

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

Infantry

**Item number:** 23/4/17

**Title:** 4th Infantry Brigade

February 1917



AWM4-23/4/17

4<sup>th</sup> Brigade

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
1. 2. 16	S12. D88.	Very cold Snow still frozen on ground. all preparations made for the attack (Appendix I) which took place at 7 p.m. Summary attached.	Appendix I
? 1917		Appendix II Prisoners captured Officers 2 OR. 47. Our Casualties. Killed Officers 1 OR. 19. Wounded Off 3. OR. 115. 1st Lt. W. A. Bussing	Appendix II
2. 2. 16		Bright day - Snow still frozen. Work being supplied as in Appendix X. Intelligence Summary. Appendix III Wounded OR. 6 Sick OR. 14. Inter Brigade relief was completed at 10 p.m.	Appendix X Appendix III
			Appendix IV

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
3.2.17	S 12088	Very cold. Snow still frozen. Working parties supplied as in Appendix X. Intelligence Summary attached Appendix I Wounded OR 4. Evacuated sick OR 18.	Appendix X Appendix I
4.2.17		Very cold - frozen snow. Attack launched on enemy trenches at 10.2 pm Appendix VI Summary of operation attached VII Report on operation by Co. 13 <sup>th</sup> B <sup>2</sup> attached Appendix VIII Prisoners. Officers 2. OR. 75 OR. Evr casualties. Killed Officers 2. OR. 41 Wounded Officers 5. OR. 167. Missing OR. 18.	Appendix VI Appendix VII Appendix VIII Appendix VIII

C.11056.

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
5. 2. 17	S1278.8.	Very cold. Snow still frozen. Summary of minor operations attached Appendix VIII working parties as in Appendix 8. Casualties included in 13 <sup>th</sup> gr report of 4 <sup>th</sup> for 13 <sup>th</sup> gr. Evacuated sick DR 9.	Appendix <u>X</u>
6. 2. 17		Snow still frozen on ground. Summary of operations attached Appendix IX. Owing to operations working parties have had to be reduced since 1/2. Casualties excluding 13 <sup>th</sup> gr. evacuated sick other ranks 5.	Appendix <u>IX</u>

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices; &c., attached.
7.2.17.	S 12. 7. 88.	Snow still frozen on the ground. Working parties almost in full swing again. Intelligence Summary attached Appendix XI Killed D.R. 2. Wounded D.R. 5. Evacuated sick D.R. 4.	Appendix XI
8.2.17		Snow still frozen. Working parties reduced owing to relief of support companies Appendix XII Intelligence Summary Appendix XIII	Appendix XII Appendix XIII
9.2.17	S 12 688	Cold. Snow still unthawed. Completion of relief of Bode tonight at 9.30 p.m. Very quiet little hostile shelling killed wounded & sick from 1 <sup>st</sup> to 9 <sup>th</sup> Appendix XIV	Appendix XIV

C.11056.

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
10.2.17	Mametz.	<p>Extremely cold. Snow more evaporated than at S 12 B.S. Wind rising. Brigade parade at 2 p.m. Address by C.O.C. Bde. Complimentary on recent operations followed by Address by C.O.C. Division. Bde then marched past.</p>	
11.2.17	"	<p>Heavy frost &amp; still very cold. Bde Church parade 10.30 a.m. Good muster. 3.15 p.m. Borch shelled West corner of Camp with shrapnel, about 15 rounds. Several ducks</p>	

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
11.2.17	Mamely	<p>Remaining bursts high. Good shooting. Shelled again 4.15pm this time with 2 guns. probably Naval.</p> <p>Works report in line Appendix <u>XV</u></p>	Appendix <u>XV</u>
12.2.17	"	<p>Cold + dull slight fall of snow in scattered flakes.</p> <p>16<sup>th</sup> Bn moved up to Arbury Camp. S 21 to 3.5 and relieved 48<sup>th</sup> Bn in Corps duties.</p> <p>14<sup>th</sup> Bn (2 Coys) moved back from Townsville Camp S 22 C 20 to Mamely Camp.</p>	

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
12.2.17	Mameltz.	212 reinforcements for Pole arrived, 106 of whom were for 16 <sup>th</sup> Bn.	
13.2.17	"	Much warmer & dull. Partial thaw set in, but again froze about 6 pm. Reorganization & training in progress. Rifle range being renovated	
14.2.17	"	cold again & frozen hard this morning, but sun came out & partial thaw set in towards mid-day	



Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
14.2.17	Mamels.	<p>Enemy planes very active towards midday.</p> <p>Musketry &amp; machine-gun practice in progress. Attached appendix <u>XVI</u> Casualties &amp; sick evacuations 10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> (inc)</p> <p>General Birdwood visited the Camp.</p>	Appendix <u>XVI</u>
15.2.17		<p>Major E.A. WILTON, Asst B.M. transferred to 12<sup>th</sup> Ans Inf Bde to be B.M.</p> <p>Duties of B.M. 4<sup>th</sup> Bde temporarily taken over by Lt Col. J.M.A. DURRANT.</p>	

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Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
16.2.17.	MAMETZ	Enemy aeroplanes very active dropping bombs on British ammunition dumps. Several set on fire - apparently in <u>III</u> Corps. Thaw set in, slight rain.	
17.2.17.		Fog.	

C.11056.

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
18/2/1917	MAMEZ	Fog, cleared up during day, rained during night. Church parade cancelled. Duties of B.M. temporarily taken over by Major O.C.W. FUHRMAN.	
19/2/1917	"	Fog during day otherwise fairly fine. About 8/30 pm. enemy put a few small shells into N.E. corner of camp no damage done. Rained fairly heavily during night.	
20/2/1917.		Fog during morning, rained until after mid-day	

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Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
20/2/1917	MAMETZ	Government order of Bgde issued.	Appendix <u>XVII</u>
21/2/1917	do.	Bgde moving to RIBEMONT 22/2/17 Hq, line, Battalion Officers and S.C. proceeded to RIBEMONT. All arrangements made for move	
22/2/1917	do	General Brand went on leave. move to RIBEMONT commenced left MAMETZ 9 am. 12 <sup>th</sup> unit arrived at destination 12/20 pm last 2 pm. 16 <sup>th</sup> Bn still at ALBURY camp.	

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
22/2/1917	MAMETZ	Camp handed over to G-REID 15 <sup>th</sup> Bde	
23/2/1917	RIBEMONT	Lt-Col Dumont D.S.O. in command of Brigade. Training arrangements made: - with resting. Raining + fog.	
24/2/1917	do	Clear day and finishing up. Training in progress	
25/2/1917	do	Church parade. Fine day	
26/2/1917	do	Fine day, clear, training in progress. as detailed in appendix	
27/2/1917	do	Fine day training in progress	

C.11056.

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
27/2/1917	RIBEMONT	Site selected for 350 yards Rifle range	
28/2/1917		Fine day. Musketry & General training proceeding. O.C. 4 <sup>th</sup> W. Sig. Coy. lectured to about 50 officers of the brigade on communications.	

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APPENDIX No 1  
1st February, 1917.DAILY INTELLIGENCE REPORT.  
From 6.a.m. 31-1-17 to 6.a.m. 1-2-17.Our operations.Patrols.

The work of patrolling along our whole Sector throughout the night was kept up. Communication was kept up with our Right and Left Brigades. No enemy patrols were seen. A patrol left Sector N.20.1. and discovered an enemy listening post at Bacon Trench at N.21.a.3.5.

Machine Guns.

Our machine guns were active during the early hours of the night firing at enemy working parties and in direction of enemy machine guns which were active opposite our Sector N.20.5. An enemy machine gun was firing from approximately N.13.b.3.5. all day and was directed at corner of Cheese Road and at Working Party who were wiring Hay Reserve Line.

Enemy Works.

Parties were heard working in Stompy and Bacon Trenches. No working party could be heard in Hay Trench.

Enemy Movement.

Small parties, three to five, were seen using Beaulencourt to Sugar Factory road. At 12.30.p.m. 20 men were seen proceeding to Beaulencourt from Ligny Thilley. A large party of men were seen working at N.6.b.2.5. These men were carrying sand bags and handing them to a man on a mound who emptied them. Others were seen in a trench which runs from this point and to the left. 4 Transport waggons with four horses in each passed along in rear of this place and men could be seen ~~at~~ moving all day. At 3.40.p.m. 30 men in single file followed the last transport waggon and appeared to be an unloading party. The artillery ranged on this locality with 18 pounders and the shooting was accurate men being observed to take cover. Men were seen at N.14.a.2.9. Bombing was heard on our right this morning at 2.a.m. and an enemy party bombed the trench from N.21.d.8.5. to N.21.6.30.105. They were driven back but apparently without loss.

Artillery.

Our artillery was active yesterday firing at N.17. and N.18. squares. At 1.30.p.m. our heavies opened up on the German front line, 200 shells were fired and the enemy wire was practically destroyed from N.21.d.3.94. to N.21.d.7.7. while his trenches were ~~damaged~~ damaged. At 4.30.p.m. 50 rounds of medium trench mortar were fired at the same sector and most shots landed in the trench. During the night heavies fired on Ligny Thilley where a fire was observed.

Enemy Artillery.

We received very few shells over our front line yesterday. At 9.30.a.m. Guedecourt and Chalk Pit were shelled with 5.9's. 338 shells mainly 5.9's fell over our back area. Gap Trench, Switch Trench, Bulls Road and Dump, Flers and Grass Lane receiving the attention. At 2.30.p.m. 2 shells believed to have been gas shells fell on N.27.a. Central Ridge.

Aircraft.

An enemy aeroplane flew over our line at 12 noon and appeared to give signals by long and short bursts of Machine Gun fire. At 8.30.p.m. aeroplanes were heard over our area and were firing Machine Guns.

Flares.

At 9.27.p.m. a flare was sent up near N.21.5. and burst into a red and green star. The green star fell to the ground but the red remained in the air for some time. A little later a red star was sent up to the right. It was followed by no artillery activity.

*John Lipp*  
2/Lieutenant.  
Intelligence Officer.  
4th Aust. Inf. Brigade.

Fourth Australian Infantry Brigade.

HEADQUARTERS.

1st February, 1917.

## WORK REPORT.

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General condition of the Line.

At present the trenches are clean. Work has been done in the whole area, deepening, duckboarding and revetting trenches, building shelters and mining and timbering to make underground accommodation. Material is being supplied and advantage has been taken of this to push the work through.

Work on Right Battalion Front.

Sector N.21.2. has been further extended to the right and there now remains a space of 60 yards to be connected up with the work commenced by the Right Brigade. The new trench is 2 feet 6 inches to 4 feet deep. The piece dug by the Right Brigade is 3 feet to 4 feet 6 inches deep and is traversed. This trench is 140 yards long.

Eve Alley is now connected with the sunken road 50 yards to the right of Chalk Cliff. 100 yards has been dug from 2 feet 6 inches to 3 feet linking up with the road. A further 100 yards has been deepened to a depth of 4 feet 6 inches. 28 yards has been further revetted and duckboarded. 50 yards is now ready for revetment and duckboarding 30 yards has been cleaned out, damaged by shell fire.

Fugitive Alley. 100 yards has been widened to 3 feet 6 inches and cleaned. 36 yards has been dug 3 feet 6 inches deep and 3 feet wide

Chalk Cliff. Further work has been done in digging shelters and in mining. 450 cubic feet being timbered.

Possum Reserve. A further 124 yards has been deepened to 6 feet. 46 yards has been revetted. 20 yards new trench 4 feet 6 inches wide and 2 feet deep has been dug. 65 yards deepened to 4 feet. 190 yards of wire has been completed and 40 yards partly completed.

Work on Left Battalion Front.

In Sectors N.20.3. and N.20.4. trenches are being deepened. A block of wire has been placed across Bayonet Trench 40 yards in front of N.20.3.

Fatigue Alley. 48 yards has been completely revetted. 50 yards has been further deepened to 5 feet 6 inches. 10 yards has been widened for cleaning. 20 yards cleaned out.

Cheese Road. 294 cubic feet has been timbered in tunnels made.

Grass Lane. 550 cubic feet has been timbered in tunnels made.

Support Battalion Work.

Switch Trench. In Switch Trench sets have been put in in building of Corps O.P. 64 yards has been completely revetted. 110 yards cleaned out ready for revetting. 40 yards of wire further erected.

General Work.

At Brigade Headquarters mining and tunnelling is being pushed on with. In Nicholson's Tunnel 400 cubic feet has been timbered. The 4th Machine Gun Company have worked on the Intermediate Corps positions.

The A.L.T.M. Battery's dugout at N.21.d.2.3. was blown out, and they are digging another at N.21.d.2.4.

2/Lieutenant.  
Intelligence Officer.  
4th Aust. Inf. Brigade.



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War Diary

SECRET.

Appendix III

Fourth Australian Infantry Brigade.  
HEADQUARTERS.

2nd February, 1917

DAILY INTELLIGENCE REPORT.

From 6.a.m. 1-2-17 to 6.a.m. 2-2-17.

Our operations.

Patrols. Our Left Battalion maintained communication along the Left Sector and kept touch with our Left Brigade.

Attack. At 7.p.m. an attack was launched from our right flank at the opposite enemy trenches. No. 1 party of 80 men attacked enemy strong point at N.21.d.8.5.55. but were held up by the wire which was not cut. Bombs were exchanged and the party were forced to retire after throwing their bombs, bringing back our wounded. No. 2 Party of 170 men attacked the strong post at N.21.d.5.7. and entered the enemy line from N.21.d.4.9. to N.21.d.6.7. The trenches here were found to be in excellent condition. To extend the right flank parties were organized and bombed down the trench, so that at 2.a.m. this morning we had taken the second strong point and our right flank rested on N.22.c.0.6. Parties were at work deepening the trench running from Sector N.21.3. to N.21.d.5.7. and the trench running from N.22.3. to N.21.d.25.55. which were to be used as communication trenches. At 1.55.a.m. an S.O.S. was sent up from our lines and repeated 5 minutes later. The enemy had organized a party on the left which was trying to bomb out our left flank. The enemy shelling was intermittent and it was found that in answer to our signals, our artillery fire, although immediately forthcoming, was not of sufficient volume to stop a well organized counter attack. At 4.30.a.m. three S.O.S. signals went up. The enemy heavily counter-attacked coming down from Sunray Trench, and on account of our casualties and the heavy shelling undergone, we were forced to vacate our objectives and fall back at 5.a.m. this morning. Our casualties were about 20 killed, 150 wounded, and 1 Officer missing. We took 2 Officers and 50 other ranks prisoners and inflicted heavy losses on the enemy.

Artillery.

Our artillery was quiet during the day. At 6.58.p.m. a light barrage was put on enemy trenches which increased at 7.p.m. in volume and continued to 7.45.p.m. and throughout the night. The shelling was very accurate.

Enemy Shelling.

Enemy shellings during the day was below normal. N.20.1 and N.20.3. were shelled with shrapnel and high explosives. Guedecourt, N.27 square, Eve Alley and Fugitive Alley receiving a little attention. After our attack had been launched the enemy artillery was very active. A barrage was placed on Eve Alley, Fugitive Alley and Chalk Pit. Sector N.21.3. and N.21.4. and the enemy's lines which we were occupying was intermittently shelled with 5.9's and 4.2.'s to 5.a.m. this morning. N.20.1. was heavily shelled and damage done to the trenches.

Sound Bearings taken from N.20.d.2.4.

355 degrees Magnetic a battery of 5.9's located.  
357 " " a battery of 4.2's "  
90 " " a battery of 4.2's "

Balloons.

Five enemy balloons were up yesterday morning in a Northerly direction, and were pulled down at 12 noon.

Aeroplanes.

At 11.25.a.m. 5 enemy planes flew low over our lines. At 1.50.p.m. and 4.15.p.m. three were spotting for artillery.

An Officer's patrol entered up Lard Trench for 50 yards at 4.a.m. this morning finding no sign of occupation. The trench is not revetted but is in good condition.

/Over



Fourth Australian Infantry Brigade.

HEADQUARTERS.

3rd February, 1917.

Appendix IV  
DAILY INTELLIGENCE REPORT.From 6.a.m. 2-2-17 to 6.a.m. 3-2-17.  
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## Our operations.

- Relief.** The 13th and 16th Battalions successfully relieved the 14th and 15th Battalions respectively, relief being completed by 10.30.p.m.
- Work.** The trenches damaged in bombardment on night 1st/2nd have been repaired. Nye alley has been badly damaged and has not yet been repaired.
- Patrols.** Communication was maintained during the night along our whole Sector and with Battalions on our flanks. A patrol covered by a L.M. Gun examined Lard Trench and found it occupied and a Machine Gun at N.21.d.4.5. No enemy patrols were seen.
- Artillery.** At 9.a.m. 12 4.5 shells were fired at enemy lines opposite Sector N.21.5. and all except 2 were duds. Our firing was accurate.
- Enemy Artillery.** With the exception of a few shrapnel shells our front line was not shelled during the last period. Guedecourt was intermittently shelled with 4.2's and 5.9's. The 4.2's being from the direction of Beaulencourt. The road running from N.21.a/3. to N.21.e.0.6. was shelled with shrapnel at intervals. 26 shells mainly H.E. were put into Fiers. The remainder of our area did not receive much attention.
- Enemy Works.** A large enemy working party was heard throughout the night working behind his lines opposite Sectors N.21.2., N.21.1. and N.21.3. The vicinity of N.21.d.4.9. to N.21.d.5.9. seemed to be where the party was most active. Pick and shovel work was being done. The men could be heard talking and laughing and orders could be plainly heard. The work ceased when our artillery opened at 11.p.m. but re-commenced an hour later.
- Aircraft.** A German aeroplane painted red with no under markings flew over our lines at 11.p.m. 13 flew across a quarter of an hour later one carrying white streamers attached to the wings. German aeroplanes were seen to be spotting for artillery. Later in the day they were driven off by our planes.
- Flares.** A few groups of yellow flares were fired by the enemy during the night. No action could be observed as a result. A large number of white flares were sent up.
- Weather Conditions.** Day Fine. Slight Mist.  
Night Heavy Frost.  
Ground Frozen.

*[Signature]*  
2/Lieutenant.  
Intelligence Officer.  
4th Aust. Inf. Brigade.

S E C R E T.

## War Diary Appendix V

## 4th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

## DISPOSITION OF FRONT, SUPPORT and RESERVE LINES.

3-2-1917.

FRONT LINE. Right Sub-Sector N.22.c.25.45. to N.21.c.7.9.

"A" Battalion (13th Battn.) Right Company N.21.d.7.4. to N.21.d.3.6.  
 Right Battalion. Company H. Qrs. N.21.d.4.3.  
 Headquarters. Left Company. N.21.d.3.6. to N.21.c.7.9.  
 N.26.d.0.2. Company H. Qrs. N.21.c.7.7.

Supports to Right Sector at CHALK PIT - N.27.b.5.3.  
 Reserves - POSSUM RESERVE, PILGRIMS WAY & BULLS TRENCH.

"B" Battalion (16th Battn) Left Sub-Sector N.21.c.7.9. to N.20.c.5.5.  
 Left Battalion. Right Company N.21.c.3.9. to N.20.b.8.1.  
 Headquarters. Company H. Qrs. N.20.b.8.1.  
 N.31.b.3.1. Left Company N.20.d.9.9. to N.20.c.5.5.  
 Company H. Qrs. N.20.d.2½.5.

Supports - Right Support Company and Headquarters -  
 Vicinity N.31.d.3.1.  
 Left Support Coy. - Vicinity N.26.a.20.80  
 and N.25.d.60.00.  
 Company Headquarters - N.26.a.20.80.

SUPPORT LINE.  
 "C" Battalion Headquarters - T.1.c.1½.6.  
 (14th Battn.) 2 Companies in GAP TRENCH.  
 Support Battn. 2 Companies in SWITCH TRENCH.

RESERVE.  
 "D" Battalion Headquarters S.22.c.9.9. - BAZENTIN "B" CAMP.  
 (15th Battn.) 4 Companies BAZENTIN "B" CAMP - S.22.c.9.9.  
 Reserve Battn. Less 2 platoons at S.12.b.8.8.

M.G. COMPANY. Front Line 4 Guns in Position - 1. N.21.d.4.4.  
 S.6.d.9.2. 2. N.20.b.7.1½.  
 3. N.20.d.6½.5½.  
 4. N.20.d.2½.1.  
 5. N.31.b.3.5.  
 6. N.31.b.9.5.  
 Second Line 5 Guns 7. N.26.c.2.05.  
 Actual Corps positions & numbers. 8. N.32.a.6.7.  
 2nd Line. 9. N.32.a.95.50.

Anti Aircraft by day No. 5 N.32.b.2.8½.

Third Line Actual Corps Positions & numbers 5. T.1.c.2.3.  
 6. T.1.c.8.6.

Anti Aircraft by day at S.6.d.9.2. (1 gun)  
 3 Guns in Reserve.

A.L.T.M. Battery. 2 Mortars at CHALK CLIFF in vicinity of N.27.a.7.3.  
 Headquarters. 1 Mortar - N.21.d.2.3½.  
 S.12.b.6.2. 5 Mortars in Reserve at Battery H.Q. - S.12.b.6.2.

*J. B. Kelly*  
 Major.  
 Brigade-Major.  
 4th Aust. Inf. Brigade.

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*Appendix VI**War Drains*  
4th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.  
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## WORKS REPORT.

Appended to Works Report 1st February, 1917.

900 yards have been dug to a depth of 7 feet from the head of Nicholson's Tunnel to Advanced Brigade Headquarters at Bull's Road. Cable has been lain and the trench filled in.

*J.P. Loft*  
2/Lieutenant.  
Intelligence Officer.  
4th Aust. Inf. Brigade.*3/2/1917*

Fourth Australian Infantry Brigade.

HEADQUARTERS.

5th February, 1917.

Appendix

## WORK REPORT.

General condition of the Line.

At present the trenches are clean. Work has been done along our whole line deepening, duckboarding and revetting trenches, cleaning out and rebuilding damaged portions of the trenches, and keeping clean all communication trenches.

Work on Right Battalion Front.

Sector N.21.4. has 4 yards cleaned ready for "A" frames 2 yards hurdled with "A" frames, and considerable work has been done cleaning up after shell damage.

Eve Alley has been damaged and the sides blown in. 30 yards has been cleaned out after shell damage. 26 yards has been completely revetted. 42 yards cleaned ready for "A" frames. 6 yards sandbagged revetment. 20 yards has been deepened to 6 feet.

Fugitive Alley. 8 yards has been deepened to 4'6" and width 4'6". 6 yards sandbag revetment. 30 yards ready for "A" frames. 70 yards deepened 1'6" width 1'.

Chalk Cliff. Further work has been done in digging shelters and in mining. 270 cubic feet has been dug and timbered. On account of the active operations in the line the work at Chalk Cliff has been hampered considerably.

Possum Reserve. This line has been given considerable attention. 175 yards has been further revetted. 30 yards has been "A" framed and duckboarded. 70 yards has been cleaned and ready for revetment. 140 yards of wire has been completed and 75 yards partly completed. 1 knife rest completed. 130 yards new trench cut 4'6" wide 2' deep. 75 yards new trench cut 2' wide 4' deep. 175 yards new trench cut 4' to 5' deep.

Fatigue Alley. 40 yards has been revetted. 30 yards "A" framed and duckboarded.

Cheese Road. 360 cubic feet has been dug and timbered.

Grass Lane. 600 cubic feet has been dug and timbered.

Left Battalion Headquarters. 40 feet of old tunnels cleaned and timbered strengthened and repaired.

Support Battalion Work. Gap trenches has been cleaned out and shelters made which accommodate a Company.

Switch Trench. 58 yards has been further revetted. 119 yards has been further ~~xxxxxx~~ cleaned out and ready for revetment. Dugouts for O.P. 4 sets put in and 6 yards cleaned out.

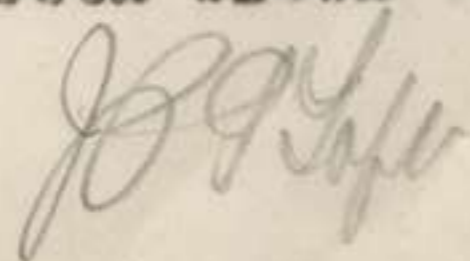
Work on Left Battalion Front. General work of cleaning out shell damaged trenches has been done. Posts have been deepened and trenches widened throughout. 190 yards of new trench has been dug connecting N.20.4. with N.20.3. 70 yards to a depth of 1 foot and 30 yards to a depth of 2 feet.

General work.

Decauville. 40 yards of line completed. 30 yards of duckboards lain and ready for line. 100 yards of track laid.

Overland Track. 50 yards new track completed. At Brigade Headquarters mining and trenching is being pushed on with. In Nicholson's Tunnel 440 cubic feet has been dug and timbered. The 4th Machine Gun Coy. have worked on the Intermediate Corps Positions. In Nos. 5 and 6 positions tunnelling has been dug in for 12 feet, and Nos. 7, 8 and 50, shafts of 12 feet deep has been dug.

The A.L.T.M. Battery's dug-out at N.21.d.2.4. has been blown out and none other has been dug up to date.



2/Lieutenant.  
Intelligence Officer.  
4th Aust. Inf. Brigade.

SECRET.

Appendix IX

Fourth Australian Infantry Brigade.

HEADQUARTERS.

6th February, 1917.

DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Enemy Machine Guns

From 5 a.m. to 6 a.m. 5-2-17 to 6 a.m. 6-2-17. These three hours were the most active of our operations. Our operations were carried out with success. Patrols were sent out along our whole front and communication kept up with the Battalions on our left. An official patrol visited Smiry Trench and it was found to be occupied while parties were working in it. All the time the line was held on the right. Work has been done generally on our whole area. In the new line the trench is being consolidated, telephone communication has been established and fire steps have been made. Wire has been put out on the left and the left has been made into a strong post.

**Description.** The new trench extends from N.21.d.8.56. to N.21.b.20.15. It is a deep trench with the exception of the right Company frontage, which is battered and shallow in places. In places the trench is 8 feet deep. Nowhere is it revetted or duckbearded. It contains one deep dugout timbered and capable of holding about 12 men. About 20 shallow dugouts, shrapnel proof only, exists, and which are timbered and will hold 4 or 5 men.

**Prisoners.** A further two wounded prisoners were captured last night 2 Pineapple Bomb Throwers were also captured. The total captures now make 2 Officers 66 other ranks 1 Machine Gun and 2 Pineapple Bomb Throwers as the result of our last attack.

**Artillery.** Our artillery was fairly active and the shooting was accurate except between 11.30 p.m. and 11.45 p.m. when 10 of our shells fell behind the parapet in the vicinity of N.21.d.45.85. This was immediately reported and the range then onward lengthened. Our 18 pounders opened on Trench mortar position reported to be between N.21.a.80.65. and N.21.a.9.5. The result of the shooting is not known. At 9 p.m. a fairly large working party was observed at N.20.d.7.6. These were dispersed by our field guns.

**Enemy Artillery.** During the last period our front line trenches have been heavily shelled. From 5 a.m. to 4 p.m. No. 20.3 was shelled with 4.2's and 5.9's and shells were placed in the whole of this Sector. From 5 p.m. the road leading through N.20.3. was enfiladed with 77 mm's and 5.9's. An average of 30 shells an hour was placed in N.20.c. and N.20.d. squares. Eye Alley, N.27.a. and vicinity of N.21.d.8.8. were intermittently shelled. Continuous fire was kept on the latter part by a 4.2 battery firing with 2 guns. These were located by an Artillery Liaison Officer who has reported it to his group. A 5.9 battery was observed to be firing from N.21.d.4.8. in direction of 55 degrees at 3 a.m. At 3.35 batteries were firing from a general direction of 170 degrees Magnetic taken from N.21.d.4.8.

**Enemy Movement.** A large working party of about 200 men could be seen from about N.21.d.6.7. 1000 yards away on a true bearing of 250 degrees. They seemed to be a digging and carrying party. Stretcher Bearers could be seen carrying wounded away at daybreak this morning. Small parties of men were seen moving about in the valley and along Sunken Road at N.21.b.6.4 300 to 500 yards away. These were dispersed by rifle and Machine Gun fire.





## FOURTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Working parties to be supplied daily revised to 30th January, 1917.

No.	Unit.	Strength.	where to report and to whom.	Nature of duty.
1.	14th Bn.	1. Officer 50. Others	H. Qrs. 14th Bn. 5 p.m. Lt. Keesing.	Digging Reserve Line (Possum Trench. Nth) 5 hrs work.
2.	14th Bn.	1. Officer 50. Others	H. Qrs. 14th Bn. 8.30 a.m. Lt. Keesing.	Duckboarding, Revetting Reserve Line (Possum Trench)
3.	14th Bn.	1. N.C.O. 10. men.	H. Qrs. 14th Bn. 5 p.m. Lt. Keesing.	Wiring Reserve Line Special Party.
4.	14th Bn.	1. N.C.O. 10. men.	H. Qrs. 14th Bn. 8.30 a.m. Lt. Baldwin.	Removing spoil from dugouts near 14th Bn. H. Qrs.
5.	14th Bn.	1. Officer 20. Qrs (Mining Platoon)	Dugouts in CHEESE ROAD. 8.30 a.m. Capt. Tucker.	Constructing dugouts in CHEESE ROAD.
6.	14th Bn.	1. N.C.O. 20. Qrs (Mining Platoon)	At Tank in GRASS LANE 8.30 a.m. Capt. Tucker	Constructing dugouts in GRASS LANE.
7.	14th Bn.	1. Officer 50. Others	Railhead Dump. 5 p.m. Lt. Keesing.	Carrying material to Reserve Line (POSSUM TRENCH and to CHEESE ROAD) for No. 2 party.
8.	14th Bn.	1. Officer 20. Others	FATIGUE ALLEY. 8.30 a.m. Lt. Baldwin.	Duckboarding & revetting FATIGUE ALLEY.
8a.	14th Bn.	1. N.C.O. 50. Others	H. Qrs. 14th Bn. 5 p.m. Lt. Baldwin.	Carrying material to FATIGUE ALLEY.
9.	14th Bn.	1. Officer 50. Others	FATIGUE ALLEY. 5 p.m. Lt. Baldwin.	Duckboarding & Revetting FATIGUE ALLEY.
10.	15th Bn.	1. Officer 30. Others	EVE ALLEY. 8.30 a.m. Lt. Little.	Duckboarding & revetting EVE ALLEY. 5 hrs. work.
11.	15th Bn.	1. Officer 30. Others	EVE ALLEY. 5 p.m. Lt. Little.	Duckboarding & revetting EVE ALLEY. 5 hrs. work.
11a.	15th Bn.	1. Officer 50. Others	WATLING STREET DUMP 10 p.m. Lt. Little	Carrying material to EVE ALLEY.
12.	15th Bn.	1. Officer 50. Others	3rd. GREASE TRENCH FUGITIVE ALLEY. 5 p.m. Lt. Little.	Duckboarding & revetting FUGITIVE ALLEY.
13.	13th Bn.	1. Officer 50. Others	H. Qrs. 15th Bn. 8.30 a.m. Lt. Keesing.	Preparing POSSUM TRENCH SOUTH for duckboards and Revetting Reserve Line.
14.	15th Bn.	1. Officer 20. Qrs (Mining Platoon)	CHALK CLIFF dugouts 8.30 a.m. Capt. Tucker.	Constructing dugouts at CHALK CLIFF.
15.	15th Bn.	1. N.C.O. 10. men.	H. Qrs. 15th Bn. 8.30 a.m. Lt. Keesing.	Wiring Reserve Line Special Party.
16.	15th Bn.	1. Officer 50. Others	15th Bn. H. Qrs. 5 p.m. Lt. Keesing.	Carrying material to Reserve Line for No. 13 Party
17.	13th Bn.	1. Officer 20. Others	GAP TRENCH. 8.30 a.m. Lt. Baldwin.	Maintenance of overland duckboards GAP TRENCH - BULLS ROAD.
18.	13th Bn.	3. Officers 175. Others	Head of NICHOLSON Tunnel nr. GAP TRENCH 5 p.m. Lt. Smith.	Burying cable to BULLS ROAD.
18a.	13th Bn.	1. Officer 25. Others	H. Qrs. 4th Bde. 8.30 a.m. Lt. Smith.	Burying cable material in NICHOLSONS Tunnel.
19.	13th Bn.	1. Officer 20. Qrs (Mining Platoon)	Dugouts near 14th Bn. H. Qrs. 8.30 a.m. Capt. Tucker.	Constructing and improving dugouts.
20.	13th Bn.	1. Officer 50. Others	H. Qrs. 13th Bn. 8.30 a.m. Lt. Baldwin.	Duckboarding & Revetting SWITCH TRENCH & carrying material.
21.	13th Bn.	1. Officer 30. men.	Tramway Dump. 5 p.m. Capt. Tolley.	Trucking material to Tram Terminus.
21a.	13th Bn.	1. Officer 70. Others	Tram Terminus. 5.30 p.m. Capt. Tolley.	Carrying material under orders of Capt. Tolley to EVE ALLEY etc.
22.	13th Bn.	1. N.C.O. 15. men.	H. Qrs. 13th Bn. 8.30 a.m. Lt. Baldwin.	Constructing Corps Observation Post SWITCH TRENCH
23.	13th Bn.	1. Officer 20. men.	On work. 5 p.m. C.O., 4th M.G. Company	Assisting No. 31 Party at M.G. Positions Intermediate.
24.	13th Bn.	1. N.C.O. 10. men	On work. Lt. Keesing 5 p.m.	Wiring Reserve Line (Special Party).

## FOURTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Working parties to be supplied daily revised to 30th January, 1917.

No.	Unit.	Strength.	Where to report and to whom.	Nature of duty
25.	16th Bn.	1. Officer 20. (Mines ing Platoon)	On work. 8.30.a.m. Capt. Tusker.	Continuing NICHOLSONS TUNNEL. Making dugouts NEAR SWITCH TRENCH.
26.				
27.	13th Bn.	1. Officer 30. men.	Tramway Terminus nr. BULL ROAD. 8.30.a.m. Spr. Kydd.	Constructing Tramway to WATLING STREET DUMP.
28.	16th Bn.	1. Officer 60. men.	Tramway Siding QUARRY SIDING. Sgt. Donaldson.	Loading party in 4 shifts of 1. N. C. O. and 14 men 6 hrs. each. R.E. Dump to Bde. H. Qrs.
29.	16th Bn.	1. N.C.O. 17. men.	214th Army Troops Co at 8.20.a.m.	Permanent water Wardens.
30.	15th Bn.	1. N.C.O. 25. men.	Assisting on 13th Bn. H. Qrs. 8.30.a.m.	Revetting & duckboarding POSSUM RESERVE with Party No. 13.
31.	16th Bn.	1. Officer 60. Others	Bde. H. Qrs. & On work.	Constructing M.G. Pos- itions under C.O. 4th M. G. Company.
32.	13th Bn.	1. N.C.O. 20. men.	Railhead Dump (Per- manent) 5.p.m. to 11.p.m.	Pushing material in trucks from Railhead Dump to BULLS ROAD.
33.	13th Bn.	2 parties 1. N.C.O. 12 men each	13th Bn. H. Qrs. 8.30.a.m.	Putting out Defensive wire along strong posts 5 & 6.
34.	13th Bn.	1. Officer 50. Others	Bde. H. Qrs. 5.p.m.	Loading & pushing material Railhead Dump.
36.	13th Bn.	1. N.C.O. 3. men.	Staff Captain Bde. H. Qrs.	Gas Guard.
35.	16th Bn.	1. N.C.O. 20. men.	Bde. H. Qrs. Asst. Bde Major. 8.30.a.m.	Constructing banks in tunnel near Bde. H. Qrs.
37.	14th Bn.	3. Carpen- ters	On work. 8.30.a.m.	Putting in fibre-steps Reserve Line.
38.	13th Bn.	1. N.C.O. 20. men.	On work. 8.30.a.m. Sgt. Grant.	Removing spoil from SWITCH TRENCH end NICHOLSONS Tunnel.
39.	14th Bn.	1. N.C.O. 3. men.	Dump BULL ROAD 14th Bn. H. Qrs.	Guard on 4th Bde. material and stores.

The garrisons of the Front Line are responsible for the maintenance of Firing and Support Lines and the wiring of important points along the Front Line.

The Reserve Battalion (16th) camped at BERNAFAY will be employed on the intermediate and Second Line of Defence.

Brigade works Officer - The Assistant Brigade Major (Major Wilton).

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

30th January, 1917.

Detail of Working Parties to be supplied by 4th Australian  
Infantry Brigade for Corps work.

No.	Battn.	H.Q. of Battn.	Strength of Party.	To whom report.	Location.	Nature of work.
1.	16th.	RIBEMONT.	Whole Battn.	Major Sturdee.	MANETZ.	Road making.
2.	13th.	RIBEMONT.	2 Coys.	Officer in charge.	WILLOW SIDING. F.4.B.	Off loading.
3.	15th.	D.12.d. S.B. ALBES- ET-AMIENS Road.	1. Offer 40. Other Ranks.	C.B.	E.22. Central.	M/H. Dump.
4.	15th.	ditto	4. Offers 222. Other Ranks.	"Q"1/ 1/ANZAC.	VIVIER MILL.	Railhead O.O.
5.	15th.	ditto	2. Offers 150. Other Ranks.	1st ANZAC "Q".	BEAULTE.	Ammunition Railhead.
6.	15th.	ditto	2. Offers. 100. Other Ranks.	C.B.	R.11.d. S.3.	O.C. Corps Troops Workshops.
7.	15th.	ditto	1. Offer. 80. Other Ranks.	C.B.	RIBEMONT.	149th. A.T. Company.
8.	14th.	RIBEMONT.	1. Of. 100. O.R.	Cps. Sal. Off.	EDGEHILL SIDING.	Off Loading.

12/11/16.

*Alfred Jones*

Captain  
Staff Captain.  
4th Aust Inf Brigade.

Detail of Working Parties to be supplied by 4th Aust  
Infantry Brigade for Corps work.

No. Battn.	H.Q. of Battn.	Strength of Party.	When to report.	To whom.	Nature of Work.
1. 15th.	D.12.d. 88. (ALBERT-AMIENS Rd)	1. Battn.			Whole Battalion already allotted duties under Corps arrangement.
2. 16th.	RIBEMONT.	Whole Battn.		Major Sturdee 4th Div Egrs "A Sect" Rds.	Road making.
3. 14th.	RIBEMONT.	2. Coys,	R.E. Work-shops. E.17. in C.29. MEAUETE.	Officer in charge.	Off loading stores.
4. 14th.	RIBEMONT.	1. Platoon.	E.22.d. 1.6.	Officer in charge.	
5. 14th.	RIBEMONT.	1. Coy.	VIVIER MILL.	Officer in charge.	Off loading ammunition.
6. 14th.	RIBEMONT.	3. Platoons.	Amn RHead MEAUETE.	Officer in charge.	Off loading ammunition.
7. 13th.	RIBEMONT.	2. Coys.	WILLOW SIDING. F.4.B.Nr MAMETZ.	Officer in charge.	Off loading stores.
8. 13th.	RIBEMONT.	2. Platoons.	RIBEMONT WORKSHOP.	Officer in charge 149.A.T. Company.	

10/11/16.

*Albert Sturdee*  
Captain.  
Staff Captain.  
4th Aust Inf Brigade.

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War Diary

Appendix A/16

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SECRET.

Appendix XI

Fourth Australian Infantry Brigade.

HEADQUARTERS. TRENCH

7th February, 1917.

**DAILY INTELLIGENCE REPORT.** From 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. 7-2-17 to 6 a.m. 8-2-17.

Our operations. Communication was maintained in our whole area throughout the night and connection was kept up with the Battalions on our flanks. A patrol picked up at 9 p.m. and proceeded up Bayonet Trench as far as N.20.b.0.4. and then along the road to about N.20.a.0.4. They then crossed to vicinity of trees at N.20.b.1.4. then to N.20.b.4.5. and returned to our line at N.20.b.6.2. When at N.20.b.0.4. one of the enemy was seen, evidently on guard in front of a working party at about N.20.b.3.7. The artillery were informed and at once got to work. A patrol left our line at 2.20 a.m. starting from N.21.d.6.7 and patrolled north along the road for 90 yards. A series of enemy disconnected posts were located running approximately from N.21.b.4.4. to N.21.b.7.7. and are lightly manned. The patrol returned at 3 a.m. having been observed and fired at. An enemy post was also observed at N.21.d.8.9. and it appears to be either an O.P. or Strong point. A flying traverse has been built at N.21.b.1.2.7.

**Work.** Throughout the last period considerable work has been done consolidating the new line and putting out new wire. A party was at work on the communication trench running from N.21.d.2.7. to N.21.d.3.9. It now averages from 3 feet to 3 feet 6 inches deep. Vickers Guns have been installed at N.21.d.1.1.7. and N.21.d.5.7. A "T" head has been made at bombing post on the left flank N.21.b.1.2.7. while a flying traverse has been built at N.21.b.1.2.7.

**Signals.** At 10.35 p.m. an S.O.S. was sent up from our right sector at the time the enemy had placed our left flank under barrage with Pineapple Bombs. At the same time a large number of men were seen running in direction of our line and they were thought to be attacking troops. At 10.38 p.m. our artillery barrage opened. It was discovered that the party were some of a large working party who had been dispersed by our artillery fire. An enemy orange flare was fired by enemy over our party digging the communication trench and Enemy Machine Gun and Trench Mortar fire were brought to bear on it from different directions.

**Artillery.** At 3.30 a.m. it was reported that our artillery firing 6" howitzer shells were firing close to Goodwin's Post. Between 7.30 p.m. and 8 p.m. this was again reported. Shells falling in vicinity of N.21.c.1.9. Our artillery fire directed at located Trench Mortar positions was reported to be accurate while our barrage at 10.30 p.m. was good.

**Enemy Artillery.** There was very little enemy artillery activity on our back area. One of our planes which fell at 1.30 a.m. on ground near N.26.a.9.5. was fired at but no direct hits have so far resulted. A few shells were fired at N.20.3. from a bearing of 620 Magnetic but these did not hit our trench. Guedecourt, Eve Alley and road from N.21.c.5.0. to N.21.d.4.8. were shelled at intervals during the last period.

**Trench Mortars.** Our front line was subjected to slight 77 mm shelling from the direction of Ligny Thilloy. At 10 p.m. the enemy threw a number of pineapple bombs in the vicinity of Fugitive Alley. They appeared to be fired from N.21.d.6.1.7. The artillery was informed. At

SECRET. HEADQUARTERS. 7th February, 1917.

IX. February

SECRET

10.51.p.m. the enemy barraged our left Company of right Sector with Trench mortars but caused no damage. At 2.a.m. an enemy Hum Jar landed in our line in vicinity of N.21.d.6.7. causing 5 casualties. At 5.15.a.m. the

enemy fired a large number of pineapple bombs from the N.21.d.4.2. Artillery were informed and fired on the position. Another Trench Mortar position has been located at N.21.d.5.9. At 6.55.a.m. pineapple bombs were fired at our trenches from the vicinity of N.21.a.8.5. N.21.a.9.5. causing damage to our trenches and causing casualties. Artillery opened on this area with 4.5 Howitzers and the shooting was accurate. The bombing ceased at 10.30.p.m. and the shooting was accurate. The guard in front of the trenches was accurate. The enemy were informed and at once got to work.

Throughout yesterday small enemy parties were observed moving along tracks and roads in valley opposite our new line. At 8.45.p.m. an enemy working party attacked our right flank from a line of shell holes which they occupied between N.22.c.0.6. and N.21.d.9.6. They were beaten off with Mills and Rifle Grenades. At 10.35.p.m. an enemy working party opposite N.21.d.7.7. were dispersed by one of our shells. At 1.32.p.m. enemy were heard digging in Sunray Trench.

Work. Throughout the last period considerable work has been done. About 1.30.p.m. one of our aeroplanes was brought down as a result of a dud and under perfect control but the observer was not hurt. The pilot was damaged. Its engine was damaged and it was brought down behind his lines under similar circumstances.

At 10.35.p.m. an 8.0.8. was sent up from our right sector at the time the enemy had placed our left flank under barrage with Pineapple Bombs. At the same time a large number of men were seen running in direction of our line. At 10.38. they were thought to be attacking troops. It was discovered that they were some of a large working party who had been dispersed by our artillery fire. An enemy orange flare was fired by enemy over our party digging the communication trench and enemy Machine Gun and Trench Mortar fire were brought to bear on it from different directions.

At 3.30.a.m. it was reported that our artillery firing 8" howitzer shells were firing close to Goodwin's Post. Between 7.30.p.m. and 8.p.m. this was again reported. Shells falling in vicinity of N.21.c.1.9. Our artillery fire directed at located Trench Mortar positions was reported to be accurate while our barrage at 10.30.p.m. was good.

Enemy Artillery. There was very little enemy artillery activity on our back area. One of our planes which fell at 1.30.a.m. on ground near N.22.a.9.5. was fixed at but no direct hits have so far resulted. A few shells were fired at N.20.3. from a bearing of 820 Magnetic but these did not hit our trench. Goodwin's Post, Five Alley and road from N.21.c.0.0. to N.21.d.4.8. were shelled at intervals during the last period.

Our front line was subjected to slight 7.7mm shelling from the direction of Ligny Thillois. At 10.p.m. the enemy threw a number of pineapple bombs in the vicinity of Positive Alley. They appeared to be fired from N.21.d.4.1. The artillery was informed. At

*Handwritten signature*

*Handwritten text*

Artillery.

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Appendix XII

SECRET

Copy No. 16

FOURTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER NO. 62.

6/2/1917.

The 4th Australian Infantry Brigade will be relieved by the 12th Australian Infantry Brigade in the Right Sector of the Divisional front on the nights 8th/9th and 9th/10th February.

2. Officers commanding Units of Brigades will mutually arrange all details of relief. The two Support Companies of the Front Line Battalions will be relieved on night 8th/9th.
3. To prevent congestion or men going astray C.O's. will provide guides and arrange control posts.
4. Units of the 4th Australian Infantry Brigade will relieve units of 12th Australian Infantry Brigade and take over camps at Hametz as follows:-
  - 13th Battalion relieved by 46th Battalion takes over camp vacated by 45th Battalion.
  - 14th Battalion relieves 45th Battalion takes over camp vacated by 47 46th Battalion.
  - 15th Battalion on 7th instant takes over BECOURT CAMP.
  - 16th Battalion relieved by 47th Battalion takes over camp vacated by 46 47th Battalion.
  - 4th Machine Gun Company relieved by 12th Machine Gun Company takes over camp vacated by 12th Machine Gun Company.
  - 4th A.L.T.M. Battery relieved by 12th A.L.T.M. Battery takes over camp vacated by 12th A.L.T.M. Battery.
5. The mining platoon of each Battalion, 1 Officer 20 other ranks, will relieve the Mining Company of the 12th Australian Infantry Brigade on Ammunition Tunnels at QUARRY SIDING on 9th instant. Capt. TUCKER, C.O., 4th Brigade Mining Company will supervise work of 12th Brigade Mining Company in the RIGHT SECTOR.
6. All Trench and Area Stores such as Gum Boots, Seyer Steves &c. will be handed over and a receipt taken. A list in duplicate 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 Gum Boots are taken out of the line.
7. Units will send forward a small party under an Officer to take over all Area Stores and obtain certificate for NISSON Huts without linings.
8. Completion of relief will be reported to Brigade Headquarters by TRENCH CODE.
9. ACKNOWLEDGE.

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

- Copy No. 1 War Diary.  
 2 4th Aust. Division.  
 3 13th Battalion.  
 4 14th Battalion.  
 5 15th Battalion.  
 6 16th Battalion.  
 7 4th M.G. Company.  
 8 4th A.L.T.M. Battery.  
 9 G.O.C., 13th Aust. Inf. Brigade.  
 10 G.O.C., 15th Aust. Inf. Brigade.  
 11 G.O.C., 12th Aust. Inf. Brigade.  
 12 A.D.M.S.  
 13 C.R.A. 4th Aust. Division.  
 14 7th A.A.S.C.  
 15 File.

*[Handwritten signatures and initials]*

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Appendix XIV

Fourth Australian Infantry Brigade.

HEADQUARTERS.

8th February, 1917.

INTELLIGENCE REPORT. From 6.a.m. 7-2-17 to

Our operations.

6.a.m. 8-2-17.

Patrols. Communication was maintained throughout the night along our whole sector and connection was kept with the Battalions on our flanks.

Work. General work carried out on the whole of our area. Further work was done in the communication trench running from N.21.d.2.7. to N.21.d.3 1/2.9.

Artillery. Was not active during the day. Between 10.20 and 11.15.p.m. our artillery opened on a large enemy working party between N.21.b.6.0. and N.21.d.7.9. Working parties in Ham Trench were dispersed by our fire. It was reported by our Battalions that our artillery firing was short, and which was noticeable at Goodwin's Post, and while our barrage was on after 11.26.p.m. on our right sector.

Enemy Artillery. There was little on our back area. 20 H.E. and a few 77.mm only fell on vicinity of No.20.3. There was intermittent shelling of our line from N.21.d.3.9 1/2. to N.21.d.8 1/2.5. with H.E.'s and 77.mm.

Trench Mortars. The enemy was very active in this respect. The junction of Fugitive Alley with N.21.4. and the whole line of our right sector with intervals were heavily bombed. Goodwin's Post received a little attention though no damage was done here.

Enemy Machine Guns. An enemy Gun firing from about N.21.a.85.50. enfiladed our trenches.

Enemy Movement. Parties were seen at Thilley at 2.10.p.m. Our artillery however dispersed them. A party of 30 men under cover of a trench mortar barrage rushed our right flank at 11.30.p.m. using egg bombs. They were driven off. An S.C.S. was sent up at 11.26.p.m. and the barrage following was very prompt.

Flares. There was an absence of orange coloured flares last night

Aircraft. Enemy aeroplanes were active throughout the day. As many as 12 being over at one time. At 5.10.p.m. an aeroplane flew over Chalk Pit firing machine guns and wounded 1 man.

*[Signature]*

2/Lieutenant.  
Intelligence Officer.  
4th Aust. Inf. Brigade.



Fourth Australian Infantry Brigade.  
HEADQUARTERS.  
8th February, 1917.

REPORT "A".  
-----

1. WIRE ENTANGLEMENTS.

(a) Front Line.

50 yards of wire in front of Sector N.21.4. A block placed across Bayonet Trench. 40 yards in front of Sector N.20.3. A block placed across the trench on our left flank at N.21.3.1½.2½.

- (b) & 600 yards have been placed in front of POSSUM RESERVE as well
- (d) as 200 yards partly completed.

(c) Reserve Line.

- A 400 yards have been wired and a tactical wire block placed
- (e) in front of No. 6 strong post.

2. FIRE TRENCHES AND STRONG POINTS.

(a) Front Line.

Trenches have been deepened and cleaned. New trench is being cut across from N.20.3. to N.20.4. 200 yards being to a depth of 1'6" and 70 yards 2 feet.

Duckboarding & revetting is being proceeded with on left (N.20.3.).

On the right our new firing line has had fire steps out, and has had parapets reversed, trenches on left being flattened out. Goodwin's Post has been strengthened and improved, but was considerably blown about during the night of the 4th instant, and has now been straightened up.

(b) Possum Reserve.

- & Revetted 253 yards.
- (d) Duckboarded 260 yards.
- Prepared for duckboards and Revetments 250 yards
- Firestepped 100 yards.
- Dug 4'6" deep and 2' wide 200 yards.

Switch Trench.

Revetted & Duckboarded 170 yards.  
Prepared for revetment 300 yards.

(f) Strong Points 5 and 6. 22 sets put in, work proceeding well  
Gap Trench

Cleaned throughout.  
Shelters made for 200 men.

3. RVR ALLEY.

Cleaned and dug to depth 5' throughout to Chalk Cliff.  
Revetted and duckboarded 80 yards.  
Ready for use 350 yards.  
Since been blown in in parts and continually heavily shelled.

Fatigue Alley.

Completely duckboarded and revetted.

Fugitive Alley.

Dug throughout.  
Revetted 4 yards  
Revetted (sandbag) 3 yards.  
Duckboarded 10 yards.  
Deepened to 5 feet 230 yards.  
Deepened to 6 feet Remainder.  
A communication trench has been dug to a uniform depth of 4 feet 6 inches from N.21.d.2.7. to N.21.d.3½.9.

- 2 -

## 4. OVERLAND ROUTES.

266 yards double track laid and route Tank in Grass Lane via Bully Road to Brigade Headquarters completed.

## 5. FRONT SYSTEM.

- (a) Nil. ) German dugouts in new trench  
(b) Nil. ) 1 completed.

## Intermediate System.

## Grass Lane.

- (a) Nil.  
(b) 3310 cubic feet excavated and timbered.

## Chalk Cliff.

- (a) Nil.  
(b) 1152 cubic feet excavated and timbered (Interfered with by offensive operations.

## Cheese Road.

- (a) Nil.  
(b) 1125 cubic feet excavated and timbered.

## In Rear 2nd Line.

## Nicholson's Tunnel.

- (a) Nil.  
(b) 1765 cubic feet excavated and timbered.

## Brigade Headquarters.

- (a) One dugout 354 cubic feet excavated and timbered.  
(b) Nil.

## Left Battalion Headquarters.

- (a) Nil.  
(b) 160 cubic feet old drives removed, timbered, repaired and replaced, and close timbered.

## 6. Front Line.

- (a) Nil.  
(b) 2 Vickers emplacements  
at H.21.b.1 $\frac{1}{2}$ .1 $\frac{1}{2}$ .  
and H.21.d.5 $\frac{1}{2}$ .6 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

## Intermediate Line.

- (a) Nil.  
(b) Corps Machine Gun Positions.  
No.5 Gun Position - Stairway completed, fully timbered and now driving drives in about 3 feet and timbered. Depth of Stairway - 22 feet To complete - dugout to be excavated and timbered.  
No. 6 " " Same as above.  
No.7 " " Both shafts down 12 feet and timbered. Stairways commenced and down 10 feet and timbered.  
No. 8 " " New positions started since we came into this area. Shafts down 12 feet & timbered  
No.9 " " Both shafts down 12 feet and timbered. Stairways commenced.  
No.50 " " A new position has been started in rear of Reserve Line, fire from which covers May Trench in left Brigade Area. Shafts on this position down 12 feet and timbered.

## Second Line.

- (a) Nil.  
(b) Positions in course of construction in strong points Nos. 5 and 6.  
Shafts down and timbered 12 feet and stairways commenced.

- 3 -

## 6. SCRAPPED WORKS.

No works have been actually scrapped though some have not been worked upon as it was considered advisable to complete the most important ones first.

Saps Flare Alley and Cocoa Lane have not been used, as overland routes have proved better.

Attached is copy of our working party table.

Works have been greatly affected by offensive operations since 2nd instant.

APPENDIX XIV

S E C R E T.

Fourth Australian Infantry Brigade.  
HEADQUARTERS.

11th February, 1917.

C. O.,  
ALL UNITS.

The following are the casualties and evacuations from 1st to 9th instant inclusive :-

	Killed or Wounded. D.O.W.		Wounded and Missing. Missing.		Sick.	Total.
4th A.L.T.M. Battery.	4	4	-	-	-	8
4th M. G. Company.	1	5	-	-	-	6
13th Battalion.	46	176	-	1	38	261
14th Battalion.	20	63	-	3	41	127
15th Battalion.	14	104	14	38	32	202
16th Battalion.	9	41	-	1	16	67
	94	393	14	43	127	671

*Erund Milton* Major.  
A/Brigade-Major.  
4th Aust. Inf. Brigade.

Appendix No. 14

War Diary  
Appendix XXV

Fourth Australian Infantry Brigade.  
HEADQUARTERS.  
11th February, 1917.

WORKS REPORT.

Report "B".  
25-1-1917 to 9-2-1917.

- 1. (a) Fairly good. Both left and right subsectors having been deepened and cleaned. New trench has been cut to a depth of 1'6" for 200 yards and 2 feet for 70 yards from N.20.3. to N.20.4. The new line N.21.b.1 $\frac{1}{2}$ .2 $\frac{1}{2}$ . to N.21d.10.5 $\frac{1}{2}$ . is in good condition and varies in depth from 9 feet to 5 feet.
- (b) The Support Line has been continuously worked on and is except for a couple of hundred yards from 4'6" to 6 feet deep, revetted and duckbearded for 250 yards with an additional 250 yards prepared for same. 100 yards fire-stepped. The general condition is very good.
- (c) SWITCH TRENCH. Has been revetted and duckbearded 180 yards with 300 yards prepared for same. It has been deepened and shelters put in for men. Strong Posts Nos. 5 and 6 have been worked on and show good progress.
- 2. (a) A little wire has been put out on the left of the sector N.21.4 and in front of N.21.3. A small block at N.21.b.1 $\frac{1}{2}$ .2 $\frac{1}{2}$ .
- (b) In front of Possum Reserve 800 yards of wire are in process of formation, about 600 yards being completely wired.
- (c) About 400 yards of trench has been wired.
- 3. (a) (1) Brigade Headquarters accommodation for 2 additional Officers.  
(2) Left Battalion Headquarters N.31.b.3.1. Accommodation completed for 150 extra men by renewing timber and cleaning out old workings.
- (b) Nil.
- 4. (a) (1) CHEESE ROAD N.26.a.2.9. 1125 cubic feet excavated and timbered.  
(2) GRASS LANE N.25.b.7.3. 2310 cubic feet excavated and timbered.  
(3) CHALK CLIFF N.27.a.7.3. 1152 cubic feet excavated and timbered.  
(4) NICHOLSON'S TUNNEL T.1.c.2.4. 1765 cubic feet excavated and timbered.
- (b) Nil.
- 5. Corps Machine Gun positions, Intermediate Line. All under construction. Nos. 5 & 6 almost completed. No nests yet.

Map Reference.	Open. deep dugout.	With deep dugout.	Covered with deep dugout.	Description of covered emplacement - concrete or otherwise.
N.31.b.5.5.			No. 5.	M.G. nest near top of shaft not completed. Shaft to be covered with railway iron and earth.
N.31.b.9.5.			No. 6.	do.

/ Over



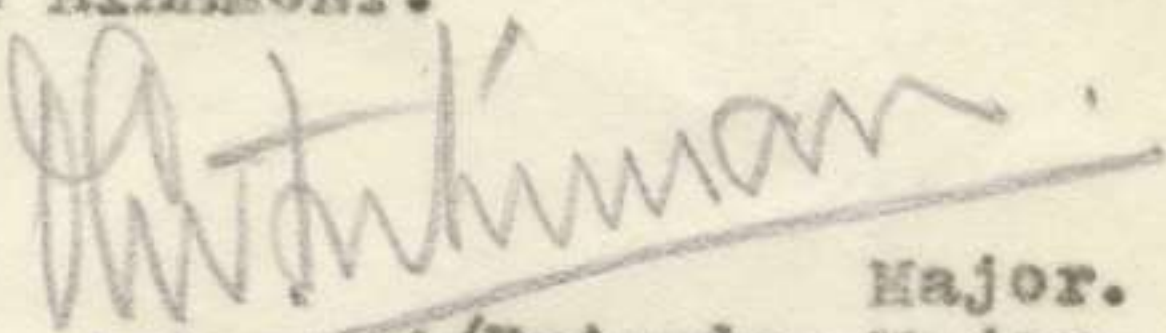
SECRET.

Copy No. 11

## FOURTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER NO. 63.

Reference :- ALBERT (Combined Sheet) 1/40,000.

1. The Fourth Australian Infantry Brigade will move to RIBEMONT on Thursday the 22nd February via MEAULTE-DERNANCOURT-BUIRE remaining there for about a fortnight.
2. The 15th Battalion will move independently from BECOURT Camp and will be clear of same at 9.a.m. on 22nd February.
3. Units in MAMETZ Camp will pass the starting point WILLOW SIDING at 9.a.m. on 22nd February in the following order :-  
 Brigade Headquarters.  
 14th Battalion.  
 13th Battalion.  
 4th A.M.G. Company.  
 4th A.L.T.M. Battery.  
 The head of column will halt 15 minutes before entering MEAULTE, 10 minutes before entering DERNANCOURT and 10 minutes before entering BUIRE.
4. Arrangements are being made by the Corps to relieve the 16th Battalion on 24th February. This Unit will then move to RIBEMONT under regimental arrangements.
5. 100 yards between Companies and 200 yards between units will be preserved.
6. Arrangements for transport of blankets &c. will be notified later.
7. Certificates as to condition of Huts also list of Area Stores for handing over &c. will be handed in to Brigade Headquarters at 9.p.m. on 21st February.
8. Cleaning up parties or stragglers are to join the nearest Unit, rejoining their own units at first or subsequent halts.
9. Billeting parties to report to the A/Staff-Captain at 11.30.a.m. on 21st February at Town Major's Office RIBEMONT.
10. ACKNOWLEDGE.

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

- Copy No. 1 War Diary.  
 2 4th Australian 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 File.