

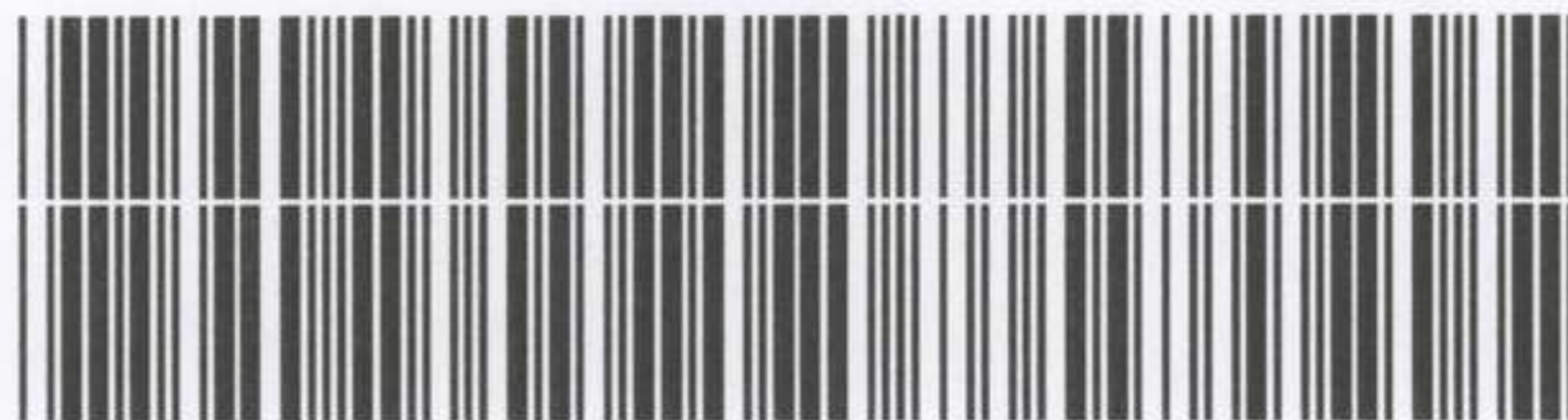
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Infantry

Item number: 23/4/15

Title: 4th Infantry Brigade

December 1916



AWM4-23/4/15

4: Infy Brigade

VOLUME VII

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
1. 12. 16	S 12688	Fine day but very foggy throughout. G.O.C. inspected "right batt". Trenches are getting dryer. In an encounter with enemy patrol we took one wounded prisoner. Works proceeding as in Appendix II Intelligence summary attached Appendix I. Killed 2 O.R. Wounded 7 O.R. Sick 6 O.R.	Appendix I Appendix II
2. 12. 16	S. 12688	No rain but heavy fog all day. Work proceeding on front line and communications. Intelligence Summary attached	Appendix IV

C.11056

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
2.12.16.	S12b 8.8.	Killed 3 OR. Wounded 2 OR. Sick 2 OR.	
3.12.16.	S.	Fine day. Works Report attached. Appendix III. Intelligence report attached as Appendix V. Killed 4 OR. Wounded 7 OR. Sick 20 OR.	Appendix III Appendix V
4 th .12.16.		Fine bright day. Intelligence Summary attached as Appendix VI. Killed 2. Wounded 10. 18 OR. Sick 13 OR.	Appendix VI
5.12.16		A little rain. Intelligence Summary attached as Appendix VII	

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
5.12.16.	S12788.	Killed: 1 OR, Wounded 2 OR, Sick 9 OR.	Appendix VII
6.12.16		Fine day. Bde less 15 th Bu. was relieved by 2 nd Aus. Inf. Bde. Appendix VIII. Relief was completed by 9.50 p.m. and units moved to assembly points near QUARRY SIDING where they were given hot drinks. Casualties 2 OR. wounded 4 OR. evacuated sick.	Appendix VIII
7.12.16	RIBEMONT.	Very cold day - no rain. Trains left QUARRY late so brigade did	Appendix VIII

C.11056.

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
7.12.16.	RIBEMONT.	not arrive at RIBEMONT till 1 p.m. Units engaged in basking and cleaning up. Wounded 2 OR. Sick 1 OR.	
8.12.16		Fine day. All units engaged in basking and cleaning up. Evacuated sick 1 off 12 OR.	
9.12.16		Showery all day. Basking and cleaning up was carried on. Evacuated sick officers 3. OR. 16. Rainy officers OR.	

C.11056.

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
10. 12. 16	RIBEMONT.	Dull showery day. Communion services were held. Evacuated sick O.R. 9.	
11. 12. 16.		Showery day. Short route marches were held by all units. Evacuated sick Officers 4. O.R. 12.	
12. 12. 16.		Dull showery day. Short route marches were held by all units. A 30 yds. rifle range was constructed at D28 a b.2.. Evacuated sick O.R. 9.	ALBERT MAP. 1:40,000
13. 12. 16		Dull day - no rain, 14 th B ² had	

C.11056.

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
13.12.16	RIBEMONT.	the use of the rifle range all day. Other units held short route marches and batting parades. Evacuated Sick O.R. 13.	
14.12.16		Dull showery day. 13 th Batt ⁿ . had the use of the 30 yds range all day. Other units held short route marches and batting parades. Evacuated sick O.R. 10.	
15.12.16		Dull day. 16 th Batt ⁿ . had use of the 30 yds range all day. Route marches & batting parades held by other units. Preparations for more. Evacuated sick 1 off 8 O.R.	

C.11054.

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
16.12.16.	RAINNEVILLE.	<p>Showery day. Brigade group (less 15th Battⁿ) moved from RIBEMONT as under. Appendix Bde. H.Q. and 14th Battⁿ at RAINNEVILLE. 13th Battⁿ at COISY. 16th Battⁿ: 4th M.G. Coy 4 ALTMB^{ly}, 'C' Sectⁿ, 4th Fld. Amb. at CARDONNETTE. Bde. were all in their respective villages by 5 pm. Evacuated sick. NIL.</p>	Appendix IX
17.12.16		<p>Foggy day - no rain. Church services for R.C.'s men resting after long march. Evacuated sick. OFF. 1 O.R. 1</p>	
18.12.16		<p>Fine day. 14th Battⁿ had use of the baths. Short route marches</p>	

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
18.12.16	RAINNVILLE.	we held by all units. Brigadier visited 150 men who are working at Trench Mortar school at VAUX. Evacuated sick O.R. 6.	
19.12.16.		Very cold day with little snow in afternoon. 16 th Batt ⁿ . had use of balls. All units engaged in musketry practice, route marches and general training. Evacuated sick O.R. 3.	
20.12.16.		Fine day - with some sunshine. 13 th G ⁿ had use of balls. Specialists training proceeding. All units engaged in musketry practice, route marching	

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
20. 12. 16.	RAINNVILLE.	and some close order drill. Evacuated sick O.R. 1.	
21. 12. 16.		Showery day. M.G. Coy & T.M. Bty. had use of bathe. Units engaged in musketry practices, route marches and general training. Gen. Birdwood and Archbishop Riley of PERTH visited 16 th Batt ⁿ . at 12 noon and saw the men in their billets. Evacuated sick O.R. 7. Killed O.R. 1. Wounded O.R. 3. Rpts & details from 1 st . to 20 th . Off. 6. O.R. 310. How Hosp from 1 st . to 20 th . Off 2. O.R. 75.	
22. 12. 16		Showery day. All units engaged	

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
22 nd . 12.16	RAINNVILLE.	in musketry practices, route marches and general training. Evacuated Sick of 1 OR 3. Killed OR 1 Wounded OR 2. Rpts. off 1. OR. 95.	
23. 12.16		Slippery day. 16 th Bn. had use of battery 14 th Bn. had use of 100 yds. range. All units engaged in musketry, route marching & general training. Evacuated Sick OR 10.	
24. 12.16.		Fine day. Communion services were held in each village. Evacuated Sick OR 6.	

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
25.12.16	RAINNEVILLE.	XMAS DAY. Fine Day. Brigade Church Pde. at 9.30 A.M. followed by Regimental sports. Evacuated sick. NIL.	
26.12.16.		Dull showery day. Training again proceeding. Evacuated sick, OR. 5.	
27.12.16.		Fine day. Bathing, musketry & general training carried out by all units. Evacuated sick OR. 7.	
28.12.16		Fine day. General training proceeding. Exercise held by G.O.C. Appendix XI. Evacuated sick OR. 2 of 1.	
29.12.16.		Fine day. G.O.C. & commanding officers attended a conference at DN. HQ. at 11 AM.	

C.11056.

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
29.12.16.	RAINNVILLE.	Musketry proceeding at 200 YDS. RANGE as per Appendix XI. General training carried on with by all units. Evacuated Sick OR. 13.	Appendix XI
30.12.16		Showery day. Musketry as in Appendix XI. General training proceeding with all units. At 4pm. the Senior officers of the Brigade were invited by the G.O.C. to say farewell to Gen. Cox. who hands over command of the 4th Div. tomorrow to Gen. Holmes. Evac. Sick OR. 6.	
31.12.16.		Showery Day. A Brigade Church Parade was held near RAINNVILLE at 10 AM. after which Gen. Birdwood presented medals & Ribbon	

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
31. 12. 16.	RAINNVILLE.	Evacuated Sick OR 20. Strength of Brigade Officers 172. O. Ranks. 3907. <i>C. M. Hand</i> Brigadier General Commanding 4th. Australian Infy. Brigade 1- JAN 1916	

Appendix I

Fourth Australian Infantry Brigade.
HEADQUARTERS.
1/12/16.

DAILY INTELLIGENCE REPORT.Our operations.

Work. The work of cleaning up and improving CHALK LANE in vicinity of N. 26.a.19. and front line trenches is proceeding as rapidly as possible. From N.26.a.39 to GUN PITS there is now a passable trench. A.T.head from N. 1.c.1/2.B. running northwards to within 5 yards of old "Jumping off trench" has been completed. This is occupied by a bombing squad and a Lewis Gun. The Gun in this position has an excellent field of fire.

The M. C. Company and T.M. Battery are proceeding with the construction of emplacement and building of dug-outs.

Patrols. A patrol from our Right Battalion established connection with the Brigade on our Right at N.21.d.25.

Our bombing post in Sunken Road at N.20.b.82. captured a prisoner of 101st N.I.B. last night at 3.30.a.m. He was running and our men had no time to challenge him, so they threw a bomb, from which he sustained several minor wounds.

The usual patrolling was done between our Left Battalion and the Brigade on our Left.

Sniping. Our snipers were active in vicinity of N.20.d.3.5 1/2. at individual targets. Results not ascertained.

Enemy Defences.

The enemy is deepening LARD TRENCH from N.20.d.46 1/2 to 49. This now appears to be in fair condition. Enemy snipers were very active yesterday on movement overland in vicinity of N.26.a.39. As most of their firing was from a very long range, it was inaccurate. An enemy M.C. traversed the front of the Right Company of our Right Battalion last night. Its position has not yet been located.

Movement in Enemy Lines.

At dawn on 30th Novr an enemy party of 40 men appeared at N.21.a.42. and was dispersed by H.C. Fire. Another party of 6 at N.21.d.48. was fired on. At 6.5.a.m. yesterday the L.M.C. at N.20.b.6.1 1/2. dispersed enemy working party at N.20.b.23. At 6.p.m. a party were observed at N.20.b.6 1/2.3. Enemy appear to be using a trench in vicinity of N.20.a.9 1/2.5. -ration parties have been seen there. Enemy were heard to be using whistle calls at 12 midnight at approx N.20.d.45.

Artillery.

Enemy artillery was particularly active on BELT TRENCH Gun pits, GIRD TRENCH and GIBBS ROAD and CHALK LANE in vicinity of N.26.a.19. at intervals from 10.a.m. to 4.p.m.. He started again at 10.p.m. FLERS was intermittently shelled during the day - 20 gas shells being sent over. From 1.30 to 2.15.p.m. enemy shelled our frontline from N.21.c.58 to N.21.d.17 but his range was slightly too long. During the day he put barrages across the communications of our Right Battalion in vicinity of N.21.c.51. at 11.a.m., 2.20.p.m., 2.55.p.m., and 4.10.p.m. and at intervals during the night. GUESCOUNT was heavily shelled during the day Battalion Headquarters at N.26.d.12. was shelled with 4.2.H.E. from 11.a.m. to 11.30.a.m. Yesterday enemy shelled gully near N.20.d.5 1/2. from 2.7.p.m. to 2.30.p.m. with 5.9's. At 2.30. he shortened his range and put a shell in our trench at N.20.d.6 1/2.8. At 11.15.p.m. he again shelled this gully and dropped a number close to his own lines. At 11.25 a purple flare went up and his shelling ceased.

Miscellaneous.

The two front line companies of our left Battalion were relieved by the two support companies, the relief being completed by 6.a.m.

Stanley Rogers Lieut.
Intelligence Officer.
4th Aust Inf Brigade.

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THIS CANCELS PREVIOUS WORKING PARTY LIST. Commencing 30th Novr 1916.

WORKING PARTIES SUPPLIED DAILY BY 4TH AUST INFANTRY BRIGADE.

No.	Unit to supply.	Strength of party.	Nature and site of work.	To whom and when report.	Remarks.
1.	16th Bn.	1. Offer. 3. N.C.O's 50 Men.	Duck boarding FLARE ALLEY between GAP TRENCH & 14th Bn. H. Qrs	Under supervision Lieut. Smith 12th Field Coy. Junction GAP TRENCH & FLARE ALLEY. 8.30. a.m.	Mid-day meal.
2.	14th Bn.	1. Offer. 3. N.C.O's 45 Men.	Construction Adv- anced Brigade H. Qrs. near H. Qrs 14th Battalion.	Lieut Keasing 12th Field Coy 8.30. a.m. On work.	-
3.	16th Bn.	1. Offer. 3. N.C.O's 100 Men.	Maintenance of FLERS ALLEY bet- ween Brigade H. Qrs. & SWITCH TRENCH.	Lieut Smith corner SWITCH TRENCH & FLERS ALLEY. 8.30. a.m. Daily.	Mid-day meal.
4.	16th Bn.	1. Offer. 3. N.C.O's 50 Men.	Decauville Tram- way 4th Brigade H. Qrs to 14th Battn. H. Qrs.	Lieut Earle. 4th Pioneers. 8.30. a.m. On work.	Mid-day meal.
5.	16th Bn.	1. Offer. 3. N.C.O's 50 Men.	Improving SWITCH TRENCH.	Lieut Little. 12th Field Coy. 8.30. a.m. ON WORK.	-
6.	13th Bn.	1. Offer. 3. N.C.O's 50 Men.	Digging commun- ication trench from COCOA ALLEY to CH-ESK ROAD.	Lieut Baldwin. 12th Field Coy. At 13th Bn. H. Qrs. at 5. p.m. work till p.m. Till completed.	Each man shovel and each second man a pick.
7.	16th Bn.	1. Offer. 3. N.C.O's 50 Men.	Carrying 6 feet timber or push- ing trucks of 6 ft timber to Adv- anced Bde H. Qrs.	Report N.C.O. in charge Bde H. Qrs Dump at 4.30. p.m. daily.	-
8.	16th Bn.	1. Offer. 3. N.C.O's 55 Men.	Carrying material or pushing trucks of material from 4th Bde. H. Qrs. to BULLS ROAD DUMP. and WATLING STREET.	Brigade Works Officer Lieut Aarons 16th Bn. 8.30. a.m. and as required.	-
9.	13th Bn.	1. N.C.O. 20 Men.	Erecting dug-outs	Report to Sgt Bremley at R.E. Dump Cr WATLING STREET & NEEDLE TRENCH. 8. a.m.	-
10.	16th Bn.	1. Offer 3. N.C.O's 75 Men. in three reliefs of six hrs each.	178th Tunnelling Coy No. 2. Gallery Brigade H. Qrs.	Report R.E. Officer in charge. 8.30. a.m.	-

WORKING PARTIES SUPPLIED DAILY BY 4TH AUST INFANTRY BRIGADE.

The 13th and 14th Battalions (Front line Battalions) will employ every available man in the construction and improvement of existing works. The duck boarding of FLARE ALLEY from BULLS ROAD to CHEESE ROAD is to be pushed on with all speed.

Every available man of 16th Battalion (16th Battalion) will be put on improving SWITCH and GAP TRENCHES. The 15th Battalion (Reserve Battalion) will detail parties as required by O.C. Corps Light Railway after sufficient men have been detailed for construction of huts and carrying material for same at S.21.c. Central.

30/11/16.

Chaplain
Major.
A/Brigade Major.
4th Aust Inf Brigade.

No.	Unit to supply.	Strength of party.	Nature and site of work.	To whom and when report.	Remarks.
11.	16th Bn.	1.N.C.O. 3 Men.	Policing Decauville Railway Brigade H.Qrs to SWITCH TRENCH.	Duty 7.a.m. to 5.p.m.	
12.	16th Bn.	1.N.C.O. 3 Man.	Policing Decauville Railway SWITCH TRENCH to 14th Batta Headquarters.	Duty 7.a.m. to 5.p.m.	

Fourth Australian Infantry Brigade.

HEADQUARTERS.

2/12/16.

WORK REPORT.General Condition of the line.

Although the trenches are still far from free from mud, during the tour of this Brigade in the trenches considerable work has been done in cleaning, deepening and draining trenches and putting down duckboards, also in the construction of shelters for the Garrisons of the various trenches. The lack of material which at first made progress difficult, has been remedied and the improvements are proceeding apace.

Work on Right Battalion Front.

GOODWINS POST has been strengthened and deepened and a hard chalk floor has been reached. An old German dug-out at N.20.b.8.½. has been cleaned out and a Company Headquarters has been established there. This has been connected with a sap to GOODWINS POST. An O.P. and L.P. has been established at N.20. b.8.1½. A T head has been constructed from N.20. d.9.8½. to N.20.d.9.9½. and a Bombing Post and Lewis Machine Gun Post has been established there. The Machine Gun has a splendid field of fire.

GREASE Trench has been cleaned out deepened and strengthened - duckboards have been laid down and shelters constructed.

GIRD SUPPORT TRENCH (GOAT(?)) N.26.c.9.2. to N.32.b.32. 3 German dug-outs have been cleaned out and improved - the trench itself has been duckboarded.

Dug-outs for 20 men have been constructed in NEEDLE TRENCH. Shelters have also been built in BULLS ROAD and PIONEER TRENCH. The Sunken Road at N.26.c.6.1. to d.2.2½. has been practically cleaned up. At N.26.c.9.3. a dressing station and shelter for A.M.C. have been built. 8 old German dug-outs have been cleaned out and repaired. 50 yards of double duckboards have been laid down. At N.32.d.38. a party of 20 men are working daily building a dug-out with a view to making it a Battalion Headquarters. This is almost complete.

Kitchens have been established in all support trenches with the result that men have hot meals.

Work on Left Battalion Front.

The work on front line trenches have also been pushed ahead. PETROL LANE and WHALE Trench which were practically impassable are being cleaned out and draining. Parties from both front line Battalions are nightly working on these.

The trenches where CHEESE ROAD joins CHALK LANE are being deepened. As this point is heavily shelled and all traffic passes through it it is an urgent work. The communications from N.26.a.9½.9. to Petrol Lane is being cleaned out and deepened. The communication trench from N.26.a.3.9. to firing line is now in good condition.

Gird communication trench has been cleaned out except at N.20.c.5.5½. where work is in progress - 30 yards more are to be done.

The sap at N.20.c.9½.2½. has been cleaned out and deepened. At the head of the sap at N.20.d.½.2½. there is a T head which is being deepened and lengthened.

FLARE AVENUE is being deepened and will connect with COCOA LANE.

Support Battalion work.

In SWITCH and GAP TRENCHES sufficient accommodation for 600 men has been completed. These trenches which were in an extremely muddy condition are being drained. This is a difficult matter owing to the poor siting of these trenches.

General Work.

Around Brigade Headquarters considerable work has been done in building dug-outs, laying duckboards and levelling the ground. The bed for the Decauville Tram Line is dug up to the Bulls Road Dump.

It still requires a little more cleaning out. The line itself is now as far as far up as GAP TRENCH

Appendix III
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FLARE AVENUE is now duckbearded and in fair order to N.31.c.30
From there to Left Battalion Headquarters it is being prepared
for duckbearding.
The constructions of the Advanced Brigade Headquarters is
practically complete.
The 4th Machine Gun Company have constructed 16 Cupola
dug-outs at N.32.a.9.9. The A.L.T.M. Battery have also
built sufficient accommodation for all personnel.

Stanley Rogers
.....Lieut.
Intelligence Officer.
4th Aust Inf Brigade.

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Appendix IV Fourth Australian Infantry Brigade.
HEADQUARTERS.
2/12/16.

DAILY INTELLIGENCE REPORT.

Our operations.

Work. The usual work of improving front line trenches was continued. Parties were employed last night on cleaning up PETROL LANE, WHALE TRENCH and new trench from N.20.d.12 to c.97. Damages caused by last night's artillery fire have been repaired. Our Right Battalion cleaned out WHALE TRENCH to N.20.d.8 1/2.3. A day and night bombing post has been established at N.20.d.9.8 1/2. A sap has been run out to bombing post at N.21.e.29.
Patrols. Our Left Battalion patrolled the distance between us and the Brigade on our Left. We were visited by patrol from this latter Brigade. Patrols out from our Right Battalion saw several enemy patrols but were unable to get close to them. An Officerspatrol got in touch with the Division on our Right.
Sniping. Owing to the heavy fog of yesterday it was a very poor day for sniping and observation.

Enemy Defences.

The enemy is using point N.20.d.0.4., which was greatly damaged several days ago by our heavies, as a listening and observation post it is thought he has an underground passage leading to it from the Sunken Road at N.20.d.1 1/2.4. at which point timber is visible suggesting an entrance to some passage. Enemy Machine Guns from St rong Point at N.20.d.16. firing in direction of FACTORY CORNER were active from 4.p.m. throughout the night. A party of three or four enemy were observed digging at N.20.b.92. but disappeared on being fired at.

Artillery.

FLERS and GUSUDECOURT were intermittently shelled during the day as usual. Enemy artillery was fairly quiet yesterday till 6.p.m. when a heavy fire with 77mm and 4.2's was opened on WHALE TRENCH PETROL LANE and GUN PITS front line from N.20.d.1 1/2.2. to N.20.c.8.7., CHEESE ROAD and CHALK LANE. Considerable damage was done and working parties were hindered. The damage is now being repaired. The fire ceased off at 6.30.p.m. and so continued till 10.p.m. From 8.16. to 8.28.p.m. one of our 18pdr batteries put up a good barrage on enemy trench near N.20.b.9.2. Between 10.50 and 11.50. an enemy 5.9 Hewitzer firing from N.E. dropped shells on our trench N.21.6. but we sustained no casualties. The enemy artillery was more than usually active on communications on our Right Battalion front.

Stanley Rogers
.....Lieut.
Intelligence Officer.
4th Aust Inf Brigade.

Appendix V
War Diary

Fourth Australian Infantry Brigade.
HEADQUARTERS.
3/12/16.

DAILY INTELLIGENCE REPORT.

Our operations.

Work. The work of improving and deepening the front line is proceeding along the whole of our front. Duckbeards are now laid through the greater part of the front line from N.21.c.7 1/2.5. - N.21.d.1 1/2.2. GIRD COMMUNICATION TRENCH is now clear right through. Large parties are working on PETROL LANE and WHALE TRENCH, day and night and the work is proceeding rapidly. The trenches on our Right Battalion front are now dry and in good condition.

Patrols. Our Right Battalion sent out patrol which connected with the left Battalion. Another patrol got into touch with the Division on our Right. There is a space of 75 yards between our Right and their Left.

Our Left Battalion patrols out in front of PETROL LANE throughout night. A patrol which left our line at N.20.d. 1/2.3. reports that enemy post N.20.d. 1/2.4. is occupied. Between this point and the gun pits there is a little wire but this would offer no obstacle

Lewis Guns. At 6.30.p.m. a party of 30 Germans was seen moving at N.20.d.2.7. towards Strong Point at Junction of HILT and LARD trenches. A Lewis Gun opened on these and they were dispersed. This party appeared to be in full marching order.

Enemy movement.

An enemy sniper was busy yesterday at N.20.d.4 1/2.8. At 8.p.m. a party of 12 fully equipped moved across crest line from E to W. in vicinity of N.20.b.73. At 6.17.p.m. a L.M.G. at GOODWIND POST dispersed relief party at N.20.b.6.2 1/2. At 2.20p.m. our field guns dispersed a party at N.20.b.14. Some of these ran to the right and the Lewis Gun at GOODWINDS POST dropped four. At 7.19. unusual activity was noticed in enemy trenches where men could be seen moving about in full marching order. This appeared to be a relief and the artillery was informed. At 7.52. a green flare was fired from LARD TRENCH (This may have indicated that the relief was complete.

Enemy Defences.

A enemy Machine Gun operating near N.21.d.2 1/2.7. last night enfiladed the road running through the centre of GURUDE COURT. This gun also sweeps the parapet of the Right Company of our Right Battalion. Another Machine Gun fired indirectly from N.21.a.9.8. ^{near} N.25.b.7.4.

Artillery and Light Signalling.

An enemy 4.2 fell near their S.P. at N.20.d.3 1/2.5 1/2. and 3 red flares were sent up. At 2.19.p.m. enemy put 9 5.9 H.E. into his own line at N.20.b.50. whereupon enemy in LARD TRENCH sent up 7 rockets in feverish haste. At 2.32. enemy put 8 more shells in LARD TRENCH and 12 more red rockets were fired, 5 burst into 4 red stars. At 2.48., 3.20., and 4.5.p.m. enemy again shelled his own line and showers of red rockets were fired. The range then (4.12) shortened and shells hit our parapet at N.20. b.70. The enemy then put up from LARD TRENCH a rocket which burst into a red and a green star. This was followed by a white rocket. The shelling then ceased. This firing was from the general direction of N.18.d.(Central)

On our Left Battalion front enemy artillery was less active yesterday but Gun Pits, Front line, and PETROL LANE was lightly shelled. Throughout the night enemy kept up a light barrage on N.31.d.4095 to 31.

Our artillery registered on enemy lines opposite our front yesterday. At 2.46.p.m. a battery did good firing on SUNKEN ROAD at N.20.b.9 1/2.2. At 2.36.a.m. our guns put shrapnel into LARD TRENCH near N.20.b.52.

Miscellaneous.

At N.20.b.81. there are traces of an German A A Gun as there is a store of live ammunition there.

John R. ...
.....Lieut.
Intelligence Officer. 4th. A. I. B.

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Appendix VI

Fourth Australian Infantry Brigade.
HEADQUARTERS.
4/12/16.

Daily Intelligence Report.

Our operations.

Relief. The 16th Battalion successfully relieved the 14th Battalion last night, the relief being completed by 10.5 p.m. The two support companies of the 15th Battalion relieved the two front line companies, this relief being completed by 8 p.m. Work. Going to the bombardment of Yesterday afternoon a good deal had to be devoted to improving the trenches knocked in by shell fire. However more work was done to PETROL LAKE and WHALE TRENCH. KROONHORN LAKE is now passable from one end to the other.

Patrols. The usual patrol were out last night. Touch was kept between our Right and Left Battalions. The Division on our Right was visited. Patrols report no enemy movement in BOBMAN'S LAND.

Enemy Machine Gun. The Gun on our extreme right which was reported yesterday again traversed the parapet of the Right Company of our Right Battalion.

Artillery. For the last couple of days the enemy has been devoting a good deal of the fire, previously sent over FLERS and GURUNCOURT on the ground in vicinity of N.31.b.42. to N.31.d.45. and along BULLS ROAD to N.31.d.69. Our trenches WHALE, PETROL, KROONHORN, OUR FITS, Front line from N.20.d.1 1/2.2. to N.20.c.7 1/2.8 1/2. and from there to intersection of CHALK LAKE and CHESS ROAD have been for several days subjected to an enfilade fire from batteries operating from direction of LE TRANLOY and BRAUENCOURT. The shells have been mostly 4.2's and 77mm. Yesterday morning he registered on this area with 5.9's and between 10 and 12 a.m. he put over 40. 5.9's most of which fell between the front line and GIRD TRENCH. He also got quite a number of shells close to the proposed jumping off trench. On our Right Battalion front enemy artillery was extremely active yesterday and his range was considerably more accurate. Several times during the day he put shells into his own trenches. At 9 a.m. he put some 4.2's into LAND trench and red rockets were sent up. At 9.15 a.m. he put over 4.2's on our trenches from N.20.b.71. to N.31.c.1.8. At 2.30 p.m. enemy opened a general bombardment on our Right Battalion front and continued till 3.15 p.m. He again put a few in LAND TRENCH and his trench at N.20.b.9 1/2.2. At 9.15 p.m. our 18pdrs did some very good shooting on enemy line in the salient, but when they lengthened their range they landed close to GOODWIND POST. At 11.30 p.m. enemy put a few shells into his trench in N.20.d.26. Red Flares were sent up and ceased firing.

Planty Rogers
.....Lieut.
Intelligence Officer.
4th Aust Inf Brigade.

Appendix VII

Fourth Australian Infantry Brigade
HEADQUARTERS.

5/12/16.

DAILY INTELLIGENCE REPORT.Our operations.

Work. The work of improving our front system and communications in rear has been continued during last 24 hours.

In GIRD C Trench a space of about 30 yards was found almost impossible to clear and a loop trench has been constructed, duck boarding of this trench is in a very forward state.

During night, work was carried on in clearing PERHEL LANE WHALE LANE and KROGHEE LANE the new C.T. running back from H.20.d.0.2. and joining FLANK AVENUE at approx H.20.e.27. is being pushed through with all speed.

Patrols. Touch was kept by patrols with the division on our right and the Brigade on our left, also across the low lying ground between our Left and Right Battalion, no enemy movement was noticed.

Enemy Activity

When our Right Company of Left Battalion attempted to occupy our night bombing, M.C., and listening post at junction of HILT and WHALE TRENCHES, it was found to be occupied by the enemy and our party were fired on by a machine gun, a post was immediately established just in front and steps are being taken to turn the former post into a day and night post consequent on the ejection of enemy.

Artillery.

The enemy took advantage of good facilities of observation to make the best use of their artillery, and our sector was shelled rather heavily throughout day.

FLANK was shelled heavily at 7.30 p.m. by 5.9 shells and our Left Battalion Headquarters vicinity at 9 p.m. also by 5.9's these places have been shelled intermittently throughout day by 77mm 4.2's and a few 5.9's.

CHERRY TRENCH GIRD.C.T. and CHALK LANE, GUN PIT and front line in this sector were also shelled throughout day.

The front line of our Right Battalion was also constantly shelled by 77mm 4.2, and 5.9's. From 12.45. to 1.15 p.m. GIRDASH TRENCH was traversed by a 5.9 gun.

From 2.15 to 2.30. this trench was subjected again to fire from 5.9. guns this time the fire was a little heavier, the shooting was rather accurate but little damage was done.

At 9.15 a.m. enemy shelled his own trenches in the salient with H.E. both 5.9 and 77mm a good deal of noise was heard suggesting that casualties had been caused, numerous Red and Red star flares were immediately sent up. *etc.*

Our own artillery replied quickly and at 3.20 p.m. a battery of 181b pdrs fired 4 salvos over our line at about H.20.d.0.8. several of which fell short and one of our men was killed. Battery fired from vicinity of H.33.a.0.0.

Aeroplanes were in consequence of bright weather very active by both ourselves and the enemy.

Enemy contact planes at 11.15 a.m. and at 3 p.m. flew low over our lines and dropped signals and were unselected.

An enemy plane was brought down behind their lines at 10.3 a.m.

One of our planes was brought down by enemy at 11 a.m. yesterday morning in vicinity of H.26.d.1.2. the machine was wrecked and pilot killed.

Enemy snipers were not so active but enemy H Guns were active during night opposite the Right Company of our Right Battalion

R. J. Jones
.....Lieut.
Intelligence Officer.
4th Aust Inf Brigade.

360

Appendix VIII

SECRET.

Copy No. 16

FOURTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER NO. 55

Reference Map 1:100,000.

3/12/16.

1. The 4th Australian Infantry Brigade (less 15th Battalion) will be relieved by 2nd Australian Infantry Brigade in the Right Sector on 6th December and on night 6/7th December 1916.
2. C.O. of Units of Brigades will mutually arrange all details of relief.
3. To prevent congestion or men going astray C.O.'s will provide guides and arrange control posts.
4. All Trench and Area Stores such as Gun Boots, Sappers Stoves &c will be handed over and a receipt taken. A list of all Stores handed over will be forwarded to Divisional Headquarters through Brigade Headquarters. C.O. Units and Company Officers will be responsible that no Gun Boots are taken out of the line. The A.P.M. has been instructed to see that the name of any man entraining with Gun Boots is taken.
5. When relief is completed the following message will be sent to Brigade Headquarters. "MAFISH"
6. Attention is drawn to paras 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 of 4th Divisional Administrative Order No. 39 dated 2/12/16 and issued herewith.
7. On relief the Brigade will entrain at QUARRY SIDING on 7th December as under :-

1st Train.	8.33.a.m.	Brigade Headquarters, 4th A.L.F.M. Battery, 4th M.G. Company, 14th Battalion.
2nd Train.	8.34.a.m.	13th and 16th Battalions.

 And detrain at BRAULTS thence route marching the same day to RIBEMONT.
8. Billetting parties will report to the Staff Captain at the Church RIBEMONT at 4.p.m. on 6th December 1916.
9. Acknowledge.

Copy No. 1 War Diary

- 2 4th Aust Div
- 3 13th Battalion.
- 4 14th Battalion.
- 5 15th Battalion.
- 6 16th Battalion.
- 7. 4th M.G. Company.
- 8 4th A.L.F.M. Battery.
- 9 Right Brigade. *COL. H. K. A. B. D.*
- 10 Left Brigade. *COL. J. S. B. D.*
- 11 C.O.C. 2nd Aust Brigade.
- 12 4th Aust Field Ambulance.
- 13 4th Field Coy Engineers.
- 14 C.S.A. 4th Aus Div.
- 15 7th A.A.S.C.
- 16 File. ✓

Chief
Major.
Brigade Major.
4th Aust Inf Brigade.

Chief

FOURTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER. No. 56Reference AMIENS. 1/100,000.15/12/1916.

1. The Fourth Australian Infantry Brigade Group (less 15th Battalion) will move to the CARDONNETTE Area to-morrow 16th inst via main A LBERT-AMIENS Road - QUERRIEU passing the starting point corner RIBEMONT - HEILLY Road at 9.a.m. with an interval of 200 yards between units in the following order. :-

<u>UNIT.</u>	<u>DESTINATION.</u>
Brigade Headquarters.	RAINNEVILLE .
14th Battalion.	RAINNEVILLE.
13th Battalion.	COISY.
4th Machine Gun Company.	COISY.
4th A.L.T.M. Battery.	COISY.
7th A.S.C. Supply Section.	COISY.
16th Battalion.	CARDONNETTE.
C 1 Section 4th Field Ambulance.	CARDONNETTE.

The halts will be regulated from the leading Unit and will be more frequent than usual.

At QUERRIEU units will move to their destination by the shortest route.

2. Arrangements to be made regimentally for a long halt at mid-day for a meal and hot drink. No units to halt on the MAIN ALBERT - AMIENS Road.
3. Men unable to march are to rendezvous at the Church RIBEMONT at 9. a.m. on 16th inst and will be conveyed by Motor Ambulance or Motor Busses. Each Unit will detail an Officer where the party is more than 20.
4. All surplus baggage and Regimental Stores not required will be dumped at the Brigade Dump RIBEMONT to-day. Braziers which are Regimental property will be taken to new billets.
5. Billetting parties to report to Lieut H. THOMPSON the Assistant Staff Captain at Church CARDONNETTE at 2.p.m. to-day.
6. Acknowledge.

- Copy No. 1 War Diary.
 2. 4th Aust Division.
 3. 13th Battalion.
 4. 14th Battalion.
 5. 15th Battalion .
 6. 16th Battalion.
 7. 4th Machine Gun Company.
 8. 4th A.L.T.M. Battery.
 9. 4th Field Ambulance.
 10. 7th A.A.S.C.
 11. A.D.M.S.
 12. File.

Elphinstone Major.
 A/Brigade Major.
 4th Aust Inf Brigade.

C Form (Original).
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS. No. of Message.....

Army Form C. 2123.
(In books of 50's in duplicate.)

Prefix <i>AD</i>	Code <i>HC</i>	Words <i>40</i>	Received	Sent, or sent out	Office Stamp
Charges to collect			From <i>lyd</i>	At	
Service Instructions			By	To	
<i>Priority</i>			By		

Handed in at *lyd.* Office *10:55* m. Received

TO *4th Aus Inf Bde*

Sender's Number <i>9601</i>	Day of Month <i>15</i>	In reply to Number	AAA
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<i>4th</i>	<i>Aus</i>	<i>Inf</i>	<i>Bde</i>	<i>will</i>
<i>move</i>	<i>to</i>	<i>CARDONETTE</i>	<i>area</i>	<i>tomorrow</i>
<i>AAA</i>	<i>transport</i>	<i>12th</i>	<i>Aus</i>	<i>Inf</i>
<i>Bde</i>	<i>will</i>	<i>move</i>	<i>to</i>	<i>BONNAY</i>
<i>tomorrow</i>	<i>AAA</i>	<i>full</i>	<i>orders</i>	<i>follow</i>
<i>addressed</i>	<i>4th</i>	<i>Bde</i>	<i>repeated</i>	<i>12th</i>

FROM *4th Aus Hq*

PLACE & TIME

* This line should be erased if not required.
Wt. 432 - M437 500,000 Pads. H W V 5 16 Forms C. 2123.

Appendix. X

FOURTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

EXERCISE FOR 27th December 1916.

NARRATIVE.

Reference AMIENS 1/100,000.

1. An Allied offensive was begun on 10th December 1916 on a frontage of 50 miles astride the SOMME.
2. The enemy had on 25th December 1916 been forced back to a line running approximately N.E. and S.W. through ANGOEUVES (4 mile N.W. of AMIENS) our advance being so sustained as to prevent the Germans settling down to ordinary trench warfare. Increased man power, morale, proficiency in the use of rifle and bayonet gave the British Army superiority in the new conditions.
3. At 5.a.m. on 26th Dec ember another advance was commenced with the object of driving the Germans further eastwards.
4. The ANZAC CORPS (1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th Divisions) with its most advanced troops holding BERTANGLES was allotted the objective RAINNEVILLE - COISY † POULANVILLE (inclusive) with the XV Corps on Left and IX Corps on Right.
5. The objective of the 4th Australian Division was RAINNEVILLE, the 13th Australian Infantry Brigade attacking North of, and the 4th Australian Infantry Brigade South of VILLERS-BOCAGE Road, the latter linking up with 5th Australian Infantry Brigade (2nd Australian Division) whose Left was directed to the house at Junction of COISY - RAINNEVILLE-AMIENS Road.
6. At 4. p.m. on 26th December though all objectives had been secured, aeroplane reconnaissance disclosed considerable bodies of troops moving into CARLONETTE and ALLONVILLE. Other Corps were similarly successful.

Appendix No 10

COMPANY TRAINING.

A few problems to assist Company Commanders in the training of the Companies.

PROBLEM.1.

Your Company (D Company) is the Left Battalion of 4th Australian Infantry Brigade (A Company of the Right Battalion 13th Australian Infantry Brigade) is on your left. At p.m. your Company, all mixed, as it will inevitably be after village fighting reaches this spot. C. Company is also emerging from the village while on your left approximately 100 men are making towards that line of trees. The enemy is about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile away and retiring. Knowing the intention is not to advance further.

1. What features do you consider is essential for you to seize pending the arrival of your C.O. who will determine the general line and relief of your Company if necessary.
2. What protective measures will you take and indicate the positions of your platoons and Lewis Guns when your C.O. arrives at 4.p.m.

PROBLEM.2.

Your Company though shaken has not lost heavily the C.O. decided you are to hold the ground gained.

1. During the short period of daylight state a few of the more important points which should have received your attention.
2. How many men will it take to dig a communication trench 3' x 3' from to these practice trenches. Only 20 shovels and 17 picks available.

PROBLEM.3.

As platoon commander allotted from to how would you improve this bank, and where would you place a Lewis Gun if handed over by your Company Commander.

PROBLEM.4.

As platoon commander as in Problem 3 at 1.a.m. on 27th December the enemy attacked the Battalion on your left. What action would you take.

PROBLEM.5.

You are the left platoon commander in A Company and this enclosure is a fairly thick wood, where would you put your trenches and generally make it fightable.

PROBLEM.6.

To what use would you turn that haystack?

(2)

PROBLEM. 7.

The artillery has moved forward, registered and prepared the way for a further general advance at noon on 29th December. Your Battalion hitherto in reserve, is allotted the objective to with a second objective.

How will your Company be disposed.
What points need you attend to in order to secure success.

PROBLEM. 8.

You are the left platoon commander in A Company and this enclosure is a fairly thick wood, where would you put your trenches and generally make it fightable.

Appendix XI

4A. B./7246.

Fourth Australian Infantry Brigade.
HEADQUARTERS.

23/12/1916.

C. O.,

MUSKETRY.

1. The 100 yards and 200 yards Rifle Range near COISW has been allotted to Units as under:-

14th Battalion.	December 23, 26, and 28th.
13th "	December 29th, 31st, & January 2nd.
16th "	December 27th, 30th, & January 3rd.
2. Practices.

100 yards, Grouping practice	5 rounds.
200 yards, Application, BULLS EYE.	5 rounds.
200 yards, Figure Targets -	
Application.	5 rounds.
Snap Shooting.	5 rounds.
Rapid.	5 rounds.
3. Units will send their Musketry Officer the evening before the day allotted to them to see that targets etc., are ready so that no time will be lost.
4. Scores will be forwarded to Brigade Headquarters by noon the day after shooting.

(Sgd.) C. M. Johnston, Major.
A/Brigade-Major.
4th Aust. Inf. Brigade.