February and March, 1916. It took part in the German counter-offensive in RUSSIA in June. In 1917 the 43rd Reserve Division took part in the fighting on the CHEMIN DES DAMES (July and August, 1917) and suffered severe losses. After another tour in RUSSIA it returned to the Western Front and took part in the LYS advance remaining in the line near FESTUBERT till the end of April. It went into rest near CAMBRAI and trained for 3 weeks and came into the line in the MORLANCOURT Sector about the 21st inst.

Quality. The 43rd Reserve Division has always been considered a good fighting unit. It is drawn from the depots of guard regiments and consequently contains "human material" of good quality.

In the end of 1917 it was used as a special counter-attack division. Owing however, to its many engagements and heavy losses, it has frequently been reconstituted.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1007736

57 Appendix 24

77th Reserve Division.

Engagements. The 77th Reserve Division was first engaged on the Eastern Front taking part in the fighting at the
It proceeded later in the year to GALICIA where it remained till the beginning of 1917, when it went into line on the RIGA front. In January, 1918, the division was transferred to the Western Front being in reserve in LORRAINE and later went into line in the WOEVRE. It moved up to the SOMME front in April, 1918, and went into the line on the 23rd of that month in the VILLERS BRETONNEUX sector where it suffered heavily in our counter-attack on the 24th April, both in casualties and prisoners. It was withdrawn at the end of May and rested till the 17th June when it was again in the line in the HAMEL Sector. It has suffered severely from our gas and artillery shoots.

Quality. The 77th Reserve Division is of poor quality and the moral is not good. One regimental co mmander was removed during April for giving vent to utterances prejudicial to moral.

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MERICOURT.
Scale 1:40,000

App 25

PROBABLE DISPOSITIONS — OF ENEMY TROOPS —

Between DERNANCOURT & VILLERS BRETONNEUX.

1-7-18

LEGEND
1 Com. 1 Batt

RESERVES
54TH R D
54TH DIV
1ST DIV
24TH R.D.
233RD DIV

In Reserve at Montauban

50th R.D.

231st R.I.R.

52nd R.I.R.

? In Reserve

227th R.I.R (Dispositions unknown)

107th Div.

In Reserve

? 232nd R.I.R

203rd R.I.R

? In Support

In Reserve

201st R.I.R (Dispositions unknown)

43rd R. Div.

202nd R.I.R

232nd R.I.R

? In Support

? In Reserve

419th I.R

? In Support

77th RES. DIV.

? In Reserve

Reserve Caffy Area

Reserve Q.6.c.

257th I.R

137th I.R.

? In Support

? In Reserve

? 265th R.I.R (Dispositions unknown)

97th I.R.

? In Support

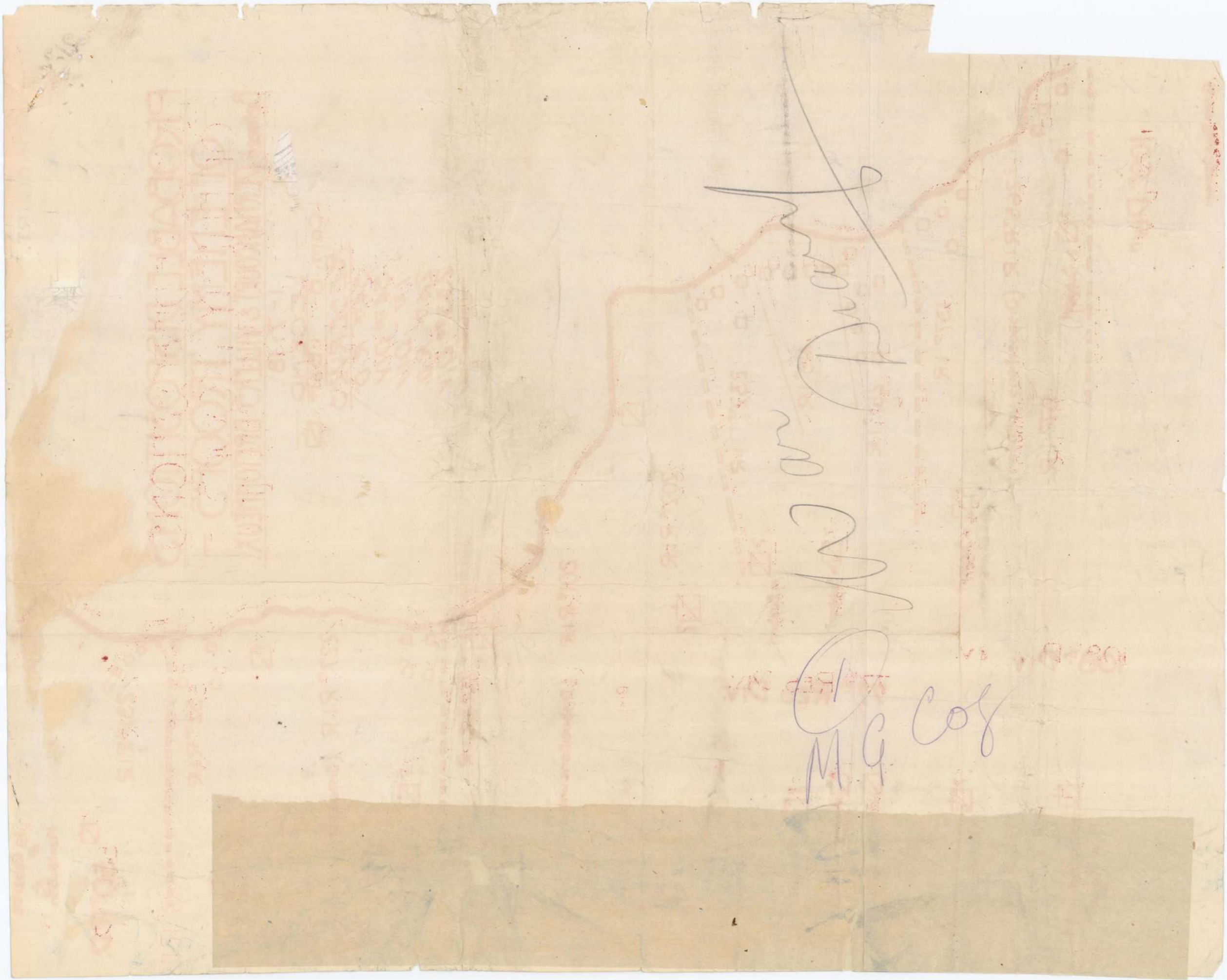
In Reserve N. of Proyart

108th Div.

109th Divn

CORPS TOPO SECTION.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1007736



Mrs Dan Drake

Mrs Cole

RCDIG1007736

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

212 Secret.

APP 26

Appendix 26 59

1:20,000

BAYONVILLERS

Parts of 62°N.W., 62°N.E., 62

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

RCDIG1007736

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APP.27. Appendix 27 60

Copy No. 10

SECRET.

FOURTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Administrative Instructions issued in conjunction with Brigade Order No. 20.

1. TRANSPORT, ETC. Transport Lines, Q.M.Stores, and Water points in the new area are located as under :-

Transport, & Q.M.Stores.	Water points. Horses.	Water Carts.
13th Bn. H.17.c.5.5.	H.17.c.7.9.	H.18.a.2.3. / I.2.d.8.6.
14th Bn. H.35.a.2.9.	H.29.c.5.1.	H.35.c.6.2.
15th Bn. H.11.c.0.3.	H.11.c.2.1.	H.12.a.4.8. / H.10.a.6.0.
16th Bn. H.22.a.5.8.	H.17.c.7.4.	PONT NOYELLES.
4th A.L.T.M.Battery	QUERRIEU CHATEAU.	

2. STAGING AREA. The 15th and 16th Battalions will bivouac at N.5.central (approximately) on the morning of the 12th instant. Exact location will be shown by Staff Captain to representative of respective Battalions who will come from Rear Battalion Head-quarters. Units will arrange for Cookers to be in attendance and for necessary guides.

3. AREA STORES. All Area Stores will be handed over to incoming Units and receipts forwarded to this Office within 24 hours. 13th and 14th Battalions will each leave an N.C.O. behind to hand over

4. MEDICAL. Ambulance Wagons will meet 15th and 16th Battalions at Bivouac and will follow in rear of columns on march to new camps.

5. ACKNOWLEDGE.

10th July, 1918.

R.J. Mackman
Lieut.
Staff-Captain.
4th Aust. Inf. Brigade.

Issued at 4.30 p.m. through Signals.

Distribution - Normal.
Extra copies to -

No. 18 5th Aust. Inf. Brigade.
19 10th Aust. Inf. Brigade.
20 12th Aust. Inf. Brigade.
21 13th Aust. Inf. Brigade.
22 7th Coy. A.A.S.C.
23 Area Commandant CORBIE.
24 Town Major QUERRIEU.
25 Rear H.Qrs. 4th Aust. Inf. Brigade.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1007736

A 16 18 13 B 18 13 C 16

NORTH DIVISIONAL BOUNDARY.

30 25 30 25

48th Bn. H.Q. 2 Coys. 1 Coy. 1 Coy.

3 Coys. 45th Bn. 1 Coy. 6 46th Bn. 12th A.L.T.M.B. 1 6 1

Coy. H.Q. Coy. H.Q. 2 Coys. H.Q. 15th Bn. H.Q.

12th A.I. Bde H.Q. 4th M.G. Bn. H.Q. 12th M.G. Coy. 24th M.G. Coy.

Coy. H.Q. 13th Bn. H.Q. 4th A.L.T.M.B. 4th A.I. Bde H.Q. A.M.G. Coy. Coy. H.Q. Coy. H.Q.

G

Coy H.Q. Coy. H.Q. Coy. H.Q. 16th Bn. H.Q. Coy. H.Q.

Coy. H.Q. Coy. H.Q. 14th Bn. H.Q. Coy. H.Q. Coy. H.Q. 2 Coys. H.Q.

36 31 36 31 34

13th M.G. Coy. Pioneer Bn. H.Q.

13th Bde H.Q. 1 Coy. 1 Coy. 1 Coy. 49th Bn. H.Q. 1 Coy. 12th A.L.T.M.B. 6 1 6 1 4

1 Coy. 1 Coy. 50th Bn. H.Q. 2 Coys.

DISPOSITION MAP

AS AT 8 a.m. 15·7·1918.

REFERENCE SHEET 62 P
SCALE 1:40,000.

M N

2 Coys. 51st Bn. H.Q. 2 Coys.

APPENDIX 28

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AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1007736

Appendix 2962

APP.29

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FOURTH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION.

SPORTS MEETING.

To be held at ALLONVILLE on MONDAY 23rd July, 1918.

MILITARY HQ MACHINE GUN

P R O G R A M M E.

	Event.			Prizes.
1.	Footrace,	100yds.	Bn. Championship	£2, £1, 10/-.
2.	"	440yds.	" "	£2, £1.
3.	Hurdlerace	120yds.	" "	£2, £1.
4.	High Jump			£1-10-0, 15/-.
5.	Long Jump.			£1, 10/-.
6.	1 mile run			£2, £1, 10/-.
7.	Relay race, 150 yds.			£3.
	Team of six from each Coy. and Bn. H.Q.			
8.	Gun Assembling Competition.			£3, £1-10-0.
	1 team of 3 from each Section to compete.			
	Rank of Corporal and above barred.			
	Competitors required to assemble and fire			
	10 rounds from a previously completely			
	stripped gun then change barrels and fire			
	again. Time and hits on target to count.			
9.	Tug-o-war, 8 men aside			£4.
	1 team from each Coy. and Bn. H.Q.			
	5' pull - 2 best pulls out of 3.			
10.	Obstacle Race.			£2, £1, 10/-.
11.	Three legged race, 75 yards.			£1, 10/-.
12.	1 mile trot, riding horses. (2 entries per Coy)			£2, £1.
13.	1 mile trot, light draught horses. (2 entries per Coy)		Drivers up)	£2, £1.
14.	Wrestling on horse back			£3.
	(Teams of 4 from each Coy. and Bn. H.Q.)			
15.	Fugitive race. (2 entries from each Coy. and			£1.
	one from Bn. H.Q.)			
16.	Best four horse turn out. (limbered waggon)			£3.
	(One entry from each Coy. 2 drivers & brakesman)			
17.	Best Cooker turnout - 2 cooks and driver.			£3.
18.	Coy. Signallers Competition.			£2.
19.	Fancy Dress - best sustained character.			£1.

Bookmakers - 1 per Coy. and 1 from Bn. H.Q. Registration fee 10 francs. Must be in Fancy dress.

Events 16 and 17 to be judged at 11 a.m.

Spiked shoes for running events and cleats for tug-o-war barred.

SILVER CUP valued £10-10-0 will be awarded to Coy. obtaining highest aggregate of points on all events.

Names of Competitors to reach Bn. H.Q. by Noon on SATURDAY 20th July, 1918.

C.F. Drechsler Capt.
pkr
4th Australian Machine Gun Battalion.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1007736

No. 4 AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN COMPANY.
No...../.....
Date.....
A. I. F.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1007736

AWM 30

No 4 Australian Machine Gun Company

Training Programme — Weekending 27-7-18

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Hours	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday		Thursday		Friday	Saturday
9-10			The first hour of each morning will be divided as follows: 9am Section Parades & Markers to report to C.S.M. on Col Parade Ground. 9.10am Company Parade. 9.15 to 9.30 Saluting Drill. 9.30-9.45 Machine Gunners Catechism. 9.45-10am Smartening up Drill.					
10-11	4th Div. Rage Meeting	4th M.G. Battalion Sports postponed	Squads "A" Lecture: "Fire Direction I"	Squads "B" Range	Squads "A" Lecture "Aerial Photography & Use of Camouflage."	Squads "B" Gun Instruction	Tactical Scheme Use of Ground and Cover, and Action from Limbers	Nos 1 & 2 Sections Range Nos 3 & 4 Sections Map Reading
11-12			Gun Instruction	Work	Gun Instruction			Nos 1 & 2 Sections Map Reading Nos 3 & 4 Sections Range.
2-4			Sports and Organised Games — 4th M.G.B.					

NOTE: Squads "A" and "B" will be maintained ("A" composed of competent Gunners "B" of "new" men). Squads "A" for advanced M.G. training — Squads "B" will continue to parade under Lieut WRIGHT for Range Work, and under Lieut CLARK for Gun Instruction

For O.C. No 4 A.M.G. Coy

Appendix 30 1

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Appendix 31 64

30.7.18.

21a App/31

4th Aust M.G. Coy.

Order No 8

Copy 2

SECRET

REF: Sh 62 D SW1: 20000

1. The 4th Aust Division will relieve the 37th French Division on nights 31st July/1st August and 1st/2nd Aug.

2.(a) 13th M.G.Coy will take up positions in right Bde Sector on night 1st/2nd August.

(b) 12th M.G.Coy will be in Divisional reserve at BOVES with 12th A.Bde.

(c) 14th M.G.Coy will act as support coy and be responsible for defence of Divisional front W. of TASMANIA SWITCH GENTELLES LINE

(d) 16th M.G.Coy will take over positions in L. Bde Sector on night 31st 1st.

(e) Locations will be as follows:

Batt'n H.Qrs	BOVES	T7c 40.20.
Transport.	"	T13c 00.00.
Coy H.Q.		U2b 70.10.

Sections at – No1: U4d 40.60 - No2: U15 central
No3: U10d 40.20. No4 - U3c 60.50

3. Disposal of Personnel (U.S.)

(a) Sections will be comprised as follows:

	4th M.G.Coy.	"C" Coy - 123rd U.S. Bn
No1 Section.	3 guns	3 guns
2 "	3	3
3 "	2	2
4 "	8	4

(b) For facility in Transport of Gun gear - Gun Teams going into line will be composed of 6 men and 1 N.C.O. On completion of relief Gun teams will consist of 3 men and 1 N.C.O. Spare details will return to Nucleus camp at BOVES. S18d 50.10.

(c) One U.S. Platoon Sergeant will be attached to each of the officers occupying forward positions. Two Section Sergeants to Nos 2 and 4 Sections and one to each of Nos 1 & 3 Sections. Each 4th Coy Section will supply 1 N.C.O for each U.S. Gun Team attached to it to superintend construction of emplacements.

(d) Two U.S. Signallers will report to Sig Cpl TYLER for duty

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1007736

(2)

Appendix 31 .65

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4. Transport: (a) Line Transport consists of 5 Limbers 3 Aust and 2 U.S., allotted as follows:

One to each of forward Sections
Two to rear Section + H.Qrs.

(b) Remainder of combined Transport under Lieut Wright M.C. will move to BOVES at 2pm

5. Rations: Ration Strengths to be rendered to C.Q.M.S. by 10am American Ration bags will be distinguished by addition of "A" thus. "No 5 GUN A.-6 MEN"

6 Routine: 9am Blankets rolled in tens.
10am Parade for disposition of gun teams.
11.30am Lunch.
12.15pm Fall in. Fighting Order. Overcoats
W/P sheets to be carried
12.30pm. Move off. Sections at 50 yds interval to Bivouac in U 25 d where meal will be ready

No Section to be South of BOIS l'ABBE before 8.45pm.

Copy. No 1 - 4th A.M.G.B.N
2 4th A.I. Bde
3 Lieut HUNT M.C.
4 Capt McQUADE
5.6.7.8 Sections
9 FILE
10 WAR DIARY

H.W. Callaghan Lt.
for OC No 4 A.M.G. Coy

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1007736

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