

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/7/21

Title: 7th Infantry Brigade

May 1917



AWM4-23/7/21

WAR DIARY

May 1917

HEADQUARTERS.
7TH AUSTRALIAN
INFANTRY BRIGADE

Army Form C. 2118.

662

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

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			Reference 1/20,000. O.31.d.2.4. 1/40,000. ALBERT Comb. Sheet.	
MAY	1-2		7th Bgde was occupying front line from C.11.central to C.6.c.5.4. and railway line to U.28.c.0.3. with outposts in C.6.a. & c. and Sunken Road C.5.a.7.7. to B.8.6. 27th Bn. in right sub-sector, 26th Bn in left subsector. 25th Bn. in Supports in C.4.a. & c. and C.10.a. & c. 28th Bn. in reserve in NOREUIL-LONGATTE C.9.a.b. & d. Bgde H.Q. at C.10.c.9.1. Situation normal. Our Artillery busy cutting HINDENBURG wire.	
	3		5th & 6th Bgdes attack HINDENBURG Line at 3-45 a.m. Objective- RIENCOURT and a line running N. & S. from U.12.c.9.2. to U.30.a.4.8. 7th Bgde remaining in position as on 1st and 2nd instant as Divisional reserve. Sector of line attacked U.30.a.5.8. to U.22.c.3.0. 5th Bgde on right and 6th Bgde on left. Report on operations attached	App. 1, 2 & 3
	4		26th & 28th Bns withdrawn from front line and ordered back to BEUGNY-YTRES Line to reorganize. 25th & 27th Bns occupying old front line as on May 1st with 25th Bn on left subsector.	
	5		25th Bn relieved in line by 1st A.I.Bgde and withdrawn to supports to reorganize. At night 25th Bn relieved 27th Bn in the XXXXX line and the latter withdrawn to supports in C.16.a. & b.	App. 4.
	6		No alterations in dispositions. Situation normal in our sector.	
	7		7th Bgde ordered to occupy line running C.11.central-O.6.c.5.4. to O.G.1. at U.29.a.3.7. 26th Bn ordered up to take over line C.11.central to railway exclusive, and the 25th Bn from railway inclusive to O.G.1. 27th Bn. in reserve in C.16.a. & b. 28th Bn. moved back to rest in FAVREUIL.	App 5

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WAR DIARY
or
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HEADQUARTERS,
7TH AUSTRALIAN
INFANTRY BRIGADE. Army Form C. 2118.

No.
Date.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MAY	8		14th A.I.Bgde relieves 7th A.I.Bgde in the line on night 8/9th Relief completed by 4 a.m.,	App 6.
	9		7th Bgde marches to BAPAUME and entrains on DECAUVILLE for SHELTER WOOD Camp, less the 25th Bn which goes to ACID DROP Camp.	do.
	10/17		Bgde resting, reorganizing and training.	
	13		G.O.C., went on leave, & Lt-Col. SLANE took over temporarily command of the Bgde.	
	17		Div. H.Q. move to RUBEMPRE.	
	18		Bgde marches to SENLIS area. B.H.Q., 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th Bns and 7th M.Gun Coy at SENLIS, 26th Bn. at BOUZINCOURT.	App 7.
	19/29		Training in SENLIS area. Close order drill and musketry & bayonet fighting.	
	20		Staff Capt. leaves for Staff course at CAMBRIDGE. Capt. BERRYMAN, takes over duties temporarily.	
	22		Scheme dealing with advanced guard tactics for senior officers carried on out of doors.	
	23		G.O.C., returned from leave and resumed command of Bgde.	
	25		Capt. Hamilton goes on leave. Major BRIDGES (25th Bn) takes over duty as Brigade Major tempy.	
	27		Corps Commander attends Church parade at SENLIS at 10-30 a.m., and afterwards distributes decorations and inspects Brigade.	
	29		Tactical scheme for junior officers under Bgde arrangements in the afternoon.	
	30/31		Training in the morning, Bgde sports-boxing, cross country & athletic events in the afternoon.	

W. F. N. Bridges
Major.
A/Brigade Major, 7th Australian Inf. Bgde.

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SECRET**7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE**

Copy No. 8

ORDER No. 101.

May 2nd 1917.

Reference Map 1/20,000.

Map 1/10,000, Objective Map already issued.

1. The 2nd Australian Division will renew the attack on the HINDENBURG LINE on a date and at an hour to be notified later.

2. (a) The 62nd Division is attacking on the Left of the 2nd Australian Division.

(b) Boundaries between the attacking Divisions will be U.28.c.2.5. - U.28.a.6.6. thence to Cross Roads at U.22.c.98.20 - thence along the Sunken Road to U.22.b.8.5. U.17.central - U.12.c.0.0. - U.12.c.6.6.

(c) A map of the Objectives has already been issued. The 4th Objective is cancelled.

(d) The 5th A.I. Brigade will attack on the Right. The 6th A.I. Brigade will attack on the Left.

(e) 1st Australian Infantry Brigade will be attached to the 2nd Australian Division for the Operation, and will be disposed on ZERO day as follows :-

- (1) 2 Battalions - 8 Machine Guns MORCHIES - VAULX Li.
- (2) 2 Battalions - 8 Machine Guns BEUGNY - YTRES Line.

(f) The advance from the first to the second Objective will be in at ZERO + 1½ hours, and from second to third Objective, at ZERO + 2½ hours.

3. **ARTILLERY:**

(a) The usual creeping and protective barrages will be provided. A map has been issued showing the principle barrage lifts.

(b) The H.A. counter-battery group will neutralize hostile artillery fire.

(c) As soon as RIENCOURT has been captured, the C.R.A. will

(1) Move Left Artillery Group into suitable positions to cover the new front of the Division beyond RIENCOURT.

(2) Hold one Artillery Brigade ready to advance

(d) Smoke and gas shells will be discharged if the wind is favourable.

(e) **TRENCH MORTARS.** 3 Medium Trench Mortars and ammunition will be sent up to BULLECOURT for the defence of the village, or of other strong points, and will not advance until the strong point for which Mortar is intended has been established.

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2 Medium Trench Mortars will be established by order of the Right Brigade Commander on the line U.30.a.1.5. - 2.9, as soon as the third, fourth, and fifth waves have occupied the second objective.

4. MACHINE GUNS. The 8th and 14th M/G Companies have been attached to the 2nd Australian Division for the Operation. Instructions regarding the action of Machine Guns have already been issued.

5. SMOKE. No.1. Special Company R.E. will discharge smoke bombs from trench mortars from about C.6.c.0.4. between ZERO and ZERO+40 to form a flank barrage. Smoke bombs will only be discharged if wind is W.S.W. and S.W.

6. RESERVE. The 7th A.I. Brigade, "C" Squadron ^{13th} A.L.H., Half Company Cyclist Battalion, will be in Divisional Reserve, and will be disposed at ZERO hour as follows :-

On the Right, 27th Battalion will hold Railway Line from C.6.c.0.4 to Road C.5.a.85.00 both inclusive, and in addition the line of posts as follows :-

<u>Location.</u>	<u>Garrison.</u>
C.6.c.0.4.	1 platoon
U.30.c.25.00	1 Vickers Gun (to be detailed by O.C. 7th M/G Coy)
U.30.c.35.30	
U.30.c.4.5.	
	each 1 Lewis Gun, 50% crew, and 9 d/ranks.

Posts South of the Railway as at present, with reserves distributed in depth.

Orders regarding the construction of the above posts by the 27th Battalion have already been issued.

On the Left, 26th Battalion will occupy the Railway Line from Road C.5.a.85.00 exclusive to U.28.c.0.4. The whole Battalion to be on the Line of the Railway.

Advanced posts of the 26th and 27th Battalions may occupy the line of the Road C.5.b.9.5. - C.5.a.7.6. U.28 central.

25th Battalion will be distributed in the area C.4.a.3.c. Separate instructions are being issued regarding the construction of the additional trenches required.

28th Battalion will occupy the Sunken Road NOREUIL - LONGATTE.

7th A.L.T. Battery and 7th Machine Gun Coy will be in Sunken Road C.10.c. (one Stokes Mortar will remain in present position on the Railway Line)

1st Line Transport (Less Cookers) will remain Brigaded in present position H.12 central ready to move at a quarter of an hour's notice.

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Headquarters of 7th A.I. Brigade Units will be established approximately as follows :-

25th Bn.	Cutting	C.4.c.5.0.
26th Bn.	"	C.4.a.4.0.
27th Bn.	"	C.11.a.5.3.
28th Bn.	"	C.9.d.8.9.
7th M/G Coy	"	C.10.a.6.3.
7th A.L.L.T. B	"	C.10.a.6.3.

"C" Squad. 13th A.L.H.)
 Half Coy Cyclist Bn.) On S.E. outskirts of VAULX.
 H.Q. C.26.d.3.6.)

Separate Orders will be issued regarding the move of the 7th A.I. Brigade to these positions.

7. Probable action of the Divisional Reserve.

The following are some of the Operations the 7th A.I. Brigade may have to undertake as Divisional Reserve.

- (a) To support the attacking Brigades at any point.
- (b) To deal with a counter-attack S. of the HINDERBURG-LINE coming from the direction of QUEANT.
- (c) A counter-attack from direction of BULLECOURT.
- (d) In the event of failure or partial failure of 62nd Division to take BULLECOURT, an attack may have to be launched at short notice against the village.
- (e) In the event of partial failure of attacking troops to capture any Objectives, a further attack may have to be made by this Brigade.
- (f) In event of enemy counter-attack succeeding or partially succeeding, an attack by the 7th A.I. Brigade to re-establish the situation.
- (g) In the event of attacking troops having had severe casualties during the attack, to take over the whole or a portion of the new front.

Commanding Officers will consider the above, and make arrangements accordingly.

The 25th and 28th Battalions will probably be used to carry out (d), (e), (f) and (g) above.

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8. The following parties will be detailed from the 7th A.I. Brigade :-

(a) The 26th Battalion will detail the following parties for carrying Trench Mortar ammunition :-

Strength	To report to	Time	Duties
Lt. Jones & 2 platoons (less L.G. sections) Not less than 40 o/r	Lt. ALLISON, 2nd Division C.5.a.5.2	ZERO - 30 min.	To carry Bombs to HINDENBURG LINE.

Lieut. JONES to report to T.M. Officer at 5th A.I. Bde H.Q. at 6 p.m. on "Y" day.

Lt. FLANNERY, 26th Bn. & 2 platoons (Less L.G. sections) Not less than 40 o/r	Brigade H.Q. C.10.c.9.1 $\frac{1}{2}$	"Y" Day ZERO - 6 hours.
--	--	----------------------------

After receiving instructions at Brigade H.Q., Lieut. FLANNERY and party will proceed to C.5.central and report to Lieut. ALLISON, 2nd Div. Medium Trench Mortars, and carry bombs to HINDENBURG LINE.

(b) The 26th & 27th Battalions will each detail a party, strength 1 N.C.O and 3 o/ranks to visit captured trenches and collect all documents, identifications, such as shoulder straps, etc. They will each take a sandbag in which to carry the articles; these sandbags will be sent to the nearest Brigade H.Q. and delivered to the Intelligence Officer.

(c) 25th & 28th Battalions will each detail a party strength, 1 Officer, 1 N.C.O. and 2 o/ranks. These parties will be distributed between the various R.A.P's to question returning wounded, especially Officers and N.C.O's, to collect information, to keep a tally of wounded passing through, and numbers of wounded prisoners. Papers for this purpose are being forwarded under separate cover.

28th Battalion will be responsible for R.A.P's at C.5.a.0.5 and U.28.c.5.2.

25th Battalion will be responsible for R.A.P's at C.5.d.7.6. - C.5.b.1.2.

Reports to be forwarded from time to time through the nearest report centre.

(d) LIAISON OFFICERS. The 28th and 26th Battalions will each detail 1 Officer and 2 runners as Liaison Officers and runners with the 5th and 6th Brigades respectively. Officers and runners to report at 5th and 6th Brigade H.Q. respectively one hour before ZERO. These Officers may be withdrawn from Reinforcement Camp for the purpose.

(e) Any further carrying or working parties will be drawn from the 28th Battalion.

9. CONTACT PATROLS. No.3. Squadron R.F.C. will be responsible for contact patrol work on the front of the attack. When the contact patrol calls for flares, these will be lit not only by those troops in the front line as it exists at the moment, but also by those on each flank to show how each flank is situated.

It is essential that sufficient, but not too many flares be lit. One flare for 100 yards is sufficient.

RED FLARES will be lit by infantry in the front line at

- (1) ZERO + 1 hour.
- (2) ZERO + 2 hours.
- (3) ZERO + 3 hours.

Flares must be collected from casualties.

10. BRIGADE SNIPERS. O.C., Brigade Snipers will detail four pairs of Snipers to operate in the 27th Battalion Posts. They will be posted by the O.C., Snipers, and will be in position by ZERO. 2nd/Lieut. STARR, Brigade Sniping Officer will occupy the Brigade O.P. from ZERO - 30.

11. SIGNALS.

(a) S.O.S. Signal will be GREEN lights (1" or 1½" Very) fired in quick succession.

(b) SUCCESS SIGNALS :-

5th A.I. Brigade.

6th A.I. Brigade

Objective. { 1st trench - 1 pair of RED
flares fired together,
repeated at intervals of
10 seconds)
Support. 3 RED flares in
quick succession.

1 WHITE flare repeated at
intervals of 10 seconds.

1 RED flare repeated at
intervals of 10 seconds.

2nd Objective. 1 RED 2 WHITE
alternately in quick
succession.

1 RED and 1 WHITE flare
fired alternately at 10
seconds interval.

Except the above and S.O.S. Signal, no other signals are to be used.

(c) The following SIGN and COUNTER-SIGN will be used:-

SIGN -- -- -- "T H O R N"

COUNTER-SIGN -- -- -- "T H R O U G H"

(d) The word "RETIRE" will not be used.

12. All watches will be synchronized on "Y" day by sending a representative with a watch to 7th A.I. Brigade H.Q. at 9 p.m.

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13. DRESS. Orders regarding dress and equipment to be worn already issued, will be observed. Iron ration will be issued and carried on the man.

Greatcoats and waterproof sheets will be carried. If an offensive is ordered, these coats will be dumped in assembly trenches under guard.

4 bombs per man will be carried.

2 bombs per man in bulk at Platoon H.Q.

100 rounds extra S.A.A. will be carried in a bandolier.

Instructions will be issued separately regarding the drawing of additional ammunition to complete to above scale.

Officers will carry Very Pistols and ammunition.

14. SIGNAL COMMUNICATION. Instructions regarding Signal communication have already been issued. Particular attention is directed to the arrangements for visual.

6 pigeons will be kept at Brigade H.Q. *in reserve*

2 pigeons will be allotted to 27th Bn. for use in the forward posts.

Instructions regarding Ground Sheets apply equally to Units in reserve.

4 additional runners per Battalion will report to Brigade H.Q. for duty as soon as their Units are in position.

15. PRISONERS OF WAR. All prisoners captured will be sent under an escort (10% of the number of prisoners) to MOREUIL. Lightly wounded men to be used where possible as escorts. Orders regarding Straggler Posts and Prisoner Cages are attached to this Order as an Appendix.

16. REVISED MEDICAL ARRANGEMENTS attached as an Appendix. These arrangements cancel those already issued.

17. DUMPS & AMMUNITION SUPPLY. See appendix. Units will form small dumps at their H.Q. *

Dumps of Engineer material have been established at C.10.c.2.0., C.5.c.9.9., C.5.a.3.4. A small Brigade dump has been formed at C.10.c.7.4.

Reference Appendix. System of supply (para b). All Battalion limbers will be loaded as stated. Limbers required to draw rations, maximum two per Unit, will be unloaded for the purpose, and will reload as soon as possible after rations have been delivered.

Six pack animals per Battalion with pack saddles, will be put under the Orders of the B.T.O.

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* The following quantities of ammunition will be kept in bulk.

H.Q. of Battalions.	3,000 rounds per Lewis Gun
H.Q. M/G Coy,	10,000 rounds per gun.
H.Q. T.M. Battery,	50 rounds per gun.

18. DETAILS TO BE LEFT BEHIND. Orders regarding the collection of personnel withdrawn from Units under provision of S.S. 135 Section XXX have already been issued, and personnel will not be withdrawn without previous sanction being obtained from Brigade H.Q. *from Detail Camp.*

19. Advanced Report Centres will be established as follows :-

2nd Aust. Div.	C.20.d.3.0. (N.E. Corner of VAULX)
5th A.I. Brigade	C.5.b.1.7.
6th A.I. Brigade	C.5.a.1.3.

These are all on the buried cable, and should be made use of.

20. At 6 p.m. on "F" day the G.O.C. 7th A.I. Bde will take over command of the MORCHIES - VAULX Line from the G.O.C's 5th and 6th A.I. Brigades.

21. Reports to 7th A.I. Brigade H.Q. C.16.a.4.8.

22. Acknowledge.

Issued to Sigs at 9 a.m.
Distribution :

1. 25th Bn.
2. 26th Bn.
3. 27th Bn.
4. 28th Bn.
5. 7th M/G Coy
6. 7th ALTB
7. B.T.O.
8. Staff Capt.
9. Sig. Officer
10. 5th A.I. Bde.
11. 6th " "
12. 2nd " "
13. 1st " "
14. 7th Field Coy
15. Left Bde.
16. 2nd Aust. Div. "G"
17. 2nd " " "Q"
18. C.R.A.
19. War Diary.
20. File
- 21 to 23 Spares.

J. Rowan-Smith
Captain, Brigade Major,
7th Australian Infantry Bde.

SECRET

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

Issued as Appendix to 7th A.I. Brigade Order No. 101
issued on 2/5/17

BATTLE STRAGGLER POSTS.

Battle Straggler Posts will be established at 6 p.m.
on Y day at the following places :-

VAULX C.26.a.9.6.

SUGAR FACTORY B.24.d.7.8.

MOREUIL C.10.c.7.6.

PRISONERS OF WAR COLLECTING CAGE.

A Prisoners of War Collecting Cage will be established at
MOREUIL C.10.c.7.6. where all prisoners of war will be handed
over and a receipt obtained for same.

SECRET.

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

Issued as Appendix to
7th A.I. Brigade Order No. 101

AMMUNITION ARRANGEMENTS (to be substituted for
those issued on 22/4 '17)

Brigade Battle Dumps - Right C.10.c.7.7.
C.5.central.

Left C.10.d.1.9.
C.5.a.0.5. U.28.c.90.15

"A" Echelon 2nd & 4th D.A.C.)
30 limbered G.S. waggons } B.30.d.3.5.
to take up position at this point at Zero + 2 hours.

20	limbers	each	loaded	with	18,000	rds	S.M.A.A.	-	360,000	rds	S.A.A.
8	"	"	"	"	768	No.5	Grenades	-	6,144	No.5	Gren.
2	"	"	"	"	768	No.23	"	-	1,536	No.23	"

"A" Echelon 2nd D.A.C. H.17.a.8.2.

18	G.S.	wagons	each	loaded	with	40,000	rds	-	720,000	rds.
3	"	"	"	"	"	1,380	No.5	Grenades	-	4,140.

"A" Echelon 4th D.A.C. H.16.a.2.9.

18	G.S.	wagons	each	loaded	with	40,000	rds	S.A.A.	-	720,000	rds.
3	"	"	"	"	"	1,380	No.5	Grenades	-	4,140.	

Main Divisional Dump H.11.d.4.7.

System of Supply:

(a) During the first phase Brigades will carry ammunition forward from their battle dumps.

(b) Thereafter each Brigade will have as a mobile reserve its S.A.A and Grenade Limbers loaded as follows :

4	Lewis Gun/ Limbers	containing	69,000	rds	S.A.A.
2	S.A.A. Limbers	"	36,000	rds	S.A.A.
1	Bomb Limber	"	768	No.5	Grenades
1	Limber 3rd S.A.A. lbr.	"	768	No.23	"

(c) From Zero + 2 hours demands for further ammunition will be sent to the Div. Bomb Officer at B.30.d.3.5. by guides who will conduct full limbers forward.
(Brigades will have alternative routes forward reconnoitre for this purpose)

(d) Whenever limbers of bombs or S.A.A. are sent forward from the forward D.A.C. Sections word will be sent back to the rear detachments of the D.A.C. at H.17.a.8.2. or H.16.a.2.9. and an equivalent amount will be sent forward to B.30.d.3.5. and dumped ready to refill the limber on its return; the empty G.S. wagons will then go to the Main Divisional dump, refill and return to their lines.

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

SECRET

Issued as Appendix to Brigade Order No. 101

MEDICAL ARRANGEMENTS.

Reference Map 57.C. 1/40,000.

In the event of attack by this Division, the following will be the medical arrangements :-

1. Medical disposition is shown in the attached table.
2. O.C. 7th Aust. Field Ambulance, with that Unit complete, and bearer divisions of 5th and 6th Aust. Field Ambulances, will be responsible for the evacuation of casualties from the R.A.P.'s to the main dressing Station. The Bearer Divisions of the 2nd and 14th Field Ambulances will be at his disposal if required. All horse and motor ambulance wagons of this Division will be under his command, and in addition O's C. 5th & 6th Aust. Field Ambulances will each place at his disposal 5 G.S. wagons with teams and drivers. 3 horse ambulance wagons of 5th Aust. Div. and extra teams of A.M.C. units in 1st and 5th Aust. Divisions, will reinforce the above transport.
3. At Main Dressing Station 6th Aust. Field Ambulance will receive and clear all stretcher cases; 5th Aust. Field Ambulance will receive and clear all walking wounded.
4. Each R.M.O. will go forward to the advanced R.A.P. with six squads of four bearers, who will take with them 12 stretchers and 24 blankets. These squads will join respective R.M.O.'s moving up on "Y" night at the Advanced Dressing Station and move up with them. R.M.O.'s of units in line before "Y" night will notify O.C. 7th Aust. Field Ambulance of time at which they wish extra bearer squads to report to their R.A.P.'s.
5. A Relay Post of Field Ambulance bearers will be established at C.4.d.
6. An Advanced Collecting Station will be formed at C.10.c.7.7. with dump of stretchers, blankets, and dressings.
7. O.C., 7th Aust. Field Ambulance will post runners at Brigade H.Q. C.10.c.9.1. to maintain touch with Field Ambulance H.O. at C.10.c.7.7.
8. Horse wagons will work from Advanced Dressing station by Road to C.14.central and thence overland to C.9.d.5.6. Wagons will be pushed forward if circumstances permit, in front of NOR EUIL. Horse wagons will be used on road from C.14.central to LONGATTE and on towards BULLECOURT if necessary. A horse wagon will be posted on the LONGATTE ROAD at C.22.d. to clear casualties from this flank.
9. From Advanced Dressing Station C.20.d.2.8. cases will be cleared to Main Dressing Station I.1.c. stretcher cases by motor ambulance cars, walking wounded as much as possible by horse wagons.
10. From Main Dressing Station stretcher cases will be evacuated to C.C.S. GREVILLERS by A.A.C. cars. Walking wounded will be evacuated by 10 motor lorries and buses attached to 5th Aust. Field Ambulance to C.C.S. GREVILLERS. If walking wounded cases tend to become blocked at H.D.S. they will be sent by DECAUVILLE train from I.1.d.7.5 to H.52.a.3.0 at which place a motor bus will be stationed to clear cases to C.C.S. GREVILLERS. Cases for D.R.S. will be loaded on empty passing lorries to be taken to 1st Aust. Field Ambulance, POZIERES.
11. R.M.O.'s will keep touch with Field Ambulance by sending notes back by Field Ambulance bearers at frequent intervals during the engagement. All messages must state time of despatch.

(This cancels previous medical arrangements issued on 22/4/17)

MEDICAL DISPOSITION FOR ATTACK.

Advanced Regimental Aid Posts	Relay Post	Advanced Col- lecting Post	Wagon Post	Advanced Dressing Station.	Main Dressing Station	DECAUVILLE Walking Wounded Posts.
21st, 22nd Bn. U.28.c.5.2.						
23rd, 24th Bn. C.5.a.0.5.						I.1.d.7.5.
17th, 18th Bn. C.5.b.1.2.	C.4.4.	C.10.c.7.7.	C.9.d.5.6.	C.20.d.2.8.	I.1.c.	H.32.a.3.0.
19th, 20th Bn. C.5.d.7.6.						

Stretcher cases will be taken from R.A.P.'s to Wagon Post by hand carriage or wheeled stretcher carriages.
Horse Ambulance wagons will convey stretcher cases from WAGON LOADING POST to Advanced Dressing Station.
Motor Ambulance wagons will convey stretcher cases from Advanced Dressing Station to Main Dressing Station.
Horse wagons will convey walking cases from Advanced Dressing Station to Main Dressing Station.

SECRET7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

Copy No. 90

ORDER No. 102.

May 2nd 1917.

Reference Map 1/20,000.

1. Reference Operation Order No. 101, para 1. "Y/Z" night will be night of 2nd/3rd May and ZERO hour will be 3.30 a.m.
2. The 7th A.I. Brigade will occupy the positions laid down in para 6 of the above quoted Order, by ZERO hour, in accordance with the attached table.
3. In order to avoid interfering with 5th and 6th A.I. Brigades, times must be strictly adhered to. Owing to the short time available it will be necessary for the 25th and 26th Battalions to move on a broad front forward of NOREUIL - LONGATTE Road, and to use more than one line of approach up to that point.
4. Advance parties will be sent on to reconnoitre and act as guides.
5. Extra S.A.A. and Bombs required to complete Units can be drawn at dump V. C.10.C.6.9. Necessary carrying parties to be sent.
6. Rations of the 3rd May will be issued and carried on the man. All ranks will have filled water bottles, and cautioned that no further water will be available for at least 24 hours.
7. Units will report when they are in position by wiring the name of the C.O.
8. Acknowledge.

Captain, Brigade Major,
7th Australian Infantry Brigade.

Issued to Signals at 1.30 p.m.

- Copies to -
1. 25th Bn.
 2. 26th Bn.
 3. 27th Bn.
 4. 28th Bn.
 5. 7th M/G Coy
 6. 7th ALTB
 7. B.T.O.
 8. Staff Capt.
 9. 5th A.I. Bde
 10. 6th "
 11. 1st "
 12. 2nd "
 13. 2nd Aust. Div.
 14. War Diary
 15. File
 16. Spares

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

MOVE TABLE to accompany Order No 102.

DATE.	UNIT.	FROM	TO.	ROUTE.	REMARKS.
2/3rd May	²⁵ 26th Bn (1 Coy) (working party)	Present Camp.	G.3.d.	Any route	Not to cross NOREUIL-LONGATTE road before 9 p.m.
	26th Bn.	" "	Front line (left)	N.W. of VAULX- NOREUIL road	Head not to reach NOREUIL- LONGATTE road before 2 a.m., and to be clear by 2-40
	25th Bn. (less 1 Coy)	" "	Area C.4.	-do-	Head not to reach NOREUIL- LONGATTE road before 2-35 a.m.
	7th M/Gun Coy.	" "	C.10.a. & c.	S.E. of VAULX- NOREUIL road.	Not to reach NOREUIL before 2 a.m.,
	7th A.L.T.M.Btty	" "	-do-	-do-	do do
	28th Bn.	" "	NOREUIL-LONGATTE	-do-	Not to enter NOREUIL-LONGATTE road before 3 a.m. To concentrate in area C.16.a. before morning

Appendix No 2

SECRET

1103
War Diary

1103

HEADQUARTERS, 7TH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.	
No.	<i>265/13</i>
Date	

REPORT ON OPERATIONS

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

3rd/4th MAY 1917.

Appendix

3

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

May 12th 1917.

REPORT ON OPERATION ON 3rd MAY 1917.1. DISPOSITION.

At ZERO hour on May 3rd, the 7th A.I. Brigade was disposed as follows :-

RIGHT. 27th Battalion holding from Right Brigade boundary about C.11.d.5.8. to C.5.central, with Posts at C.6.a.0.4., U.30.c.25.00, U.30.c.35.30, U.30.c.4.5., C.5.b.7.6.

LEFT. 26th Battalion (three Companies) along the Railway Line from C.5.central, to Left Divisional Boundary U.28.c.0.4. One Company carrying for 5th and 6th A.I. Brigades.

SUPPORT. 25th Battalion in the area C.4.a. and c.

RESERVE. 28th Battalion in the NOREUIL - LONGATTE Road.

MACHINE GUNS. In positions on both flanks.

TRENCH MORTARS. 1 in Sunken Road C.10.c.

BRIGADE H.Q. NOR EUIL C.16.a.4.8.

2. ACTION.

4.37 a.m. Runner reported O.G.1 was taken.

5.35 a.m. 5th Brigade reported 2nd Objective taken.

5.42 a.m. On a request from the O.C., 26th Bn, two Vickers guns were sent up to the Railway.

5.57 a.m. O.C., 26th Bn. reported two of his Companies had been taken forward by the orders of the G.O.C., 6th Brigade.

6.12 a.m. 2 Companies of the 25th Bn. ordered up to Railway Line by G.O.C., 7th Brigade to replace Companies withdrawn.

6.40 a.m. G.O.C. Division ordered an attack to be launched against BULLECOURT by one Battalion.

6.49 a.m. O.C., 25th Bn. to move to Railway, and attack BULLECOURT from the S.E. No barrage to be given.

- 2 -

- 6.51 a.m. O.C., 26th Bn. ordered to send remaining Company to U.30.a. to hold from Road crossing in O.G.2, U.30.aa to Cutting at U.23.d.5.5.
- 6.55 a.m. Two Companies 3rd Bn. ordered to move up to LONGATTE - NOR EUIL Road from VAULX.
- 7.10 a.m. 28th Bn. ordered to move up to Railway Embankment.
- 7.30 a.m. Two Machine Guns at Railway Embankment put at the disposal of O.C., 25th Bn. for the attack.
- 7.37 a.m. Two Stokes Mortars and ammunition sent up to report to O.C. 25th Bn. to support attack.
- 7.50 a.m. Division reported another Bn. of the 1st Brigade being sent up to C.19.b. at disposal of G.O.C. 7th Brigade.
- 8.15 a.m. Remainder of the 3rd Bn. ordered up to NOREUIL - LONGATTE Road.
- 8.30 a.m. O.C., 25th Bn. reported BULLECOURT strongly held, Leading wave of two platoons wiped out by machine gun fire.
- 8.30 a.m. Situation reported to Division.
- 8.35 a.m. Two Stokes Mortars and ammunition sent up to O.C. 25th Bn. in Limber G.S. Wagon with crews at a gallop, to Railway Line. No casualties either going or returning.
- 8.50 a.m. O.C., 25th Bn. ordered to watch situation and take advantage of it if opportunity offered.
- 8.55 a.m. Company of 26th Bn. reported to be clearing the Huns from O.G.1 about U.29.a.7.7. to U.29.b.8.6.
- 9.10 a.m. Division ordered 28th Bn. to be put under orders of 5th Brigade. Orders sent, but did not reach 28th Bn. as both runners were rendered casualties.
- 9.15 a.m. Bn. at C.19.b. ordered to occupy NOREUIL - LONGATTE Road.
- 9.30 a.m. The 3rd Bn. ordered from LONGATTE - NOREUIL Road to Embankment, with platoon at C.5.a.
- 9.50 a.m. G.O.C. suggested to Division that 4th Bn. of 1st Brigade should move to C.19.b. as it takes some time moving up.
- 10.12 a.m. Two Vickers guns sent up to 27th Bn.
- 10.15 a.m. 3rd Bn. to move to Railway Cutting, with a platoon in Sunken Road C.5.a. & b.
- 10.30 a.m. Two Vickers guns for 27th Bn. cancelled.

- 3 -

- 10.55 a.m. East Yorks reported to have fallen back from BULLECOURT. O. , 25th Bn. reported Railway overcrowded.
- 11 a.m. 3rd Bn. instructed to keep two Companies back in C.4.c.6.1. owing to overcrowding. O.C., 2nd Bn. Lieut. Colonel MILLIGAN reported to Brigade H.Q.
- 11.15 a.m. 3rd Bn. instructed to only send one Company to Railway Cutting.
- 11.30 a.m. 28th Bn. reported they were just moving off to bomb down O.G.1 & 2.
- 12 noon. 2nd Bn. established at H.Q. in LONGATTE Road.
- 1 p.m. 1st Bn. reported being concentrated at C.19.b. & d. An Officer of the Bn. reported for orders.
- 2.50 p.m. Carrying party for 6th Bde of 100 detailed from 3rd Bn.
- 3.42 p.m. Arranged for Posts of the Right Bn. to be wired.
- 4.5 p.m. 5th Bde ask for two Stokes Mortars to co-operate in bombing attack in O.G.2. Orders issued for two Stokes on the Railway U.28.c. to be moved. Lieut. BRAND, 7th A.L.T.M. Battery in charge.
- 4.20 p.m. O.C., 27th Bnz reported post blown out by a Minenwerfer. 7 killed.
- 4.42 p.m. 2nd Bnz ordered to detail carrying party of 250 for carrying Engineers material.
- 4.53 p.m. Division informed 7th Brigade that 1st, 2nd and 3rd Bn. may/relieve 6th Brigade in O.G.2.
- 5.40 p.m. 27th Bn. report all their Posts blown in.
- 6 p.m. 5th Brigade asked to put two Machine Guns already in position on Right flank under orders of O.C., 27th Bn., to help in protecting the Right flank.
- 6.15 p.m. 28th Bnz report they have been pushed back to the Road in O.G.1 and to U.23.d.4.1. in O.G.2 and report supply of bombs insufficient.
- 6.50 p.m. Orders for new dispositions received.
- 9.25 p.m. S.O.S. Signal reported by O.P.
- 9.26 p.m. 2nd Bn. ordered to stand to, and also working parties which had not yet left.
- 9.28 p.m. 6th Bde report counter-attack from the N.W. along the Railway Line.

- 4 -

- 9.32 p.m. 2nd Bn. ordered to be distributed in depth between LONGATTE and NOR EUIL, with leading troops pushed out in the direction of Railway Line U.27.d.
- 9 p.m. All available men of the 26th Bn. had been withdrawn to NOREUIL - LONGATTE Road.
- 9.36 p.m. 3rd Bn. standing to in communication trench at C.4.c.
- 9.40 p.m. 1st Bn. reported arrival of leading Company.
- 10.48 p.m. 2nd Bn. ordered to move forward and relieve the 28th Bn. 28th Bn. to the NOREUIL - LONGATTE Road.
- 11.10 p.m. Advanced Company of 2nd Bn. brought back to the NOREUIL Road.
- 2.16 a.m. 28th Bn. report relief complete, and that C.O. is on his way back to Brigade H.Q..
- 3.40 a.m. 25th Bn. relieved and returns to Sunken Road C.16.a.& c.
- 3.43 a.m. Division advise 11th and 12th Bns. coming up under orders of G.O.C., 7th Brigade at 7 a.m.
-

There is little to add to the foregoing diary, except such incidents which make for experience, and which may be useful in future organization and training.

The following were specially noted :-

1. There was again a tendency to fritter away reinforcements. One Battalion, the 26th, became scattered, and were not collected until relieved and ordered back to the Details Camp.
2. The necessity for the better organization of Bombing fights, and for provision for relief. See Appendix "A".

The 28th Battalion fought a bombing fight in O.G. 1 & 2 from 2 p.m. to 8.15 p.m., and I am of opinion that if they had been relieved or supported better, they would not have been driven out. The principle to be kept in view is that it is the last fresh bomber, and the last bomb, that usually wins.

100 Boxes of Bombs were sent to the 28th Battalion undetonated.
3. The value of defended localities and of machine guns was exemplified, the whole plans being upset by the resistance of BULLECOURT, the country lending itself well to machine gun action.
4. The German method of wiring generally at an angle to the front, and with extra thick patches, obtained, to a considerable extent during the first attack, what would appear to be its object, viz. to disorganise the line, and cause crowding and loss of direction.
5. There was not enough use made of the ground for assembly of Supports and Reserves. The prevailing ideas did not appear to extend beyond the existing trenches and Sunken Roads and embankments.

There were many folds in the ground where assembly trenches could have been dug to accommodate Supports and Reserves quite out of enemy observation except from the air, and camouflage would have given some protection from the latter. As a result, Staffs were hard put to it, to fit in troops, and at one time the Railway Embankment was in an extremely congested condition, with a consequent increase in casualties, and confusion.

The communication trench dug from NOR EUIL originally as an assembly trench for the 25th Bn., proved most useful. I intend to include the selection and preparation of such assembly trenches in the Syllabus of Training.

- 6 -

6. The work done by this Brigade in conjunction with the 7th Field Company Australian Engineers was excellent. A plan showing this has been prepared by Major EVANS. Summarised, it amounts in round figures to

7500 yards Trench 4'6" x 3' x 2' *including legible trench*

13000 yards double apron wire fence.

18 Strong Posts, average garrison 1 platoon.

In this connection I would like to mention Major EVANS, whose organization of the work, and energy in procuring supplies, and getting parties on the job, was mainly responsible for the success of the work, often carried out under fire.

Captain CARTWRIGHT's supervision of the work, and his work generally is also most praiseworthy, and the close and complete mutual understanding and co-operation between the Brigade and the Engineers was most helpful and resulted in greatly increased efficiency.

7. The Artillery liaison was very good, and quite efficient. The response to calls was prompt and accurate. A striking instance occurred. The Brigade (7th) Observation Post reported four enemy wagons moving on road near Southern edge of HENDECOURT, the map reference being given only. This was passed on by the Liaison Officer to the Groups; fire was opened, a hit was observed on one wagon, and the rest scattered. The time which elapsed between original report, and the hit being reported, was under ten minutes.

8. The advantages of leaving details out of the Line was shown in the case of the 26th Battalion, which was much broken up and scattered. The remnants went out of the Line about 9 a.m. At 6 p.m. same day I received a report from Lieut. Colonel TRAVERS to the effect that with details and some reinforcements which had arrived, he had reorganised, and was ready to bring into the Line 14 Officers and 500 men. The question however as to what extent the loss of these important details affected the fighting efficiency of the Unit is worth considering. It would appear to be much a question of the organization of the Unit before the fight. A completely organized Unit can stand it - an incomplete one cannot.

9. The value of training men as guides as soon as a Unit takes over a position in the Line was proved, many casualties being avoided by the excellent guiding of parties through enemy bar rages.

10. The value of a Brigade Observation Post was most marked.

- 7 -

11. BOMBING.

(a) The enemy can throw Stick Bombs further than we can throw the No.5 Mills.

(b) He appears to be better trained in bombing.

(c) Our troops require more training in Bombing, especially in attacks on a large scale where trench clearing parties have to be relieved constantly.

No party should be expected to execute more than one attack, and should at once be relieved after they have carried out one attack.

(d) The importance of carrying parties, and an ample supply of Bombs. The parties should if possible be found by, and be under the control of the Unit carrying out the attack.

(e) Rifle grenades are very valuable, and as long as the supply lasts, render the greatest assistance to the advance. The supply however was inadequate, and the blank rounds for firing the grenades were not always in the box.

(f) The following suggested alterations in the composition of a trench clearing party are submitted :-

i. That there be six Throwers and no Carriers immediately behind the two Bayonetmen.

Owing to the width of the traverse, it was found that No.2. Thrower was too far away to get any good results from his throwing.

ii. That there be six Rifle Grenadiers, each to carry his own grenades.

Owing to the enemy being able to outrange us with his grenades, it was found necessary to make every use of the rifle grenade.

iii. Men to be placed at three paces interval all down the trench, to pass up bombs (fuzed) to Bombing Squads.

12. OPERATIONS of 7th A.L.T.M. Battery. See Appendix "B".

13. CASUALTIES. See Appendix "C".

14. STRENGTH OF UNITS in Forward Area on night 2/3rd May 1917
See appendix "D"

W. A. C. C. C.
a. C. C.

Brig. General.
Commanding 7th Australian Infantry Bde.

APPENDIX "A"

REPORT ON THE BOMBING ATTACK carried out by the

28th Battalion in O.G.1. and O.G.2.

From information received from Major. BROWN, M.C.

28th Battalion, who was in charge of the operation.

28th Battalion was ordered by the G.O.C., 5th A.I. Brigade to bomb down O.G.1. and O.G.2. from the road in U.22.a. to U.30.a.4.4. and U.30.a.40.75. and to block Communication Trenches running to R/ENCOURT in U.23.d. and U.24.a.

PRELIMINARY DISPOSITIONS. -

2 Coys. were detailed for each trench. Approximate strength of Coys. 80 - 90. Each Coy. divided into 4 squads.

Each squad consisting of

Bayonet men	2
Throwers	3
Carriers	3
Rifle Grenadiers	5.

As casualties occurred in the leading squad, or men got tired out, they were replaced from the squad in rear. This arrangement proved satisfactory. The 2nd Coy. carried up and detonated bombs, and eventually provided further reinforcements.

LEWIS GUNS.

4 Lewis Guns were emplaced to cover advance. Two for each trench, just behind the Sunken Road.

As soon as the advance had proceeded 100 yds, another Lewis Gun was put out in a shell hole about 50 yds South of O.G.1. Snipers were also pushed out in shell holes.

The enemy parapet and trench were kept under fire, and many casualties were caused.

The hostile Machine Guns carried out a similar role, and considerably interfered with the attack.

BOMBS.

50 Boxes of Bombs were available at the commencement of attack.

STOKES MORTARS. were emplaced in the Sunken Road South of O.G.2.

These however were not on this occasion of any value, as their shooting was so erratic that several casualties were caused to our men, and Major. BROWN ordered them to cease fire. (Note:- These were not 7th A.L.T.M.Btty).

PROGRESS OF THE ATTACK. The attack was made by bounds - two traverses at a time, and the progress made was

- 2 -

very steady in O.G.1. In O.G.2. very little progress was made owing to the communication trench at U.23.d.0.8. which had to be dealt with in addition to O.G.2. and owing to the stiffer resistance made by the enemy.

700 yds were gained in O.G.1. in 2½ hours. Blocks were made in communication trench U.29.b.7.7. and U.29.b.8.7. But there was not sufficient time to dig through the traverses.

At one period the Germans threw Gas bombs. These caused considerable delay, as masks had to be worn. These were worn with mouth piece and nose clip only, the eyes being left exposed.

At this period the supply of bombs became exhausted, and fresh bombing attack by the enemy down O.G.2. and down the communication trenches at U.29.b.55.70. and U.29.b.8.6. drove back the bombing parties, cutting off two squads. Some of these however fought their way back. One party was under Lieut. TYER who got back with three bayonet wounds and one bomb wound. Lieut. FOSS. was found dead with an empty revolver and 8 dead Germans before him.

In half an hour the attacking party was back where it started from, and the enemy was only stopped at this point owing to a machine gun being able to fire into the opening of the trench in the sunken Road U.29.a.9.7.

CASUALTIES TO THE ENEMY. 100 dead Germans were counted between two communication trenches U.29.b.55.70. and U.29.b.8.6. Some of these no doubt had been killed previously by shell fire etc., but the majority were killed during the bombing attack. Further attacks were organised and made during the rest of the day, with similar results. Success at first, ultimate return to the same position.

Shortage of Bombs

LESSONS AND SUGGESTIONS.

LESSONS AND SUGGESTIONS.
Suggesti ns are submitted:-

The following lessons and

- (1) Artillery Support would have been very valuable to barrage enemy communications and prevent reinforcements and bombs being sent up.
- (2) STOKES MORTARS had they been efficiently handled should have been of great value.
- (3) The co-operation of Lewis Guns and Snipers worked well together.
- (4) An adequate and constant supply of bombs is essential to success.
- (5) The rifle grenades worked well, and were of the greatest value.
- (6) NUMBER OF BOMBS REQUIRED.

2 rifle grenades to 1 No. 5.
Minimum used per minute 2 boxes rifle grenades and

- 3 -

1 box No. 5.

reserve of 100 boxes to start with, a steady supply coming up all the time.
Bombs should be sent up detonated. About 100 boxes came up undetonated.
Gas bombs if the wind is favourable would appear to be of great value.

7. ORGANIZATION OF BOMBING PARTIES. The normal formations as laid down are not satisfactory., More throwers are required.

Suggested - 3 Bayonet men.
6 throwers.
No Carriers.
6 Rifle Grenadiers.

each carrying their own bombs.

Spare squads in rear to replace casualties and exhausted men.

A man to be placed every three yards in the trench to pass up bombs from the rear to the attacking party.

Special digging and consolidating parties to be told off.

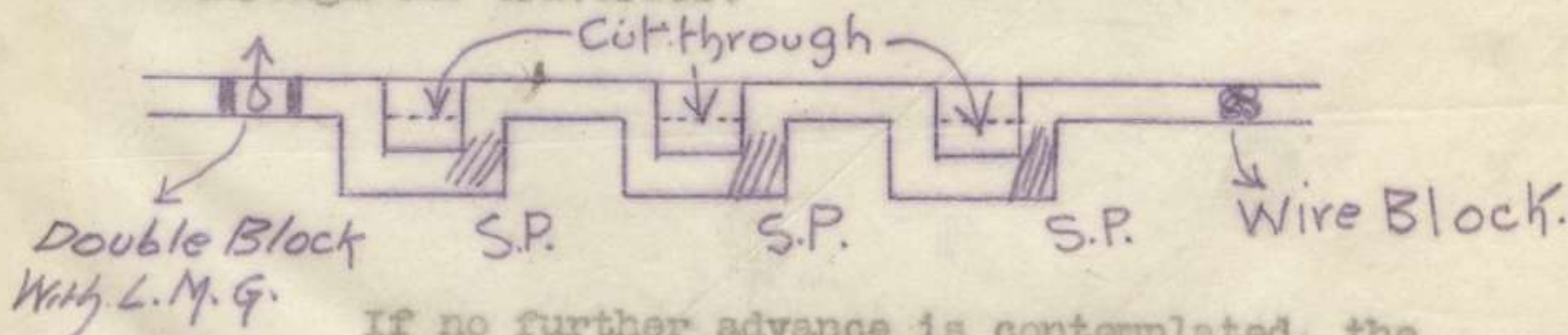
8. Sandbags and knife rests for making Blocks, and tools for digging straight lengths of trench to be available.

9. The captured trench to be consolidated as progress is made. Consolidation should not be deferred until the objective is reached.

10. BLOCKS. A block is of no value unless it can be covered by fire of a Lewis Gun out of bombing range.

Forward blocks to be of wire - rear block a double one of sandbags.

3 Trench must be straightened by cutting through the traverses.



If no further advance is contemplated, the trench as an alternative may be filled in for 20 yds. The usual bombing trenches to be dug later when time permits.

11. CAUSES OF FAILURE.

1. Lack of adequate supply of bombs.
2. Insufficient men - 2 Coyss per 700 yds.
3. Lack of sandbags.
4. Pushing on to objective without consolidating.

APPENDIX B.TRENCH MORTARS.

2 Stokes Mortars and ammunition at the commencement of operations were loaded in a G.S. Limber Waggon of the 7th M. Gun Coy. ready to be taken forward when required.

At 8-30 a.m. on the 3rd, 4 Mortars were sent forward in this manner to the railway line C.5.a.O.5. without casualties Gun crews rode in the Limbers. This method of advancing Stokes Mortars was extremely rapid and proved very satisfactory.

At 6 p.m. Lieut. BRAND. and 2 Mortars went forward to assist in C.G.1. and C.G.2. On arrival a small counter-attack was in progress and the Mortars were used to assist in repelling the attack. Owing to the short range the barrels of the Mortars had to be held up by the crews to obtain the necessary elevation. Shortly after, the Mortars assisted in repelling another counter-attack.

Early on the morning of the 4th a further counter-attack developed and was dealt with. The Mortars were then emplaced:-

1 to cover the left flank in C.G.1.

1 to cover C.T. in U.23.d.1.3.

These Mortars fired at intervals all day.

Approximate No. of rounds fired 300.

Guns were relieved at dusk on the 4th instant.

APPENDIX "C"

CASUALTIESTo 12 noon 4th May 1917.

Unit.	Killed.		Wounded.		Missing.		Total.	
	O.	O.R.	O.	O.R.	O.	O.R.	O.	O.R.
T. & Bty.				6				6
2. Gun Coy.				3				3
25th Bn.	20		3 -	52		10	3 -	82
26th Bn.	18		6 -	75		23	6 -	119
27th Bn.	7		1 -	9		8	1 -	34
28th Bn.	1 -	9	*11 -	118		36	12 -	163
	1 -	54	21 -	263	-	80	22 -	397

/ Includes 2 at duty.

* Including ² attached 26th Bn. and 3 remaining at duty.List of Officers Casualties.

<u>25th Bn.</u>	2/Lt. W. McCULLOUGH. Capt. G. CARROL. Lieut. E.N. SMITH.	Wounded. " Gas?
<u>26th Bn.</u>	Major. P.J. THORN. Capt. A.C. ANDERSON. 2/Lt. F.W.F. MAJOR. 2/Lt. H.W. HOMER. 2/Lt. G.W. FRANCIS. (at duty) Lieut. J.H. LILLEY. (" ")	Wounded. " " " " "
<u>27th Bn.</u>	Lieut. A.R. BURTON.	Wounded.
<u>28th Bn.</u>	2/Lt. R.J. LAYTON. " J.B. CROSSLAND. Lieut. H. CLEVERLY. " G.S. COMPTON. (At duty) 2/Lt. H.C. FOSS. " R.A. HANLIN. " L.A. HARRIS. (At duty) " M. DAVIS. (" ") " W.B. JACKSON. " H.E.G.P. NIND. " W.M. CONROY. " A.J. TYE.	Wounded. " " " Killed. Wounded. " " " " " "

APPENDIX "D."7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.STRENGTH ACTUALLY WITH UNITS IN FORWARD AREA -ON NIGHT 2nd/3rd MAY 1917.

T.M.Btty.	3	41
M.G.Coy.	5:	86
25th Bn.	16	514
26th Bn.	18	438
27th Bn.	16	713
28th Bn.	20	538
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	77	2330
	<hr/>	<hr/>

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

No.2.

CONFIDENTIAL

May 5th 1917.

SUMMARY OF INTELLIGENCE 6 a.m. 4/5/17 to 6 a.m. 5/5 '17.

OUR OPERATIONS.

ARTILLERY. QUEANT was shelled at intervals during the day whenever movement was seen, especially in vicinity of D.7.b. but on the whole there has been comparatively little activity in our sector of the Line.

AIRCRAFT. Very active all day, flying low over enemy lines in spite of being heavily engaged by enemy A.A. fire.

PATROLS. Large parties were patrolling our front throughout the night and kept in touch with units on flanks. No hostile patrols or movement were encountered.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

ARTILLERY. Normal on our Sector.

Between 3.30 and 4 a.m. a fairly heavy barrage was placed between front line and Bunker Road at C.11.a.5.2.

At 10 p.m. enemy sent over a large number of gas shells which appeared to contain some Chlorine mixed with the tear gas.

MOVEMENT. Very little movement all day opposite our Sector.

MACHINE GUNS (Ours) Kept up a constant barrage on line U.24.c. central, U.30 central, and enemy wire to D.1.c.4.2. Also searched enemy tracks and communications by indirect fire.

Barry Lieut.
For G.O.C., 7th Australian Infantry Brigade.

CONFIDENTIAL

No.3.

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

May 6th 1917.

SUMMARY OF INTELLIGENCE 6 a.m. 5/4/17 to 6 a.m. 6/4/17.OUR OPERATIONS.

ARTILLERY. During the day our Artillery was fairly quiet. At 10.30 p.m. our artillery opened fire in response to an S.O.S. Signal, and eased down by 11 p.m. Early this morning our artillery was again very active.

MACHINE GUNS. Direct fire was brought to bear on enemy wire in J.30.d., and indirect fire on tracks in D.1.a.c.c., Cross Roads J.25.c.c.d., and Communication Trenches in D.1. was carried out intermittently throughout the night.

AIRCRAFT. Our planes were active throughout the day. Contact patrols hovered over our front line, and were fired on by enemy A.A. guns.

PATROLS. Flanking patrols kept touch with units on our Right and Left. Two platoons patrolled until dawn well in advance of our old wire. Scouts were well out on the QUEANT side. Special patrol was sent out at 3 a.m., paying particular attention to the railway embankment and Sunken Road. No enemy patrols were encountered, and no movement observed.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

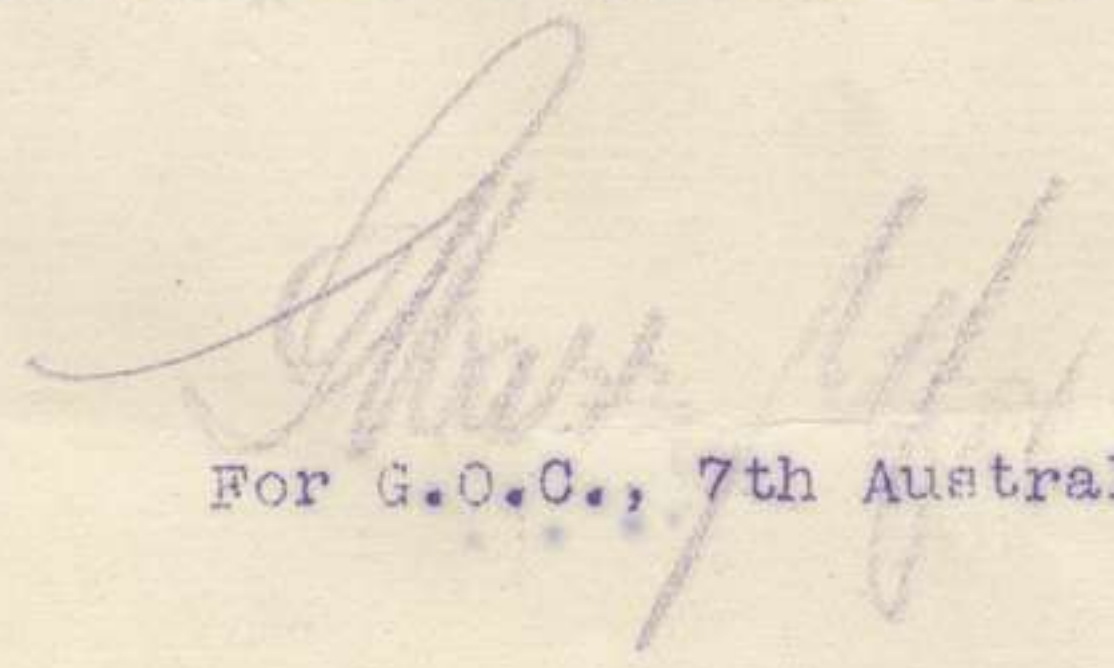
ARTILLERY. Enemy searched systematically all over our sector with 77 m/m, 4.2, and 5.9 H.F. Table of shelling attached.

AIRCRAFT. Several enemy planes were observed to approach our lines during the morning, but did not venture over owing to the activity of our own planes.

MOVEMENT. At 7.45 a.m. enemy party of 10 men observed mending wire in vicinity of D.1.a. Our artillery was notified and dispersed the party.

At 8.15 a.m. a party of 6 was seen working in trench in vicinity of D.1.b. Party ceased work before artillery could be brought to bear.

Movement was noticed in small parties in vicinity of V.23.a., and it is suspected that a dump exists in a small orchard in this vicinity.


Captain,
For G.O.C., 7th Australian Infantry Brigade.

PTO

ENEMY ARTILLERY - TABLE OF SHELLING

Time	Locality	No. Rnds.	Calibre	Intervals	Direction of Fire
9.55	C.17.a.	6	4.2 H.E.	1 minute	45° T.B.
0.7.10	C.17.c.	5	5.9 "	"	50° "
0.8.15	C.11.a.	12	77 H.E.	"	45° "
0.9.10	C.11.a.	8	" Shrap.	"	45° "
10.00	C.11.c.	11	4.2 H.E.	"	45° "
			α .77 H.E.		
11.30	C.10.d.	16	4.2, 5.9	1 "	60° " Burst almost upon C.P.
			H-E-		
12.45	C.10.d. & } C.16.b.	7	" "	1 "	60° T.B.
15.00	C.10.d.	6	77 HE Shrap	20 sec.	71½° " Evidently a new Battery.
16.25	C.10.c. & } C.10.d.	21	4.2 HE "	½ min.	50° T.B.
16.32	C.11.a. & } C.17.b.	14	4.2 "	½ "	60° "
16.40	C.10.c.	12	4.2	20 sec.	50° "

During the day enemy shelled the roadway extending from C.10.d. to C.11.c. The shells burst principally upon the road and it was noticed that the sound was different entirely to the ordinary 5.9 shell. It has a lighter colored smoke than usual, although it is a H.E. Shrapnel.

CONFIDENTIAL.

No 4.

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

7th May 1917.

SUMMARY OF INTELLIGENCE 6 a.m. 6/5/17 to 6 a.m. 7/5/17.OUR OPERATIONS.

ARTILLERY. strong points in vicinity of HENDECOURT & REENCOURT were heavily shelled during the morning, and in the afternoon QUEANT and vicinity were shelled by our heavies.

AIRCRAFT. Was active during the latter part of the day and whenever our planes ventured over the enemy's lines they were subjected to heavy A.A. fire.

MACHINE GUNS. Enemy tracks and roads in QUEANT and vicinity were searched by indirect fire throughout the night from our Vickers guns. Direct fire on enemy wire in U.30.A. & B. was also maintained.

PATROLS. Kept touch with our flanks and report a strong point at about C.12.b.8.8.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

ARTILLERY. Was very active throughout the day. Following is a table of the days shelling in our Sector:-

Time.	Locality shelled.	No. Rds.	Calibre.	Intervals.	Direction.
6-50	C.10.d. & C.10.c.	20	4.2 H.E.	1 minute	45° T.B.
7-5	C.11.a. & C.11.b.	8	77 HE Shrap	30 secs.	45° "
7-35	C.10.a. & C.10.c.	16	77 "	1 minute	45° "
8-00	C.10.d.	7	4.2. 5.9	1 minute	50° "
8-50	C.16.a.	5	4.2	1 minute	60° "
8-55	C.16.b.	11	4.2. 5.9	30 secs.	50° "
10-00	C.10.d.	14	4.2	30 "	50° "
10-45	C.10.d.	4	4.2.	1 minute	50° "
11-20	C.11.c.	5	77 m.m.	2 "	45° "
11-35	C.16.b.	2	77 "	30 secs.	45° "

AIRCRAFT. Four planes hovered over our newly gained position between 9-00 and 9-30 a.m. and returned unpolsted. At 7-50 a.m. one plane crossed our lines, was engaged by our A.A.Guns and forced to return.

PATROLS. None encountered.

MACHINE GUNS Fairly active sweeping C.5.d. whenever our parties crossed the skyline.

MOVEMENT A G.S.Wagon drawn by 2 horses was seen moving N.E. along road in V.27.A. & B. Movement is constantly seen in the trenches in D.1.c. & D.7.a.

GENERAL. On the night of 6/7th inst. the 25th Bn relieved the 27th Bn in the line. Relief completed by 1-50 a.m.

[Signature] Lieut.
For G.O.C., 7th Australian Infantry Brigade.

CONFIDENTIAL

No.5.

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

May 8th 1917.

Summary of Intelligence 6 a.m. 7/5/17 to 6 a.m. 8/5/17.

OUR OPERATIONS.

RELIEF S On the night of the 7/8th inst, our front was extended to U.29.b.3.7, and the 26th Battalion relieved two Companies of the 25th Battalion in the line, to enable them to extend and occupy the new line. This readjustment was completed by 12.50 a.m.

PATROLS. Parties patrolled our front during the night, keeping in touch with our flanks. No hostile patrols were encountered, and nothing of importance observed.

MACHINE GUNS. Owing to relief and our working parties masking the guns, no indirect fire was carried out.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

ARTILLERY. Normal in our sector - very active on our Left.

AIRCRAFT. More active than usual. Planes appeared flying high from a northerly direction at intervals of about two hours throughout the day, and disappear in an easterly direction on being engaged by our A.A. guns. Balloons were observed on the following magnetic bearings from C.11.d.5.2. - 120° , 140° , 30° , $97^{\circ}30'$, 82° , $60^{\circ}30'$, 58° .

MACHINE GUNS. Nil.

MOVEMENT. Close observation was kept throughout the day on QUEANT, but no movement was observed.

Harry. Lieut.,
For G.O.C., 7th Australian Infantry Brigade.

Appendix No. 4.

SECRET7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

Copy No. 16

ORDER No. 108.

May 8th 1917.

Reference Map 1/30,000.

1. The 7th A.I. Brigade will not be relieved for three or four days.
2. The 85th Battalion will relieve the 87th Battalion in the Brigade front on the nights of the 5th/6th and 6th/7th May. 87th Battalion on relief will be responsible for finding the nucleus garrisons in the MORCHIES line.
posts 1 to 6 inclusive
3. Usual advance parties will be sent on ahead today.
4. C.O., 87th Battalion will leave one Company under the orders of the C.O., 85th Battalion in Support.
5. All arrangements not provided for in this Order will be made mutually between C.O.'s concerned.
6. Completion of relief will be notified to 7th A.I. Brigade Headquarters by wiring names of C.O.'s concerned.
7. On his arrival at H.L.S.A.S.P. the G.O.C. 2nd A.I. Brigade will take over the Command of the MORCHIES - VAULX line from the G.O.C., 7th A.I. Brigade.
8. Acknowledge.

Captain, Brigade Major,
7th Australian Infantry Brigade.

Issued to sign at 3 p.m.

- Copies to :
1. 85th Bn.
 2. 86th Bn.
 3. 87th Bn.
 4. 88th Bn.
 5. 7th M/S Coy
 6. 7th A.L.S.M.B.
 7. "H" Group Artillery
 8. 8th M/S Coy
 9. 2nd A.I. Bde
 10. 175 Bde
 11. 3rd A.I. Bde) For information
 12. 2nd Aust Div)
 13. S.T.O.
 14. War diary
 15. File.

(842) 5417
Loruphanti

SECRET

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

Copy No. 17

ORDER No. 106.

May 7th 1917

Reference Map 1/20,000.

1. The 7th A.I. Brigade will take over from the 3rd A.I. Brigade the front from O.G.1 at U.29.b.3.7. to present Left Boundary, O.G.1 being inclusive to the 3rd A.I. Brigade. This front is not at present occupied. Post at U.29.a.75.70 is held by the 3rd A.I. Brigade.
2. The following redistribution of the 7th A.I. Brigade front will be made tonight.
The 26th Battalion will take over the front from 7th Brigade Right Boundary to the Railway at C.6.c.0.4 (exclusive) to 25th Battalion.
The 25th Battalion will then become responsible for the front from Railway at C.6.c.0.4. (inclusive) to O.G.1 at U.29.b.3.7. (exclusive)
3. 26th Battalion will take over the 25th Battalion H.Q. at C.11.c., and the 25th Battalion will move to H.Q. in Railway Cutting at C.5.d.7.3.
4. O.C., 25th Battalion may withdraw his troops South of the Railway except covering parties and patrols, as soon as 26th Battalion working party has started work.
5. Relief to be completed by 4 a.m.
6. Advance parties will be sent on ahead to reconnoitre.
7. An extra supply of Bombs and S.A.A. will be taken up in bulk by the troops to occupy the new front.
8. All details not provided for in this Order will be arranged mutually between C.O's concerned.
9. C.O., 25th Battalion will detail 1 Officer and 6 guides to report to Brigade H.Q. at 8.45 p.m. to guide 26th Battalion.
10. Completion of relief will be notified to Brigade H.Q. by wiring the name of Unit Commanders concerned, and a sketch of dispositions forwarded to Brigade H.Q. as soon as possible afterwards.
11. Strombos Horns will be handed over in situ and receipts given.
12. Acknowledge.

W. H. M. M. M.
Captain, Brigade Major,
7th Australian Infantry Brigade.

Issued to Signals at 5.30 p.m.

For distribution See over.

SECRET.

Copy No 26

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Order No. 107

Reference Map 1/20,000 and 1/40,000.

(1) The 7th A.I. Brigade will be relieved in the Right Centre Sector of the 2nd Australian Divisional Front by the 14th A.I. Brigade on the night of 8/9th May. Relief to be completed by 4 a.m. Units will move on 9th to SHELTER WOOD and ACID DROP Camps by road and rail in accordance with attached relief train and march tables.

(2) All arrangements not provided for in this Order will be made mutually between C.O's concerned

(3) All trench stores, dumps, petrol tins, trench maps, aeroplane photographs, documents, and information of value, will be handed over and receipts obtained. Copies to be forwarded to Brigade H.Q. 24 hours after relief.

(4) Completion of relief will be notified by wiring name of Unit Commander.

(5) On completion of relief the command of the present 7th A.I. Brigade sector will pass to the G.O.C. 14th A.I. Brigade.

(6) The 28th Battalion, all Units Details, and Transport now in the back area will proceed by march route on the 9th inst

(7) ENTRAINING ARRANGEMENTS. Dismounted personnel will proceed by rail as below :-

Unit	Entraining Station.	Train	Detraining Station
27th Bn.	BAPAULIE	First	BAZENTIN
Balance 27 Bn. } Brigade H.Q. } 7th M/Gun Coy } 7th A.L.T.I.B. }	"	Second	"
25th Bn.	"	Third	"
28th Bn.	"	Fourth	"

Times to be notified later.

Each train will hold 500 men.

Lieut. MARAKER, 25th Battalion will act as Entraining Officer at BAPAULIE, and will report to R.T.O. BAPAULIE at 9 a.m. on 9th inst.

O.C., 27th Battalion will detail an Officer to act as Detraining Officer at BAZENTIN. This Officer will report to R.T.O. Bazentin on arrival of the first train

Units will report at the entraining station thirty minutes before scheduled time of departure of each train, and will

- 2 -

send on 1 Officer and 1 H.C.O. per Company to report to Entraining Officer 45 minutes before scheduled time of departure of each train, to have accommodation in train allotted.

(8) Advance parties will be sent on tonight to SHELTER WOOD area. Instructions for these advance parties have already been issued.

(9) No Ammunition will be taken out in mobile echelons. Units will be notified later how to dispose of this Ammunition.

(10) When the Brigade is concentrated in SHELTER WOOD area, all Q.M. Stores will be with their Units, and all Stores in ALBERT will be cleared and disposed of.

(11) ORDNANCE has closed at FAVREUIL, and re-opens at ALBERT on 9th inst. Units will return to Ordnance their

Leather Jerkins	packed in	5
	bundles of	
2nd Cardigan Jackets	"	10
Fur Undercoats	"	
Gloves, Worster.		
" Fingerless.		

(12) Articles returned will be marked as Serviceable or Unserviceable; the former will be packed as above and labelled O.O. PARIS GRENFELLE. Return of above articles must be completed by noon on 13th inst, and completion reported to this Office by that hour.

(13) Baggage wagons will report to Units Transport Lines tonight.

(14) Five motor lorries will be available to carry blankets and surplus stores, and will be allotted as follows:-

Brigade H.Q.	}	1 lorry
M/Gun Coy		
7th A.L.T.H.B.		
Each Battalion		1 lorry

Above lorries will report at FAVREUIL at 5 a.m. 9th inst. Units will detail loading parties of 1 H.C.O. and 6 men to report at the same hour. 1 other rank per Battalion will proceed with the lorry allotted to their Battalion. Advance parties will unload lorries.

The Quartermaster of the 28th Battalion will be in charge of the motor lorry convoy, and will receive instructions regarding the hour he is to leave.

(15) Kits and packs will be drawn from the FAVREUIL Kit Store and taken to Units Camps by the Details of Units. Blankets for which there is no room on the motor lorries will be carried on the men proceeding by rail.

send on 1 Officer and 1 N.C.O. per Company to report
to Transporting Officer - 3 - minutes before scheduled
time of departure of each train, to have accommodation
in train allotted.

(16) 7th A.I. Brigade Headquarters will close
at NOREUIL at 7 a.m. 9th inst, and will open at
FAVREUIL at the same hour. H.Q. will close at
FAVREUIL at 10.30 a.m. and open at SHELTER WOOD at 2.30 p.m.

(17) Acknowledge.

John Smith

Captain/ Brigade Major,
7th Australian Infantry Brigade.

Issued to Signals at 7 p.m.

- Copies to :
1. 25th Bn.
 2. 26th Bn.
 3. 27th Bn.
 4. 28th Bn.
 5. 7th M/G Coy
 6. 7th A.L.T. Bty
 7. 8th M/G Coy
 8. 17th A.A.S.C.
 9. B.T.O.
 10. Staff Captain.
 11. War Diary
 12. File
 13. 2nd Aust. Div. }
 14. "I" Group Arty }
 15. 175th Bde }
 16. 14th A.I. Bde } F or Information
 17. 2nd A.I. Bde }
 18. B.T.O. BAPAUME }
 19. Area Commandt. }
 20. SHELTER WOOD }
 20. Spare.

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

Relief Table accompanying Brigade Order No. 107.

Date	Unit	From	To	Relieved by	Remarks.
May	27th Battn.	SUPPORT	H.22.c.	54th Battn.	
8th/9th	25th "	LINE - LEFT	H.9.d.	2 Coys 55th Battn.	
	26th "	LINE - RIGHT	H.14.c.	2 Coys 55th Battn.	
	7th M/G Coy	LINE	H.11.c.	14th M/Gun Coy	
	7th A.L.T.M.Bty	LINE	H.11.c.	14th A.L.T.M.Bty	
	7th A.I. Bde H.Q.	NCREUIL C.16.a.	FAVREUIL	---	
8th M/G Coy will not be relieved until tomorrow 9th inst.					

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

8/5/17

MARCH TABLE for personnel & transport proceeding by Road. To accompany Brigade Order No.107.

Date	Unit. In Order of March	From	To	Starting Point	Time	Route	Remarks
1917 May 9th	28th Bn.	Camp H.10.a.	SHELTER WOOD	S. Railway Crossing H.26.d.3.3.	9 a.m.	LE SARS - POZIERES Rd	Not to reach POZIERES before 10.30 a.m.
	27th Bn.	H.22.c.	SCOTS REDOUBT	S.	9.30 a.m.	"	
	25th Bn.	H.9.d.	ACID DROP	"	9.50 a.m.	"	
	26th Bn.	H.14.c.	SCOTS REDOUBT	N.	10.10 a.m.	"	
	7th M/G Coy	H.11.c.	SHELTER WOOD	N.	10.30 a.m.	"	
	7th A.L.T.M.Bty	H.11.c.	"	"	10.30 a.m.	"	
	7th Bde H.Q.	FAVREUIL	"	"	10.40 a.m.	"	
	17th A.A.S.G.		10th Bn Waggon Lines X.23.a.	"	10.45 a.m.	"	

Intervals of 200 yards will be maintained between Battalions, and 100 yards between Companies and Transport.
Units will march in file.

Appendix No. 6

SECRET

Copy No. 22

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

ORDER No. 108.

May 16th 1917

Reference 1/40,000 ALBERT Combined Sheet.

1. The 2nd Australian Division, less Artillery, will move to the SENLIS area on the 17th and 18th inst.
2. The 7th A.I. Brigade and 8th Field Coy will move on the 18th inst. in accordance with March Table attached.
3. The following minimum intervals will be maintained on the march :-
 - 200 yards between Battalions.
 - 200 yards between Transport of Units and other troops.
 - 100 yards between Companies.
4. Normal halts will be observed, i.e. ten minutes to the hour.
5. (i) One Officer from each Unit, including 6th Field Coy A.E. will be sent ahead on the 17th inst. and will meet the Staff Captain to receive billeting instructions as follows :-

26th Bn.	Town Major's Office BOUZINCOURT,	12 noon.
Other Units,	Town Major's Office, SENLIS,	2 p.m.

 (ii) Billeting parties mounted on bicycles, i.e. 1 M.C.O. per Company and Headquarters Details, will rendezvous at Brigade Headquarters at 7 a.m. on 18th inst. and will proceed under the orders of the senior, and report to Town Major's Office SENLIS at 9 a.m. 26th Bn. party to Town Major's Office, BOUZINCOURT, at same hour.
6. The 28th Battalion will send an Officer tomorrow 17th inst. to reconnoitre the route as far as the Cross Roads at W. 16.b. This Officer will act as guide for the Brigade Column on the 18th inst.
7. Five motor lorries will be available for carrying blankets and surplus stores, and will report to Units H.Q. at 7 a.m. on the 18th inst. Lorries are allotted :-
 - 1 per Battalion
 - 1 for Brigade H.Q., 7th H/Q Coy, and 7th A.L.T.M. Bty.
 Lorries will be loaded at once, and will be at Brigade H.Q. by 9 a.m., and will then proceed to new billets. Lieut. WARRIER will be in charge of motor convoy. Unloading party of 1 M.C.O. and 2 men per lorry will be furnished by the Battalions concerned. Also 1 man from B.H.Q., H/Gun Coy, and T.M. Bty. The above will travel on the lorries. Lorries will be unloaded at once, and will then return to their Unit.
8. Units will detail a rear party (1 platoon) in charge of an Officer, to remain behind to ensure that the Camps are left in a clean condition. The Field Officer of the day will inspect the Camps and obtain a receipt from the Area Commandant stating the condition the Camps are handed over in. The rear party will move under orders of the Field Officer.
9. Baggage wagons will report at 4 p.m. 17th inst. and will march with Units.

10. Train waggons will deliver supplies to Units on 18th inst. on arrival in new area.
11. 7th A.I. Brigade Headquarters will close at 9 a.m. 18th inst. and will open at the CHATEAU, WLIS at 12 noon.
12. AGERO LIDUE.

William H. H.
 Captain, Brigade Major,
 7th Australian Infantry Brigade.

Issued to signals at 6 p.m.

Copies to :-

1. 25th Bn.
 2. 25th Bn.
 3. 27th Bn.
 4. 28th Bn.
 5. 1/4th Gun Coy
 6. A.D.P.L. Bty
 7. Staff Captain.
 8. B.I.O.
 9. War Diary.
 10. File.
 11. 17th A.A.S.C.
 12. 6th Field Coy.
 13. Town Major, S WLIS.
 14. " " BOUZINCOURT
 15. A.P.L. 5th Army.
 16. 2nd Aust. Div.
 - 17 to 30 Spare.
- For information

MARCH TABLE

To accompany 7th A.I. Brigade Order No. 108.

May 16th 1917.

Date	Unit	From	To	Starting Point	Time	Route	Remarks.
18/5/1917	28th Bn.	SHELLER WOOD	SENLIS	Junction of Roads F.3.b.3.5.	10 a.m.	BECOURT Road running N.W. through	Head of Column to pass Cross Roads
"	Bde H.Q. 7th A/G Coy 7th ALTB.	do	do		10.20 a.m.	W.12.d. - b. - Cross Roads in V.12.b.	W.12.b. at 12 noon
"	27th Bn.	SCOTTS REDOUBT	do		10.35	BOUZINCOURT - Cross Roads in V.12.c.	
"	25th Bn.	ACID DROP CAMP	do		11.5		
"	26th Bn.	SCOTTS REDOUBT	NORTHUMBERLAND AVENUE BOUZINCOURT		11.25 a.m.		
"	8th Field Coy	HALETZ WOOD	SENLIS		11.45 a.m.		

Appendix No 7