

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/7/28

Title: 7th Infantry Brigade

December 1917



AWM4-23/7/28

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

ORIGINAL

Army Form C. 2118.

95

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

DECEMBER 1917.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
NEUVE EGLISE	1917 Dec. 1 - 14		<p>Reference Maps Sheets 28 S.W. 1/20,000, 36 N.W. 1/20,000.</p> <p>7th A.I. Brigade in huts and billets in and around NEUVE EGLISE. Training in progress including Battalion tactical schemes and special training of raiding parties. For the latter work a suitable training ground was prepared with wire, trenches, etc. to represent NO MANS LAND and the enemy trenches. Three Rifle ranges were constructed and inter-Brigade and inter-Battalion Sports were vigorously carried out. A permanent Brigade Concert Party was formed and gave several performances.</p>	Appen. 1.
Line	14/15		<p>Brigade relieved the 10th A.I. Brigade in the Left sub-sector of the Right Divisional Sector of the Corps front on a two-battalion front. Relief completed without casualties. 5th A.I. Brigade on Right flank and 3rd A.I. Brigade on Left.</p>	" 2.
	23, 25		<p>Inter-Battalion relief in the line completed without casualties.</p>	" 3.
	31, 1 Jan.		<p>Inter-Battalion relief in the line completed without casualties.</p>	" 4.
<p>During the period under review, i.e. December 14th 1917 to January 2nd 1918 (both dates inclusive) the Brigade took over and occupied a front of nearly 2,000 yards with WARNETON facing it on the Left centre and the River LYS on the Right where it flows through NO MANS LAND for 500 yards and then follows a N.E. course. The River DOUVE formed the Left flank.</p> <p>The most dominant feature of the enemy's defences was a concrete tower in WARNETON some 60 feet in height built by the enemy and used as an O.P. From this tower he could gain observation of practically the whole of our area back as far as U.14, and all efforts to destroy it had proved futile.</p> <p>The front line consisted for the most part of posts disconnected when taken over, but which were speedily connected up, except for a swampy gap in the centre, to form a continuous line, duckboarded, and the wire in front strengthened. A Support Line was also dug and wired, and on the 31st was very nearly complete.</p> <p>Under the improved conditions the men were comfortable in spite of the extreme cold, and hot food was delivered to every post at least three times in the 24 hours. Xmas comforts provided by the Australian Comforts Fund were delivered with each man's rations on Xmas Day.</p>				

WAR DIARY

or

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(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			- 2 -	
			<p>The weather was remarkably favourable during the whole period, with heavy frosts daily, and occasional light falls of snow, but no rain.</p> <p>The morale of the men was excellent, and sickness at a minimum. Considering the time of the year, Tr ench Feet (a source of great anxiety last winter) were conspicuous by absence, the few cases dealt with being mostly recurrences from last winter. This is considered to be largely due to (1) the non-use of gum boots, (2) the daily supply of dry clean socks, and (3) daily inspection of mens' feet by a specially detailed chiropodist.</p> <p>The attitude of the enemy was docile, and he did not usually give trouble except in retaliation.</p> <p>Patrolling was vigorously carried out and we had almost undisputed command of NO MANS LAND.</p> <p>No raids were carried out but the identifications established by our predecessors were normal, as shown in Appendix 5. <i>(TO WAR RECORDS only)</i></p> <p>Appendix 6. Honours List. " 7. Salvage Return. " 8. Oblique Photographs of enemy territory " 9. Intelligence Summaries " 10. Casualties for month of December " 11. Statement of Reinforcements arrived during December</p>	<p>Appendix 5. " 6 " 7 " 8 " 9 " 10 " 11.</p>
			<p><i>Manawatu</i> Brig. General, Commanding 7th Australian Infantry Brigade.</p>	

App I 55

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

Record of FOOTBALL MATCHES played during week ending 30 11/17, showing results.

Date	Game	Grade	Teams	Ground	Result	Remarks
24/11/17	RUGBY	A	7th F.E. v M.G.	M.G. Coy	Drawn Game	
"	"	"	26th v 25th	26th	26th, 3 - 0	
"	"	B	25 b v 26 b2	"	25th, 3 - 0	
"	AUSTRALIAN	A	M.G. Coy v 27th	M.G. Coy	27th, 17g, 17b, - nil	
"	"	"	26th v 28th	28th	28th, 7g 11 - 1g 2	
"	"	B	26 b v 27 b2	26th	27 b2, 3g 6b - 3g 5b	
"	"	"	28 b2 v 28 b1	28th	28 b2, 2g 4b - 2g 2b	
"	SOCCER	A	25th v T.M. Bty	27th	25th, 4 - 2	Challenge Match
"	"	"	7th F.E. v M.G. Coy	7th F.E.	7th F.E., 5 - 1	
"	"	"	27th v 28th	28th	drawn game.	
"	"	"	26th v B.H.Q.	26th	26th, 3 - 1	
"	"	B	28 b2 v 27 b1	28th	27 b1, 1 - 0	
"	"	"	27 b2 v M.G.b	27th	M.G.b, 3 - 1	
"	"	"	28 b1 v 26 b	26th	28 b1, 3 - 1	
21/11/17	AUSTRALIAN	A	28th v 44	44th	28th, 10g 17b - 3g 2b	Challenge Match
22/11/17	"	"	B. Coy 27 v D Coy 27.	27th	B Coy 27, 4g 8r - 4g 5b	" "
21/11/17	RUGBY	A	25th v 42nd	42nd	42, 25 - 3	
"	"	"	A Coy 26 v B Coy 26.	26th	B. Coy, 6 - 3	Challenge Match.
"	SOCCER	A	C. Coy 26th v D. 26.	26th	Drawn game 1 - 1	" "
20/11/17	RUGBY	A	26th v 41st	41st	" " 3 - 3	" "
"	SOCCER	A	26th v 164th Bty	26th	164th Bty 3 - 1	
20/11/17	RUGBY	A	25th v 7th F.E.	M.G. Coy	25th, 6 - 0	
"	"	"	26th v M.G. Coy	26th	26th, 3 - 0	
"	"	B	25th v 26 b1	26th	Drawn game. No score	
"	"	"	26 b2 v 7th F. Amb.	26th	7th F. Amb, 3 - 0	
"	AUSTRALIAN	A	M.G. v 26th	M.G. Coy	M.G. 3g 6b - 2g 4b	
"	"	"	27th v 28th	27th	28th, 4g 5b - 3g 6b	
"	"	B	26 b v 28 b2	28th	28 b2, 7g 5b - 3b	
"	"	"	27 b2 v 27 b1	27th	27 b2, 3g 5b - 1g 3b	

APPENDIX.

Date	Game	Grade	Teams	Ground	Result	Remarks
26/11/17	SOCCER	A	25th v 7th F.E.	7th F.E.	7th F.E. 8 - 0	
"	"	"	7th F.Amb v M.G.	26th	M.G. 6 - 3	
"	"	"	27th v 26th	27th	26th, 1 - 0	
"	"	"	28th v B.H.Q.	28th	Drawn game No score	
"	"	B	28 b2 v F.M.B.	28th	" " " "	
"	"	"	M.G. b v 26 b	26th	26th, 6 - 0	
"	"	"	27 b1 v 26 b1	27th	Drawn game	
28/11/17	RUGBI	A	25th v M.G.	M.G.	25th, 12 - 0	
"	"	"	26th v 7th F.E.	26th	26th, 5 - 0	
"	"	B	25th v 7th F.Amb	M.G.	7th F.Amb, 9 - 0	
"	"	"	26 b2 v 26 b1	26th	26 b1, 14 - 0	
"	AUSTRALIAN	A	M.G. v B.H.Q.	28th	B.H.Q. 1g8b - 1g2b	
"	"	"	27th v 26th	27th	27th, 17g12b - 0g3b	
"	"	B	28th v 27 b2	28th	28th, 1g11b - 2g6b	Challenge Match
"	"	"	26 b v 28 b1	26th	28 b1, 5g4b - 2g6b	
"	"	"	26 b2 v 27 b1	27th	28 b2, 2g4b - 2g3b	
"	SOCCER	A	25th v M.G.	26th	M.G. 3 - 1	
"	"	"	7th F.E. v 7th F.Amb.	F.E.	F.E. 2 - 0	
"	"	"	B.H.Q. v 27th	27th	B.H.Q. 6 - 5	
"	"	"	28th v 26th	26th	Drawn game 2 - 2	
"	"	"	28 b2 v 27 b2	28th	28th, 7 - 0	
"	"	"	F.M.B. v 28 b1	28th	28th, 2 - 1	
30/11/17	"	A	B.H.Q. v 14th Div	14th Div.	14th Div. 4 - 0	

APPENDIX /

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

RECORD OF FOOTBALL MATCHES showing results.

Date	Game	Grade	Teams	Ground	Result	Remarks
1/12/17	RUGBY	A	25th v 26th	26th	25th, 8 - 6	
"	"	"	F.A. v M.G.Coy	M.G.Coy	F.A. 5 - 0	
"	"	B	25 b v 26 b2	"	25th, 12 - 0	
"	"	"	26 b1 v F.A.	26th	26 b1, 11 - 6	
"	AUSTRALIAN	A	28th v M.G.	28th	28th, 7g12b - 1g3b	
"	"	"	26th v B.H.Q.	26th	26th, 4g6b - 3g2b	
"	"	B	26 b v 27 b1	27th	27 b1, 2g4b - 1g0b	
"	"	"	27b2 v 28 b1	27th	27 b2, 4g4b - 1g2b	
"	SOCCER	A	25th v 27th	27th	27th, 2 - 1	
"	"	"	F.A. v 28th	28th	Draw, 1 - 1	
"	"	"	F.B. v 26th	F.B.	F.B. 3 - 0	
"	"	"	M.G. v B.H.Q.	26th	Draw, no score	
"	"	B	28b2 v M.G.Coy	28th	Draw, 1 - 1	
"	"	"	27b1 v T.A.S.	26th	Draw, no score	
"	"	"	27b2 v 26 b	27th	26 b, 7 - 0	
"	AUSTRALIAN	A	27th v 44th Div	27th	27th, 6g10b - 6g4b	Challenge Match
"	"	B	28b2 v 44b1	44th	28b2, 4g10b - 3g3b	ditto
2/12/17	"	A	28th v 2nd DAC	27th	28th, 12g3L - 2g4b	ditto
3/12/17	RUGBY	A	25, A.Coy v 25 b Coy	25th	25th A.Coy 6 - 0	ditto
5/12/17	"	A	25th v F.B.	M.G.Coy	F.B. 5 - 3	
"	"	B	25th v 26 b1	M.G.Coy	25th, 8 - 0	
"	"	"	26b2 v F.A.	26th	F.A. 3 - 0	
"	AUSTRALIAN	A	M.G. v 27th	27th	27th	
"	"	"	26th v 28th	26th	28th, 6/7, 3/5	
"	"	B	28 b1 v 27 b1	27th	27b1, 4/12, 0/2	
"	"	"	27b2 v 28b2	28th	28b2, 6/8, 4/0	
"	SOCCER	A	F.A. v 27th	27th	F.A. 2 - 0	
6/12/17	"	"	F.B. v B.H.Q.	B.H.Q.	F.B. 3 - 2	
5/12/17	"	"	M.G. v 26th	26th	26th, 3 - 2	
"	"	B	28b2 v 28b1	28th	28b1, 2 - 1	
8/12/17	RUGBY	A	Possibles v Probables	M.G.Coy	"Prob" 9 - 0	Selection Match
"	"	B	25th v 7th	7th F.A.	F.A. 9 - 5	
"	AUSTRALIAN	A	M.G. v 26th	26th	26th 9/6, 4/3	
"	"	"	27th v B.H.Q.	B.H.Q.	27th, 16/15, 0	
"	SOCCER	A	26th v 25th	27th	26th, 4 - 0	

APPENDIX. /

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Date	Game	Grade	Teams	Ground	Result	Remarks
8/12/17	SOCCER	A	M.G. v 27th	27th	27th. 3 - 2	
"	"	E	28th2 v 26 r	26th	28th2, 2 - 1	
"	"	"	T.M.B. v M.G.b	28th	T.M.B. 2 - 0	
"	AUSTRALIAN	A	28th v 27 AGA	28th	28, 9/11 - 3/8	Challenge
12/12/17	RUGBY	A	7th Bde v 5th Bde	M.G.	5th Bde	
11/12/17	AUSTRALIAN	A	28th v M.G.	28th	28th, 9/9 - 3/3	
12/12/17	"	"	26th v B.E.Q.	B.E.Q.	26th, 3/8 - 2/7	
"	"	"	F.A. v 26th	F.A.	Draw - no score	
"	"	"	F.E. v 27th	F.E.	F.E. 6 - 5	
"	"	"	M.G. v 28th	28th	M.G. 1 - 0	
"	"	E	M.G. v 28 B 1	28th	28 B1 6 - 1	
"	AUSTRALIAN	A	27th v 32	27th	27th, 17/17 - 0/3	
"	"	"	27th Off. v 27 o/r	27th	27th Off. 9/4 - 6/5	

APPENDIX. /

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Order No. 146

December 12th 1917.

reference maps Sheet 28 S.W. 1/20,000.
36 N.W. 1/20,000.

1. The 2nd Australian Division will relieve the 3rd Australian Division in the Right Divisional Sector of the Corps front on the 14th, 15th, and 16th instants. The 7th A.I. Brigade will relieve the 10th A.I. Bde in accordance with attached Relief Table. [relieve 11 Bde] 5th A.I. Bde will relieve 9th Bde, and 6th Bde will
2. The distribution of Artillery will remain as at present until completion of the Infantry relief.
3. (a) All information regarding defence policy and training facilities of the NEUVE EGLISE area will be handed over to the incoming units.
(b) Defence schemes, works policy, maps, all information concerning the new front, and trench & area stores in the new sector will be taken over on relief. Duplicates of receipts given will be forwarded to Brigade H.Q. by 6 p.m. on 14th instant.
4. Administrative instructions will be issued later.
5. Commanding Officers of units relieving the front line will arrange to send up 1 Officer per Company, 1 N.C.O. per platoon, and a proportion of specialists, twentyfour hours before taking over.
6. Anti-aircraft Lewis Gun positions will be handed over and taken over. Two Vickers anti-aircraft guns at DE KINNEBAK Siding T.S.b.8.7. will be relieved by 10th A.M. Gun Company on 14th instant, by mutual arrangement.
7. Subject to the terms of this order, all reliefs will be carried out by mutual arrangements between Commanding Officers concerned.
8. Completion of reliefs will be reported by wire in code on 14th instant to both 10th and 7th A.I. Brigades H.Q., and on 15th instant to 7th A.I. Brigade.
9. On completion of relief, the Command of the Left Brigade sector will pass to the G.O.C., 7th A.I. Brigade,
10. 7th A.I. Brigade H.Q. will close at WATERLOO CAMP at 3 p.m. 15th instant, and open at RUE DE SAC, ROMARIN at the same hour.
11. 2nd Australian Division H.Q. will close at RAVALSBURG and open at STEINWERCK at 10 a.m. 16th December.
12. ACKNOWLEDGE.

A. Lee Major, Brigade Major,
7th Australian Infantry Brigade.

Issued to Signals at 8.50 p.m.

For distribution see over.

DISTRIBUTION -

- No. 1. 25th Bn.
2. 26th Bn.
3. 27th Bn.
4. 28th Bn.
5. 7th M.G. Coy.
6. 7th T.M. Bty.
7. 7th Field Coy A.E. (for information)
8. 7th Field Amb.
9. 17th A.A.S.C.
10. 2nd Aust. Div. "G"
11. -do- "Q"
12. 10th A.I. Bde.
13. 5th A.I. Bde.
14. 6th A.I. Bde.
15. Area Commandant, NEUVE EGLISE.
16. G.O.C.
17. B.M.
18. S.C.
19. Bde. Sig. Off.
20. File.
- 21/3 War Diary.
- 24/6 Spare.

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

RELIEF TABLE to accompany 7th A.I. Brigade Order No. 146 dated 12th December 1917.

Date	Unit	From	To	Transport Lines	In relief of	Remarks
1917 Dec. 14th	25th Bn.	NEUVE EGLISE	ROMARIN CAMP	B.3.d.7.9. Warrington B.4.a.6.8. Lines	37th Bn.	} Present Camps and Transport Lines will be vacated by 2.30 pm
ditto	28th Bn.	ALDERSHOT CAMP	RED LODGE T.18.d.7.3.	T.27.l.5.2. Antrim lines.	38th Bn.	
Dec. 1 ⁵ th	27th Bn.	NEUVE EGLISE	Line Right H.Q.U.15.c.9.5.	B.3.d.9.9. Codford Lines	30th Bn.	} Front line <i>units</i> units not to pass HYDE PARK CORNER before 4 p.m. Present T'port lines to be vacated by 3 p.m.
ditto	26th Bn.	SEANKHILL CAMP	Line Left. H.Q., U.9.W.8.4.	B.3.d.8.9. Vickers Lines	40th Bn.	
ditto	7th M/G Coy	HEAL CAMP	Line, H.Q. U.15.c.9.5.	B.8.c.3.8. 23rd M/G Coy	23rd M/G Coy	} ditto
ditto	7th ALTMB	ALDERSHOT CAMP	Line ^{H.Q.} -CATACOMBS U.19.l.3.7.		10th ALTMB	
ditto	7th B.H.Q.	WATERLOO CAMP	RUE DU SAC ROMARIN B.4.c.2.8.	B.4.c.15.80 RUE DU SAC	10th B.H.Q.	} Present camp to be vacated by 3 p.m.

Distances will be maintained as under :-

WEST of RED LODGE	200	yards	between	Companies	by day
EAST " "	200	"	"	Platoons	by night,
" " "	50	"	"	Section	by day.

Routes and roads will be arranged mutually between Commanding Officers concerned.

APPENDIX II

*War Diary**App III*

Copy No. 23

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADEOrder No. 147

December 20th 1917.

Reference Map Sheet 28, 1/40,000.

1. The following inter-battalion reliefs will take place between the 23rd and 25th December 1917.
2. (a) 28th Battalion (C. Bn) will relieve the 26th Battalion (B. Bn) on the night 23/24th December 1917.
(b) The 25th Battalion (D. Bn) will relieve "A" Bn 27th Battalion on the 24th December and night 24/25th December 1917.
(c) On relief the 28th and 27th Battalions will become "C" and "D" Battalions respectively.
3. Maps, aeroplane photographs, trench and area stores will be taken over on relief.
4. The 7th A.M.G. Coy and 7th A.L.T.M. Bty will arrange for the reliefs within their own units as most convenient.
5. The present works policy will be carried on by the incoming units.
6. The transport lines of units will remain as situated at present.
7. Subject to the terms of this order, details of relief will be mutually arranged between C.O's concerned.
8. Completion of reliefs will be reported to Brigade H.Q. by priority wire in code.
9. ACKNOWLEDGE.

*H. Lee*Major, Brigade Major,
7th Australian Infantry Brigade.Issued to Signals at 7 a.m.

Copies to :-

- | | | |
|-----|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. | 25th Bn. | |
| 2. | 26th Bn. | |
| 3. | 27th Bn. | |
| 4. | 28th Bn. | |
| 5. | 7th M/G Coy | |
| 6. | 7th A.L.T.M.B. | |
| 7. | 2nd Aust. Div. 'G' | |
| 8. | " " " 'Q' | |
| 9. | Left Group 2nd Aust. Div. Arty | |
| 10. | 5th A.I. Bde | |
| 11. | 3rd A.I. Bde | |
| 12. | 6th A.I. Bde | |
| 13. | 7th Field Coy | 19. Bde Signal Officer |
| 14. | 17th A.A.S.C. | 20. B.T.O. |
| 15. | A.D.M.S. | 21. File |
| 16. | G.O.C. | 22/24 War Diary |
| 17. | B.M. | 25 to 27 Spare. |
| 18. | S.C. | |

SECRET.

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

Order No. 148

28th December 1917

Reference Map : Sheet 28. 1/40,000

1. The following inter-battalion reliefs will take place on the 31st Dec 1917/1st Jan. 1918 and the 2nd/3rd January 1918.
2. (a) The 26th Battalion "C" Bn. will relieve the 28th Battalion "B" Bn. on the night of the 31st Dec. 1917/1st Jan. 1918.
(b) The 27th Battalion "D" Bn. will relieve the 25th Battalion "A" Bn. on the 2nd January and the night of the 2nd/3rd Jan. 1918.
(c) On relief the 28th Bn. will become "C" Bn. until the afternoon of 2nd January 1918. The 28th Bn. will move to ANOMARIN CAMP on its being vacated by the 27th Bn. 28th Bn will then become "D" Bn.
On relief the 25th Bn. will move to RED LODGE and will become "C" Bn.
3. Maps, Aeroplane photographs, trench and area stores will be taken over on relief.
4. The present works policy will be carried on by incoming Units.
5. The transport lines of Units will remain as situated at present.
6. Subject to the terms of this order details of relief will be arranged mutually between commanding officers concerned.
7. Completion of reliefs will be reported to Bde. H.Qrs. by priority wire in code.
8. Acknowledge.

J.E. Lee

Major, Brigade Major.

7th Australian Infantry Brigade.

Issued to Signals at 7 a.m. 29/12/17.

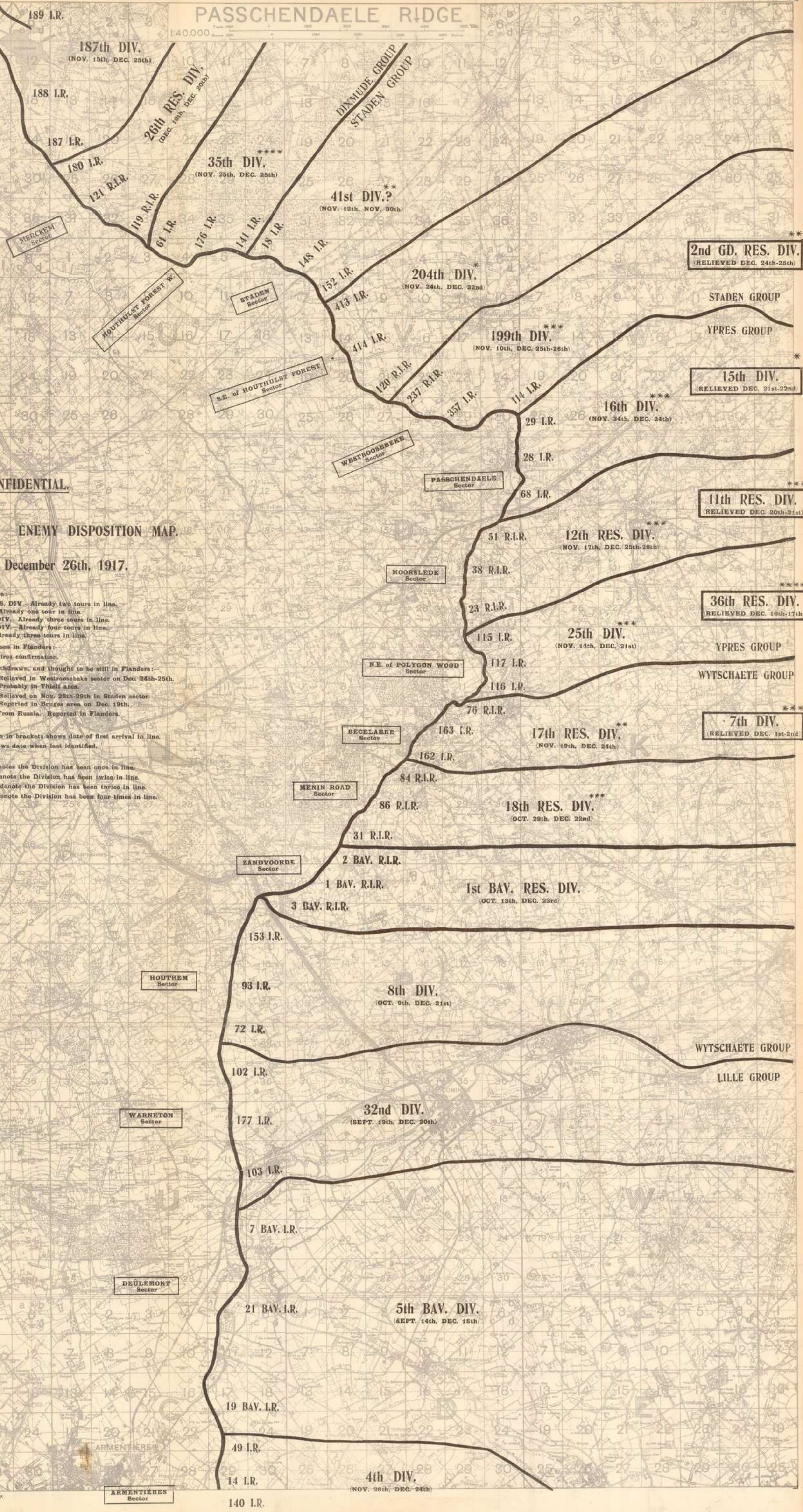
Copies to :-

- | | | | |
|-----|---------------------------------|------|--------------------|
| 1. | 25th Bn. | | |
| 2. | 26th Bn. | | |
| 3. | 27th Bn. | | |
| 4. | 28th Bn. | | |
| 5. | 7th A.G. Coy. | | |
| 6. | 7th A.L. Bty. | | |
| 7. | 2nd Aust. Div. 'G' | | |
| 8. | " " " 'Q' | | |
| 9. | Left Group 2nd Aust. Div. Arty. | | |
| 10. | 5th A.I. Bde. | 16. | G.O.C. |
| 11. | 3rd A.I. Bde. | 17. | B.M. |
| 12. | 6th A.I. Bde. | 18. | S.C. |
| 13. | 7th Field Coy. | 19. | Bde. Sig. Officer. |
| 14. | 17th A.A.S.C. | 20. | B.T.O. |
| 15. | A.D.M.S. | 21. | File. |
| | | 22/4 | War Diary. |
| | | 25/7 | Spare. |

PASSCHENDAELE RIDGE

1:40,000

LAKE BLANCKART Sector



CONFIDENTIAL

ENEMY DISPOSITION MAP.

December 26th, 1917.

- (a) Close Reserve:—
 - 2nd GD. RES. DIV. — Already two tours in line.
 - 16th DIV. — Already one tour in line.
 - 14th RES. DIV. — Already three tours in line.
 - 36th RES. DIV. — Already four tours in line.
 - 7th DIV. — Already three tours in line.
 - (b) Fresh Divisions in Flanders:—
 - 103rd — Requires confirmation.
 - (c) Divisions Withdrawn, and thought to be still in Flanders:—
 - 38th DIV. — Relieved in Westroosebeke sector on Dec. 24th-25th. Probably in Thiel area.
 - 58th DIV. — Relieved on Nov. 28th-29th in Staden sector. Reported in Bruges area on Dec. 19th.
 - 31st DIV. — From Russia. Reported in Flanders.
- First date shown in brackets shows date of first arrival in line.
 Second date shows date when last identified.
- One asterisk denotes the Division has been once in line.
 Two asterisks denote the Division has been twice in line.
 Three asterisks denote the Division has been thrice in line.
 Four asterisks denote the Division has been four times in line.

App 6

List of 7th A.I. Brigade Honours & Awards
as contained in A.I.F.

List No.279.

January 1/1918

Extracts from "The Honours Gazette", "LONDON GAZETTE"
Supplement No. 30450 dated 1st January 1918.

Awarded a Bar to the Distinguished Service Order :-

Lieut. Colonel Reginald John Albert TRAVERS, D.S.O.,
26th Bn.

Awarded the Distinguished Service Order :-

Lieut. Colonel Edward Creer NORRIS, 25th Bn.
Lieut. Colonel George Arthur READ, 28th Bn.
Lieut. Colonel James Charles Francis SLANE, 27th Bn.

Awarded the Military Cross :-

Lieut. Norman GRAHAM, 7th A.L.T.M.Bty
Lieut. Gilbert HARRY, 26th Bn. Attached 7th A.I. Bde
Lieut. John Henry LILLEY, 26th Bn. (H.Q.)
Capt. John Caruthers LITTLE, 26th Bn.
Lieut. Henry Robert NEALE, 27th Bn.
Q.M. and Hon. Lieut. Frederick Bedford NEWELL, 27th Bn.
Lieut. Harold Ford PEARSON, 26th Bn.
Capt. George Henry Glencross SMITH, 26th Bn.
2nd Lieut. Stanley Stuart WOODS, 27th Bn.

Awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal :-

622 Sgt. R.P. FARRIS, 28th Bn.
1764 Sgt. B.F. MURPHY, 28th Bn.

Awarded the Meritorious Service Medal :-

1948 W.O., G.N. MACHIE, 7th Inf. Bde H.Q. Clerical Staff.

Mentioned in Despatches :-

Col. (Tempy Brig. Gen.) E.A. WISDOM, C.B., D.S.O.
68 Cpl. W.P. GEORGE, 7th Inf. Bde H.Q.
2456 C.Q.M.S. H.P. SUMMERS, 7th A.I. Bde H.Q.
Major A. BROWN, D.S.O., M.C., 28th Bn.
Capt. G. CARROLL, 25th Bn.
Lieut. A.P. COBURN, 28th Bn.
Lieut. R.H. HARRIS, 27th Bn.
Capt. H.C. KING, M.C., 28th Bn.
Lieut. J.S. MELLISH, 28th Bn.
Capt. J.K. MURPHY, 26th Bn.
Lieut. M.E.G.P. NIND, 28th Bn.
Lieut. Col. G.A. READ, 28th Bn.
Major J.A. ROBINSON, D.S.O., 26th Bn.
Lieut. Col. J.C.F. SLANE, 27th Bn.
Lieut. Col. R. J.A. TRAVERS, D.S.O., 26th Bn.
Lieut. O.W. TURNER, 25th Bn.
800 Sgt. W.H. BALL, 25th Bn.
87 Sgt. C.W.J. Eastment, 25th Bn.

Honours & Awards List. - 2 -

Mentioned in Despatches (Cont)

77 R.S.M. E. HOGAN, 26th Bn.
135 L/Cpl. W.W. MELLISH, 27th Bn.
407 C.S.M. G.W. SEYMOUR, 26th Bn.
940 Sgt. R.J. TEHAN, 27th Bn.
3166 Pte. T. WILLIAMS, 26th Bn.
575 Q.M.S. M.H. GASMIER, 7th A.M.G.Coy

Summary of SALVAGE collected by 7th A.I. Brigade
during period 16th to 31/12/1917.

Shell Cases	5,030	Scrap Iron	150 lbs
Steel Helmets	43	Anti-aircraft shells	221
Shovels	162	Box Respirators	10
Picks	72	Lamp	1
Water Bottles	36	Ground Sheets	5
" " Carriers	15	Greatcoats	6
Equipment (large quantity)		Cross cut saw	1
Oil Drums	3	Handsaw	1
Cupolas	2	18 pndr gun swap	1
Corrugated Iron shts	166	Driving bands	3
Screw pickets	118	Bogey wheels	1
Mess Tin	1	Dixies	9
Cases 60 pndr	2	S.A.A.	4655 boxes
Railway Truck	1	Stokes Shells	12883
Rails & Sleepers	2 sets, 2 lngths and quantity	Caps Charge Hard	68
Rifles	73	Nose Caps 4.5	382
Shells Hows.	1109	Fuse Caps bags	3
" 18 pndr	294 (8 duds)	T.M.Boxes empty	6
Bombs	2515 & 83 c/s	Malls	3
Tunics	6	Hammers light	2
Blankets	3	Light truck wheels pr	1
Socks	2	Mud scoops	3
Duckboards	4	Magazines L.G.	19
Insulated wire coils	6	L.G. Mag. carriers	4
Sig. Reels	10	L.G. box	1
Spray	1	Car r iers 18 pndr	9
Bomb Boxes	9	Web equipment large quantity	
Charge Boxes	32	P. Bombs	63
Angle Iron	60	Wire Cutters	3
Fire extinguishers	2	Cordite	$\frac{1}{2}$ sandbag
Plain Wire coils	58	Wheelbarrows	2
Barbed wire "	198	Flappers	3
Cable lead "	3	3" nails	70 lbs
Sheet iron shts	26	Brace	1
Boots prs	10	Washing tub	1
P.H.Helmets	16	Switchboard	1
Rum Jars	11	Phenol drum	1
Tent Pole	1	Gun brush	1
Cresol drum	1	Tongs (large)	1
Crowbar	1	Strombos Horn	1
Petrol tins	2	M.G. Tripod (Bosch)	1
Cardigan jacket	1	Pipe Spanner	1
Wire netting coils	7	Panniers	2
Camouflage (gun) "	1	Gun Charges 9.2	2
How. Cases	453	Wire rope	1 roll
Smoke Bombs	148	Leather rifle slings	7
" Detonators c/s	2	Entrenching tools	14
Saddle Cloth	1	Hats F.S.	2
Pump	1	Breech covers	3
Steam Piping	15'	P.G. Gas satchels	10
Fish plates	10	Entrenching tool handles	10
Line Tongs	1	Bayonets	2
Stretchers	7	" scabbards	9
Sandbags	160	Charge cases	500
Time Fuse 6"	5	Rods for 60 pndr Bomb	50
6" Shells	18	Rods & Ctdgs for Mills	23. 120
60 pndr cordite charge	5	Fuses and shell parts	450

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APPENDIX. 7

95

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Detonators		1960
Smoke cases triple		400
" " single		288
Telescope Rifle		1
Food Containers		1
Very Lights 1"		96
Gum Boots	pr	1
Bags of Fuses	quantity	
Tails for T.M. Bombs		55
Component Boxes		8
Smoke Bombs	bags	30
Covers for 4.5 How	"	2
4.5 Charger cups brass		755





APPENDIX. VIII

App 9

CONFIDENTIAL

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

No. 1.

December 18th 1917.

SUMMARY OF INTELLIGENCE from 6 a.m. 15/12/17 to 6 a.m. 16/12/17.

Reference Map Sheet 28 1/40,000

1. OPERATIONS. The 7th A.I. Bde successfully relieved the 10th A.I. Bde in the line at 8.15 p.m.

PATROLS.

a) A patrol of 1 Sergeant and 3 men left our line at U.11.d.65.00. at 6.30 p.m. and proceeded due East for 200 yards. At this point the patrol was within a few yards of enemy wire, which was very thick and strong, and apparently in front of a pill box.

Three men were seen to walk out to a post at approx. U.18.a.2.5.

After moving South to approx. U.17.b.9.1. patrol returned to our line at 10.30 p.m.

Very little hostile machine gun fire was experienced and no enemy patrols were seen.

b) Two patrols reconnoitred NO MANS LAND opposite Left Battalion sector from 11 p.m. to midnight. No enemy patrols were seen and there was nothing unusual to report.

2. ENEMY SHOOTING. From 10 a.m. to 12 noon thirty rounds 4.2 fell along road at approx. U.17.d.1.20. Shells came from direction of WARRINGTON.
Enemy shelled our front line at U.11.c. with 4.2 H.A. at 1 p.m. lasting ten minutes. No damage was done.
3. ENEMY ACTIVITY. Quiet. No unusual activity has been noticed.
4. ENEMY DEFENCES. A few enemy machine guns fired short bursts of sweeping fire at intervals throughout the night. One was located at approx. U.11.d.65.40, and another at approx U.12.c.80.00.
5. ENEMY MOVEMENT. A large enemy working party was seen in vicinity of V.7.c. at 6.45 a.m.
At 11.30 a.m. 4 men with full packs were seen to enter enemy front line.
A fair amount of movement between Gasometer (WARRINGTON) and buildings at U.12.d.20.80. was seen during the day.

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

- Intelligence Report - 27th Bn Observers

16/12/17

Enemy Artillery

SHEET

Table of Shelling Taken from O.P. U.16. & 95.65. 28.5W.4

T	LOCALITY	No. SHELLS	CALIBRE	INTERVALS	GENERAL DIRECTION OF FIRE	REMARKS
10-10 AM	U.17. d	12	5.9 HE	2 secs	135° T.B.	BURST NEAR SUGAR REFINERY
10-15 AM	U.16. &	15	5.9 & 4.2	30 SECS	130° T.B.	Enemy Registration
10-17 AM	U.17. d.	6	4.2 HE	2 SECS	"	"
12-30 AM	U.11. d.	14	5.9 HE		70° T.B.	SALVOES
2-10 PM	U.11. d	16	5.9 HE	30 SECS	70° T.B.	BURST NEAR CROSS ROADS

SPECIAL REPORT

At intervals during the day the Enemy appeared to be carrying on a Registration, extending from AVENUE-COTTAGE U.10. d. to ASH-AVENUE U.9. d. Suspected ZERO point, new trench near AVENUE-COTTAGE.

H. M. Skinner Cpl
27th Bn Observers

CONFIDENTIAL

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

No. 21

December 17th 1917:

SUMMARY OF INTELLIGENCE 6 a.m. 16/12/17 to 6 a.m. 17/12/17.

Reference maps Sheet 28 S.W., 1/20,000.

OPERATIONS.

Artillery. Was below normal during the day and night on our front. Registration was carried out by our Heavies on U.12.b. at 2.30 p.m. to 2.45 p.m.

PATROLS. (1) 1 Sergeant and 3 men left our line at U.11.d.71.0. at 6 p.m. moving in the direction of WARNETON and examined the enemy wire from U.12.c.1.0. to U.11.d.9.3. After close examination two belts of thin wire about 15 yards apart and 20 yards in front of enemy's front line were discovered. Several men were seen to run from a trench near the wire to a ruin near railway line at U.11.d.9.4. From this point a M.G. was very active enfilading the WARNETON - LA BASSE VILLE Railway Line. The patrol then moved to U.12.a.1.8. and returned to our line.

(2) 1 Officer and 4 o/r left our lines at U.11.b.20.55 at 7.45 p.m. to reconnoitre line of connected shell holes at U.11.d.75.50. These were found to be unoccupied and connected with a trench one foot in depth. M.G.'s were observed firing from U.11.d.95.40 and U.11.d.80.80. No enemy movement was seen.

(3) 1 N.C.O. and 4 o/r left U.11.b.2.1. at 10 p.m. with the object of reconnoitring NO MANS LAND opposite posts 5, 6, 7 & 8. The ground here is fairly "good going" being dry except for water in the shell holes, which are plentiful just in front of our wire. A M.G. was found pushed out to a position at U.11.d.8.8. and voices could be heard at this spot. A light M.W. was observed firing from vicinity of U.11.b.65.30 into the Brigade area on our left. At 11.30 p.m. an enemy patrol of 30 men was seen at U.11.d.7.3. moving south in single file.

(4) Other patrols maintained liaison with units on our flanks.

MACHINE GUNS. During the night indirect fire was played on locations where movement was observed during the day, and on target at U.12.b.0.3.

AIRCRAFT. Very active throughout day. Four bombs were dropped on DRULMONT and targets were engaged by M.G.'s.

ENEMY OPERATIONS.

ARTILLERY. Active only between the hours of 10.30 a.m. and 1.30 p.m. when LA DOUVE VALLEY and the vicinity of U.11.a.1.1. were subjected to bursts of 4.2 and 5.9 H.E. No damage was done. Table of hostile shelling attached.

SNIPING. Nil.

MACHINE GUNS & Trench MORTARS. Enemy M.G.'s were active on A.A. work during the day without effect. During the night LA DOUVE Duckwalk at U.10.a.2.5. was subjected to bursts of indirect fire which was too high to have effect. The firing was from the direction of the GASOMETER in WARNETON. See Patrol Reports. A light M.W. occasionally fired from about U.11.b.65.30

PATROLS. See our patrols.

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AIRCRAFT. Fairly active. Eight planes flew above our forward positions at 10.30 a.m. at about 3,000 yards height, and later three planes flew over ROMARIN towards BAILLEUL, returning at 12.40 p.m. No fighting took place.

MOVEMENT. One man was seen frequently moving at the GASOMETER during the day. Small parties were seen moving in trench at U.12.c. at 10 a.m. and three men in a shell hole at U.12.a. 25.40.

ENEMY ATTITUDE. Very quiet. He has placed definite M.G. and artillery barrages (1) on LA DOUVE Duckwalks and (2) vicinity of U.11.central.

W. Massey
Lieutenant,
For G.O.C., 7th Australian Infantry Brigade

ENEMY SHELLING.

TABLE OF SHELLING. TAKEN FROM O.P., U.L. 1. 9. 5. Sheet 28. S.

Time.	Locality Shelled.	No. Shells.	Calibre.	Intervals.	General Direction of fire.	Remarks.
A.m.						
10.10	U.17.d.	12	5.9 H.L.	2 secs.	135 ^c T.B.	Burst near Sugar Refinery.
10.15	U.16.b.	15	5.9 & 4.2	30 "	130 ^b T.B.	Enemy Registration.
10.17	U.17.d.	8	4.2 HE	2 "	do	do do
12.30	U.11.d.	14	5.9 HE		70 ^c T.B.	Salvoe.
2.10 p.m.	U.11.d.	16	5.9 HE	30 "	70 ^o T.x3.	Burst near X Roads.

SPECIAL REPORT -

At intervals during the day the enemy appeared to be carrying on a registration extending from AVENUE COFFAGE, U.10.d. to ASP AVENUE, U.9.d. Suspected Z.M.O point, new trench near AVENUE COFFAGE.

APPENDIX. 9

CONFIDENTIAL7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

No. 13.

December 18th 1917.

SUMMARY OF INTELLIGENCE 6 a.m. 17/12/17 to 6 a.m. 18/12/17.OPERATIONS.

ARTILLERY. Our Field Artillery carried out registration and shelled enemy lines in U.12.d. intermittently. During the night some desultory shelling of WARNETON and WICART FARM. In the early afternoon our heavies fired on WARNETON and its immediate rear.

PATROLS: (1) 1 N.C.O. and 3 men left our lines at U.17.b.8.4. and proceeded along road towards WARNETON as far as U.18.a.1.5. where a spinney joins the road. A thin belt of wire was found on the north of the road about 30 yards long. Owing to the dark night and absence of flares, very little could be seen. No enemy were encountered.

(2) 1 Officer and 4 o/ranks went out to reconnoitre suspected M.G. position at U.11.d.8.8. When about 100 yards off six rifle shots were fired at party from this point and flares were put up from about U.11.d.90.35 and U.11.d.95.80. There was no M.G. fire and the position appeared to be rather a listening post. Ground hereabouts is fairly level except for a slight rise of about 1 foot or 18 inches some 100 yards out from our lines. This rise runs N.E. and gives cover from direct rifle fire to men lying down. Our wire in front of post 5, U.11 is fairly good, but that in front of Post 4 is no obstacle.

(3) A patrol of 5 o/ranks left our lines at U.11.h.2.5. and worked along our front, re-entering at U.11.d.4.8. No movement was seen or heard.

MACHINE GUNS. Fired on aircraft during the day and on hostile M.G. positions during the night.

AIRCRAFT. Very active during the afternoon, flying over and firing into enemy lines.

ENEMY OPERATIONS.

ARTILLERY. Not very active. No registration was noticed. Between 3.30 p.m. and 4 p.m. anti-aircraft shells fired to the North appeared to burst with yellowish smoke and to project a shower of balls of fire.

SNIPING Nil.

MACHINE GUNS & FRENCH MORTARS. Enemy M.G.'s fired heavily on our planes but without effect. There was some M.G. and T.M. fire on our posts in vicinity of SUGAR REFINERY at night. No damage was done. A position is suspected at SPINNING MILL U.18.d.0.8.

PATROLS. Nil.

AIR CRAFT. About 3 p.m. five enemy planes attacked one of our artillery machines which put up such a good defence that after repeated attempts the enemy finally drew off. One hostile plane appeared damaged and retired early from the combat. Otherwise no activity reported.

MOVEMENT. Movement of individuals and small parties was observed throughout the day in the neighbourhood of [unclear].

GENERAL ATTITUDE. Quiet.

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

ENEMY ARTILLERY - TABLE OF SHELLING.

Taken from O.P., - U.16.b.95.65., Sheet 28. S.W.4.

Time.	Locality shelled.	No. of Rounds.	Calibre.	Intervals.	Direction of Fire.	Remarks.
11.15 am	U.17.d.	5	4.2 HE	1 minute	135° T.B.	
11.23 am	U.10.c.	11	5.9 HE	30 secs		
12.10 pm	U.17.d.	8	4.2 HE	2 "	135° T.B.	Scattered
1.15 pm	U.21.b.	4	4.2 HE	30 "	70° T.B.	2 Duds - un-
2.15 pm	U.17.b.	19	4.2 & 5.9	5 "	90° T.B.	exploded
2.20 pm	U.16.d.	10	4.2 HE	30 "	130° T.B.	
2.35 pm	U.23.b.	6	4.2 HE	5 "		
3.15 pm	U.15.c.	12	4.2 HE	30 "	80° T.B.	Burst near
3.45 pm	U.22.a.	6	4.2 HE	1 minute	80° T.B.	Slippy Lane
4.10 pm	U.10.c.	4	5.9 HE	30 secs	50° T.B.	Burst near X roads.

CONFIDENTIAL7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

No. 4.

December 19th 17.

SUMMARY OF INTELLIGENCE 8 a.m. 18/12/17 to 6 a.m. 19/12/17.OPERATIONS.

ARTILLERY. Quiet. Some apparent registration during the day and harassing fire at night.

PATROLS. (1). Two men went out before dawn and remained all day in ruined house U.17.b.85.55 on LA BASSE VILLE WARRINGTON Road. 4 Germans were seen to leave spinney U.18.a.1.6. at dawn and return at dusk. Talking, chopping and sawing were heard. The bushes in the spinney are laced thickly with barbed wire, and in front of trench behind spinney there is a line of concertina wire. A belt of wire running from about U.18.a.0.7. to U.11.d.9.3. appeared very strong and thick, particularly between U.17.b.8.7. and U.11.d.0.1. machine gun fired after dark from enemy's lines at approx U.18.a.4.5. and U.18.a.35.75. Nothing was seen of enemy working in any of his trenches.

(2) 1 officer and 6 o/ranks reconnoitred rise in ground about U.11.d.60.95. This rise was found to be very slight but there is a basin at this point some two feet deep and twenty yards in diameter which gives good cover.

(3) A patrol reports being fired on by a M.G. from U.11.d.8.2. when within 50 yards of this point.

Other patrols were out maintaining lateral communication and examining our wire. No enemy were observed in NO MANS LAND.

MACHINE GUNS. Indirect fire during the night was directed on hostile M.G. positions, tracks and trenches: also the railway and cross roads near the GASOMETER.

AIRCRAFT. Active in spite of heavy hostile M.G. and A.A. fire.

SNIPING. One German thought to be hit while looking over parapet at about U.11.d.9.5.

ENEMY OPERATIONS.

ARTILLERY. Quiet. Back areas were lightly shelled towards evening.

M.G.'s and T.M.'s. No great activity.

AIRCRAFT. The absence of enemy kite balloons was noticeable. Aeroplanes that attempted to cross our lines were driven off by M.G. and A.A. gun fire

MOVEMENT. More movement than usual was noticed about WARRINGTON, especially from GASOMETER along path to U.12.d.2.8. Many men were seen in marching order. Small parties were observed moving along trenches in

- 2 -

U.13.a. and U.12.c., and more than the usual number of flares were put up from these trenches between 6 p.m. and midnight. A local relief is suspected. Men were seen entering. A flash of light and the glint of glasses was observed in the top slit.

LIGHT SIGNALS. A light was observed in the direction of LILLE during the early part of the night sending S I T E in Morse. This is probably the light on the tower of the SACRE COEUR Church in LILLE, whose activity is generally connected with that of hostile aircraft.

C. C. J. P.
Captain,
For G.O.C., 7th Australian Infantry Bde.

TABLE OF ENEMY SHELLING
Taken from C.P. U.16.r.95.65. Sheet 26 S... 4.

Time	Locality shelled	No. of rounds	Calibre	Intervals	Direction of fire	Remarks.
a.m.						
3.15	U.16.d	8	4.2 H.E.	2 sec.	90° T.P.	
3.45	U.16.a	15	do	30 "	70° "	
4.5	U.15.d.	4	do	"	85° "	High burst shrap
4.15	U.17.a.	3	4.2 5.9 H.	2 "	"	
4.35	U.17.b.		5.9 H.E.			One salvo (flash
5.5	U.15.c.	8	do	60 "	97 1/2° "	110° M.B. gun
5.55	U.16.b.	3	4.2 H.E.	2 "	85° "	Burst near bay
6.15	U.15.d.	5	do	30 "	90° "	Scattered
7.00	U.16.c.	3	do	2 "	"	
8.10	U.11.d.	6	5.9 H.E.	5 "	80° "	
8.45	U.17.d.	9	4.2 H.E.	20 "	"	(Burst near sugar
9.30	U.17.d.	5	4.2 H.V.	30 "	"	(Reinery. Direct
						(hit on R'f'ny
12	U.17.a.	15	4.2 & 77	60 "	60° T.P.	Burst near SAP
p.m.						
1.52	U.11.c.	2	4.2 H.E.	2 "	"	
2.00	U.10.c.	3	do			One unexploded

Enemy continued shelling in above co-ordinates throughout the afternoon. No signs of registration.

CONFIDENTIAL7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

No. 5.

December 20th 17.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY 6 a.m. 19/12/17 to 20/12/17.

Reference Sheet 28 S.I., 1/10,000.

OPERATIONS.

ARTILLERY. 18-pndra and 4.5 batteries carried out some effective shooting on U.12.a. & c. in the morning, and in the afternoon gas shells were fired into and behind WARREN. Harassing fire was maintained during the night on enemy back areas.

PATROLS. A party of 30 Germans were discovered by two of our patrols working on enemy wire at U.11.d.8.8. Much loud talking was going on and sounds were heard as of sheet iron being carried through trenches. On the return of patrols artillery fire was directed to this spot. Protective patrols were out throughout the night and others kept liaison with units on flanks.

MACHINE GUNS. The following targets were subjected to intermittent bursts of indirect fire during darkness: Enemy M.G. positions at U.11.d.9.4. - U.18.c.9.8., tracks and trenches in U.12.g., railway and roads in vicinity of GASOMETER. 5,000 rounds were expended.

AIR CRAFT. Our patrol and fighting planes were active and aggressive during the morning, flying well over enemy lines. There were several sharp encounters with enemy planes, resulting each time in the enemy being driven off. Ground targets were also engaged by our planes using Lewis Guns.

SNIPING. At 1.45 p.m. a German was shot while looking over parapet at U.12.c.4.2. He was wearing navy blue overcoat, navy blue cap, with black glazed peak with a band of darker shade. One cockade was visible but could not be identified.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

ARTILLERY. At 9.30 a.m. PLOEGSTADT WOOD and PROMISE POINT were fairly heavily strafed with gas shells mixed with light H.E. shelling. PHOSGENE was most in evidence but a little MUSTARD GAS was also sent over. Owing to the low temperature, the gas hung about the locality most of the day. No casualties are reported. A table of shelling is appended.

MACHINE GUNS & TRENCH MORTARS. Very quiet during the day. At night ULLIMO LANE and Hill 30 in U.16.b. were under bursts of M.G. fire without effect. At 7.30 a.m. twelve gas projectiles of the Minenwerfer variety were fired from the direction of the SPINNEY HILL and the SPINNEY on to the vicinity of our No. 7 and No. 8 Posts in U.17.b. They travelled and detonated just as ordinary M.W.'s and no casualties were caused to our troops, as respirators were worn until the gas cleared.

PATROLS. Nil.

SNIPING. A little sniping without effect on LA BASSE VILLE

MISCELLANEOUS. 7.30 a.m. three two-horse transports were seen moving South of WARNETON - Fme WAUSTINE Road at V.13.c. Two wagons were also seen in this locality at 8.50 a.m. Between 6.45 and 7.15 a.m. motor wagons could be heard but not seen on this road. Trains can be heard in early morning just behind WARNETON. Hammering was heard from 3.30 a.m. until daylight from the vicinity of trench in U.16.c. Smoke was seen at U.18.c. 7.1. One enemy balloon only was observed during the day.

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

TABLE OF ENEMY SHELLING.

Time	Locality shelled	No. of Rounds	Calibre	Inter-vals	General direction of fire	Remarks
a.m.						Shrap.
1.30	U.10.c.	6	4.2 HE	5 sec.	70° T.B.	High Burst
2.5	U.16.d.	3	5.9 HE	30 "		ditto
2.55	U.21.w.	12	4.2	2 "		Suspected Gas shell
3.15	U.23.a.	5	4.2 HE	5 "		
5.10	U.19.c.	6	4.2 HE		70° T.B.	High burst shrap
5.45	U.22.b.	8	5.9 HE			Suspected regist'n
6.25	Enemy activity lasting 18 minutes direction of MESSINES.					
7.5	U.15.b.	10	4.2 HE	2 sec.		
9.30	U.21.a., U.15.c.)	40	4.2, & 5.9	20 "	110° T.B.	Gas shells.
10.17	U.15.b.	2	4.2 HE	60 "	90° T.B.	
p.m.						
1.30	U.16.b.	3	4.2 HE	30 "	85° T.B.	
3.45	U.17.a.	4	4.2, 5.9 HE	10 "	85° T.B.	
3.50	Enemy activity left of Divisional Sector					
5.10	U.23.a.	6	4.2			
Enemy shelling very quiet during early morning.						

Observations taken from O.P., U.16.b. 95.85.

CONFIDENTIAL

No. 6.

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

Dec. 21st 1917.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY 6 a.m. 20/12/17 to 6 a.m. 21/12/17.OPERATIONS.

ARTILLERY. Our artillery fired at intervals during the day and night. The mist was too thick to observe results.

PATROLS. (1) Touch was kept between our own posts and those on the flanks. Right lateral patrol report no difficulty in crossing swamp in gap which was frozen over. Showers of pineapple bombs fell in the gap at 10 minutes intervals. Our M.G.'s firing intermittently appeared to be covering the gap well, as patrol had to keep very low.

(2) A patrol of 1 A.C.O. and 3 men which went out in U.11.d. lost direction in the mist, and, crossing the railway at about U.11.d.8.3. got into enemy's wire. A party was seen to the north coming out of the wire. On challenging this party, four revolver shots were fired at our patrol who withdrew immediately. Flares were put up and a M.G. fired from the trench just in front. Patrol report enemy wire at this point low but thick. There appeared to be two bows each about 12 feet deep and 30 to 40 yards apart. Enemy seemed to be constructing some sort of defence works in rear of M.G. that fired.

(3) A patrol of 1 Officer and 3 s/ranke went out to about U.11.d.80.55. While here they heard four shots and saw patrol (2) returning. No other movement was observed.

(4) Two officers' patrols went out in U.11.b. An appreciable rise running approx. N. & S. about U.11.b.5.3. was noticed. No enemy seen or heard.

MACHINE GUNS. Enemy machine gun positions, tracks, trenches, and the cross roads near GASOUILLE were fired on at intervals during the night.

ENEMY OPERATIONS.

ARTILLERY. Inactive. A few 77 cm shells on our front line about 11.30 p.m.; Our artillery retaliated suitably.

MACHINE GUNS & TRENCH MORTARS. Hostile M.G.'s traversed our front line system at intervals during the 24 hours. A few pineapple bombs were thrown into gap on our Right. Six Gas T.M. bombs fell in LA BASSE VILLE at 8 p.m. and 11 p.m. No one affected.

GENERAL. Mist was too thick to observe any movement or locate M.G. positions. An enemy working party was heard from river bank in U.17.d.

C. Chipper

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

P.T.O

TABLE OF ENEMY SHELLING

6 a.m. 20/12/17 to 6 a.m. 21/12/17. Taken from O.P. U.16.b.95.65

Time	Locality shelled	No. of Rnds	Calibre	Intervals	Direction of Fire	Remarks
a.m.						
1.25	U.17.b.) U.17.a.	8	4.2	20 sec	85° T.B.	Suspected gas shells
3.5	U.10.c.	11	4.2	20 "	70° "	High burst shrap.
4.30	Enemy shelling very quiet on our immediate front.					
5.30	Enemy intermittently shelling upon our Right Sector. Too misty to observe results					
9.45	U.10.c.	6	4.2 HE	2 sec.	70° T.B.	
11.30	U.23.b.	3	5.9 HE	2 "	110° "	

During the whole day, enemy shelling was unusually quiet.

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No. 7.

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

December 22nd 1917.

SUMMARY OF INTELLIGENCE 6 a.m. 21/12/17 to 6 a.m. 22/12/17.OPERATIONS.

ARTILLERY. Heavies fired intermittently during the day on enemy's back areas. Field Artillery fired on trench targets and retaliated on enemy trench mortars.

PATROLS. (1) A patrol of 1 N.C.O. and 4 men working along bank of RIVER LIS saw enemy parties working on wire at about U.18.a.5.3. and 35.40. Four 4.5 How. shells fell amongst parties and dispersed them, apparently causing casualties.

(2) A daylight patrol of 1 Officer and 2 o/ranks went out at 4 p.m. to reconnoitre bed of RIVER DOUVE. Patrol proceeded as far as about U.11.b.5.4. from which point enemy wire was just distinguishable through the mist. River bed is badly cut up by shell fire and thickly strewn with fallentimber so as to make progress slow and difficult, especially by night. The ground level to the North is not more than 2 feet above the water, but to the South at about 15 yards out from the margin of the stream it is about 10 feet high. The timber and undergrowth extends to a distance of say 10 yards over outer southern bank into NO MANS LAND. There are about half a dozen dugout structures along the southern bank of which at least two are concrete, and in habitable condition, though none shows signs of recent occupation. Some of the others are too badly smashed to be utilized. The stream was not entirely frozen over.

(3) 1 Officer and 17 o/ranks went out along DOUVE at 8 p.m. to about U.11.b.5.4. and reconnoitred NO MANS LAND from this point to about U.11.d.6.8. Patrol report no trenches or undulations which would serve to cover a party. There are sufficient large shell holes however to provide shelter from M.G. fire, without hindering rapid movement across NO MANS LAND. No enemy movement was seen, or working parties heard.

(4) An N.C.O.'s patrol which went out on night 20/21st instant ran into enemy post at U.11.b.6.3. in the fog. They immediately came under rifle and M.G. fire and had to remain out until dawn enabled them to find their way back. They report much talking and stamping of feet in enemy trenches, and consider that posts are about 30 yards apart and lightly held. Wire in front of enemy trench was only fair, and in 3 belts; but enemy are improving it to the South.

MACHINE GUNS. Our M.G.'s fired at irregular intervals by day and night on enemy M.G. positions and centres of movement.

SNIPING. Three men leaving post or trench about U.11.d.75.85 at 7.30 a.m. were fired on and one man seen to fall and remain.

ENEMY OPERATIONS.

ARTILLERY. Active between 11 a.m. and 12 noon; mostly 10.5 cm and 15 cm howitzers. Otherwise quiet.

MACHINE GUNS & TRENCH MORTARS. M.G.'s swept our lines in early part of the night, but fire was scattered and our working parties but little disturbed.

T.M.'s were active between 10.30 a.m. and 11 a.m., and again during the night, particularly from direction of WICART FM, SPINNING MILL and WARKETON. They were quickly silenced by our artillery retaliation.

- 2 -

AIRCRAFT. In early afternoon the sound of aircraft engines was heard over our lines, but nothing could be seen through the mist. The sound resembled the peculiar hum of German machines and passed away Southward.

MOVEMENT. Visibility was bad but sounds of much work were heard by day and night. Hammering was heard periodically during the day in enemy's lines in U.18.c. and U.12.c. Noise of a working party was heard in direction of SPINNING MILL. Transport was heard behind WARNETON at 7 a.m. and 8.30 a.m. Movement was visible at this time about the TOWER.

C. Chifford

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

TABLE OF ENEMY SHELLING

Taken from O.P., U.16.b.95.65, Sheet 28 S.W.

Time	Locality shelled	No. of rounds	Calibre	Intervals	Direction of fire.	Remarks
a.m.						FIRE
4.00	U.11.c., 10.b.	12	5.9	20 sec		Burst Nr. SUNKEN
6.00	U.10.a.	6	4.2 HE	60 "		High Burst shred
6.10	U.17.c.	8	4.2 HE	5 "		
9.28	U.21.a. & b.	30	4.2, 5.9	30 "		Gas mixed with
10.58	U.21	50	5.9	30 "		Gas -Howitzer
11.5.	U.11.c., U.17.b.	10	5.9 HE	2 min.		Burst Nr. NE SAP
At this time the enemy were very active with heavy howitzer fire on the whole Div. front - too misty to observe gun flash. General direction of fire from KINGSL. & WARNETON.						
12 noon	.11.c.	3	5.9	5 sec.		Suspected Gas shelling

During the afternoon heavy mist settled and enemy shelling ceased except for scattered shelling right of our sector.

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No. 8.

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

SUMMARY OF INTELLIGENCE 6 a.m. 22/12/17. to 6 a.m. 23/12/17.

OPERATIONS.

ARTILLERY. Very active registering. Centres of movement including the TOWER of WARNETON and the GASOMETER were subjected to irregular bursts of fire from our heavies and field guns. Railways and roads behind WARNETON also received a deal of attention.

PATROLS. (1) 1 M.C.O. and 8 men left No.3 Post at 2.30 a.m. on our right and proceeded to enemy's wire on the river bank at U.18.a.3.2. An enemy working party was heard across the river, but it was too dark to observe nature of work. No other movement was seen, and patrol returned at 5.15 a.m.

(2) 1 Officer and 7 c/ranks left our No.9. Post on extreme left at 12.30 a.m. and patrolled our Left Battalion front to a depth of 150 yards until 2.45 a.m. when they returned. No hostile movement was seen or heard.

MACHINE GUNS. Harassing fire was maintained at irregular intervals throughout the night on all known centres of activity, including M.G. positions and roads and tracks in rear of WARNETON. Enemy aircraft was engaged during the day. Ammunition expended 11,000 rounds.

AIRCRAFT. Very active, assisting artillery registration and apparently photographing. At night several planes dropped bombs on WARNETON. Some air fighting took place, to no effect.

WORKS. Digging, revetting and wiring was carried on throughout the night in front and support lines.

ENEMY OPERATIONS.

ARTILLERY. More active than usual. Gas shells were sent over at intervals into PLOEGSTEERT WOOD and vicinity of PROUSE POINT during the day. No registration was observed, but enemy was evidently searching for our M.G. positions in TILLEUL FARM and ULTIMO AVENUE, without result. Table of shelling appended.

MACHINE GUNS & BRANCH MORTARS. Engaged mainly on A.A. work during the day, and unusually quiet at night. At midday about 20 Minenwerfer bombs were sent over on our Left Battalion front line from direction of ruins at U.12.c.30.05 where a spurt of smoke was seen later in the day. At night about 30 Minenwerfer bombs fell well behind our posts from the SPINNING MILL and WICART Fm. No damage resulted.

SNIPING. Nil.

AIRCRAFT. Very active all day, one was apparently taking photographs, while the others flew at a great height. Six hostile balloons were seen.

DEFENCES. The trench in U.11.d.95. 7 - 9 appears to have been deepened and strengthened, new earth being visible on the parapet.

MOVEMENT. A large working party of about 80 wearing fatigue dress were seen at 9.15 a.m. in vicinity of V.7.c. and V.13.b, where they continued working until noon. Artillery was notified. Movement can be seen from time to time at the SPINNING MILL

house in U.12.b.75.40, and at U.18.b.5:5. A cottage at U.12.b.40.25 appears to be a headquarters or billets. At 6 p.m. transport was heard in ARNETON.

SIGNALS. At 6.30 p.m. two small red flares bursting into two white flares were dropped from a balloon, when enemy guns opened on rear of our lines.

ATTITUDE. Owing to high visibility, there was more hostile activity than usual during the day, but not so much as would be expected.

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

TABLE OF ENEMY SHELLING.

Taken from O.P. at U.16.b.95.65.

Time	Locality shelled	No. of rounds	Calibre	Intervals	Direction of Fire	Remarks
a.m.						
7.00	U.16.d.	6	5.9 HE	30 sec.	80° T.B.	
8.5	U.17.a.	5	4.2, 5.9 HE	2 "	85° T.B.	High burst shrap
9.45	U.16.d.	8	5.9 HE	30 "	70° T.B.	
10.30	U.11.c.)					
	U.11.a.)	3	5.9 HE	2 "	80° T.B.	Burst Nr. NEI S.
10.35	{ U.11.c.					" " "
	{ U.11.a.	30	4.2, 5.9 HE			Salvos HE Shrap
11.30	U.11.a.	21	5.9 HE			
11.35	U.17.b.	4	4.2 HE	5 sec.	80° T.B.	Near front line
11.40	U.17.b.	10	4.2 HE	3 "		Rt. of Sugar Ref
11.50	U.17.a.	7	5.9 HE	5 "		Near our New Supports
p.m.						
1.35	U.21.s.	30	5.9 HE	2 "	110° T.B.	Suspected Gas
1.38	U.17.d.	8	4.2 HE	60 "		High burst shrap.
2.30	U.21.b.	35	5.9	10 "	110° T.B.	PLOEGST, D. GAS
4.30	U.10.c.	12	4.2 HE	20 "	70° T.B.	High burst shrap.
6.00	U.16.a.	4	4.2 HE	5 "		" " "

Enemy were shelling Reserve Line when above report was closed.

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

December 24th 1917.

SUMMARY OF INTELLIGENCE - 6 a.m. 23/12/17 to 6 a.m. 24/12/17.

OPERATIONS.

RELIEFS. The 28th Battalion relieved the 24th Battalion in the left sector last night. Relief reported complete at 8.30 p.m. without casualties.

ARTILLERY. The enemy's front line and wire were under bursts of fire intermittently from our field guns. WARNETON roads and railways in rear were shelled by our heavies, but the visibility was too low to observe the effect.

PATROLS. Bright moonlight prevented patrolling being carried out on a large scale.

One patrol of 1 Sergeant and 7 o/r, and another of 1 sergeant and 5 men reconnoitred between our front line and enemy wire without discovering anything of interest. Other parties kept liaison with units on flanks. No hostile patrols were encountered.

MACHINE GUNS. Enemy m.g. positions, tracks, tramways, and other centres of activity were subjected to irregular bursts of indirect fire throughout the night. S.A.A. expended 15,500 rounds.

AIR CRAFT. During the afternoon our planes were very active above enemy lines apparently engaged in photography and reconnaissance. Numerous loud explosions in WARNETON when our planes were above the village seemed to indicate bombing operations in progress.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

ARTILLERY. Very quiet during the day - more active between 10 p.m. and midnight, lightly shelling WARNETON U.S.d, and U.10.a. with 5.9's and 4.2's. Table of shelling appended.

MACHINE GUNS. Very active on A.A. work. Between 8 and 10 p.m. our front line and supports received frequent bursts of fire, but otherwise the night was quiet.

TRENCH MORTARS. The Support area of the Right Battalion was lightly shelled with minenwerfers, all of which fell west of our positions, no damage resulting. A heavy T.M. Battery was observed firing from U.18.a.2.4.

AIR CRAFT. Enemy planes attempted some reconnaissance during the afternoon, but the preponderating number of our planes up effectively prevented this. No balloons were seen.

MOVEMENT. Owing to low visibility only the enemy's front line was under observation. In U.12.c. and U.18.a. a number of Germans were observed apparently on sentry duty wearing white bands round their infantry caps. At 2.15 p.m. two men were seen in trench at U.12.c.4.2. apparently pumping water. During a momentary lift of the mist, a working party of about 80 men were observed working at U.18.b.5.5. They dispersed almost immediately, and before the nature of their work could be detected. At 8.30 a.m. two men were seen leaving suspected H.T.M. position at U.18.a.2.4., and at 2 p.m. six more men observed in same locality. These were wiped on but result could not be ascertained. At 9.10 p.m. hammering

was heard from the direction of the SPINNING MILL.

SIGNALS. At 7.40 a.m. a red flare was fired from approx. U.11.b.6.3. followed by T.M. activity of area in U.11.b. in advance of our line. Other red flares were sent up during our artillery activity, but no action followed.

G. H. H. H.
Lieutenant,
For G.O.C., 7th Australian Infantry Brigade.

TABLE of SHELLING, observed from O.P. U.16.b.95.25.

Time	Locality shelled.	no. of rounds	Calibre	Intervale	Direction of fire. Degrees T.B.	Remarks.
a.m.						
6.00	U.11.c.	4	4.2 HE	5 sec.		Buret Nr X Rds
6.15	U.17.c.	6			95	
6.35	U.10.b.	3				
7.5	U.21	12	5.9	40 "		
7.8	U.11.b.	5	4.2 HE	20 "	85	
8.30	U.17.d.	2	5.9 HE	30 "		
8.40	U.11.a.	4	4.2-5.9 HE		40	
9.20	U.17.c.	14	4.2 HE		95	High Brest Shrapnel
10.35	U.17.d.	3	5.9 HE	60 "	85	Brest Nr SUGAR REPR
11.10	U.17.d.	8	4.2-5.9 HE	30 "		" " " "
p.m.						
1.30	J.10.c.	15	4.2	2 "	70	
2.45	U.17.a.	6	4.2 HE	2 "		Brest Nr. NEW SAP
2.50	U.17.a.	3	4.2 HE	2 "		" " " "
3.00	U.17.c.	8	4.2 HE	5 "		High Brest Shrapnel
3.45	U.10.c.	10	4.2 HE	2 "	70	Brest Nr. " Rds

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No. 10.

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

SUMMARY OF INTELLIGENCE from 6 a.m. 24/12/17 to 6 a.m. 25/12/17

OPERATIONS.

ARTILLERY. Field and heavy Artillery fired on ARNETON and trench targets at intervals throughout the day.

PATROLS. No Mans Land was patrolled throughout its length. No enemy were seen or heard. One patrol in U.11.b. was fired on by a machine gun.

MACHINE GUNS. Our machine guns kept up fire throughout the night on hostile M.G. positions, tracks near the GASOMETER and ground by the River LIS.

GENERAL OPERATIONS.

ARTILLERY. Relatively quiet during the day until about 6 p.m., when 10.5 and 15 cm Howitzers fired on front system and area U.10.c. and d. One of our posts received a direct hit. About 8.30 p.m. there was fairly rapid fire from field guns and howitzers on the DOUVE area for about 10 minutes. At 11.15 p.m. a bombardment with 77 cm shrapnel started on our front line system in U.11. This was accompanied by pineapple bombs and bursts of M.G. fire. Activity slackened about midnight and all was quiet again by 1 a.m.

MACHINE GUNS & TRENCH MORTARS.

Machine Guns traversed our front line parapet in U.11., during the artillery activity between 11.15 p.m. and midnight. During the remainder of the night there was the intermittent firing. Enemy T.M.s. were similarly active; some 150 pineapple bombs being put over. Both M.G. and T.M. fire came from the direction of ARNETON, but owing to the ground mist, exact locations could not be ascertained. The T.M. position mentioned in this Summary of Dec. 23rd is now thought to be at U.18.a.3.9., just south of IN DEN ROOSIER CABT.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Owing to low visibility little movement was observed. A man carrying material from ARNETON TO ER disappeared behind ruins about U.12.c.75.25. Individuals were seen at 9 a.m. in the vicinity of SPINNING MILL.

Train whistles were heard several times east of ARNETON between 5 and 9 p.m.

Double red flares were put up at irregular intervals from the SPINNING U.18.a.1.6. and other points; no apparent action followed.

At 6.55 a.m. one "golden cluster" was fired apparently in V.13.a.

C. Clifton

Captain,

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

TABLE OF ENEMY SHELLING.

taken from O.P. at U.11.a.9.1.

Time.	No.	Calibre.	Interval:	Direction from	Area shelled.
A.M.					
5.15	10	5.9 HB	1 min.	-	Support line on right
6.5	8	.77 "	1 "	-	" " " "
7.5	8	"	1 "	-	"d'walk - left.
11.40	8	5.9 H	2 "	-	Front line.
P.M.					
6.30	(30)	5.9 "	1 "	-	U.11.d.
	(10)	"	1 "	-	U.10.d.
8.30	7	"	2 "	-	Forward posts.
9.30	1	"	- "	-	Front line.
9.50	1	"	- "	-	"
9.50		.77 shrap.	1 "	-	"
10.00	4	.77 "	1 "	-	F' line support.
11.15	70	.77 "	1 "	-	" " "
11.25	12	TM Pineapples	1/2 min.	N & S ARNETON	" " "
12.30	100	"	2 "	100° I.B.	Supports.
8.00)		"	2 "	"	"
12.00)	150	" about	2 "	Vicinity of	"
				Arneton Tower.	F' line & supports.

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

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No. 11.

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

SUMMARY OF INTELLIGENCE from 6 a.m. 25/12/17 to 6 a.m. 26/12/17.

OPERATIONS.

ARTILLERY. The Gasometer and enemy earthworks in U.18.d.9.f. were shelled by our 18 pdrs. at midday. T.M. and M.G. emplacements and centres of activity were under bursts of fire during the night. Activity was on the whole above normal.

xxxxxxx. PATROLS. One n.c.o. and 2 men established a listening post in front of No. 3 post at U.17.d.72.75. at 9.30 p.m. From here they observed a party of 6 men moving backward and forward from VICAR FARM along track to U.18.d.03.10. About 10 men in small parties were seen moving about the western portion of U.18.c. at intervals, and movement was noticed on road from U.18.a.9.0. to U.18.a.f.25. Owing to very high visibility effective patrolling was rendered impossible until 5 a.m. when parties were sent out from our Left Bn. Reports are not yet to hand, but will be issued as an Addendum to this Summary.

MACHINE GUNS. Indirect fire was placed in irregular bursts on tracks and tramways in and around WARRINGTON and two working parties in U.18.w.central and U.34.a.1.9. were engaged, causing some to disperse. Expenditure £12,000 rds.

AERIAL. Between 8.15 a.m. and 11 a.m. eighteen of our planes were in evidence over enemy lines evidently engaged on photography and registration. After 11 a.m. activity was reduced to practically nil.

ENEMY OPERATIONS.

ARTILLERY. Above normal throughout day and night, the DOUVE VALLEY and WARRINGTON track receiving marked attention as usual from direction of SAS-WARRINGTON. At intervals during the day, the enemy searched for our special target M.G.'s. in U.10.b. c. xxx without success. Our right sector received very little attention from the enemy. Table of shelling and gun flashes appended.

MACHINE GUNS. Very quiet, except when our planes were over, when M.G.'s. were used for A.A. work. At 8.20 p.m. M.G. position at U.11.c.39.90. was fired on by our Artillery. This position has since been silent.

TRENCH M.O. TANKS. U.11.d. and U.17.d. were under fairly heavy machine-gunner fire, during the night over sixty bombs in all having fallen but no damage was done. Particulars will be found in appendix of shelling. At 7.36 p.m. the M.V. positions at U.12.c.60.75. opened fire on U.11.central. Artillery was informed and action taken. A direct hit was made by a M.V. on post No. 8, U.17. at 9 a.m.

AERIAL & SNIPING. Nil.

MISCELLANEOUS. Two men were seen to apparently relieve two other at the SPINNAZ every hour for 6 hours during the night. Smoke from a train was seen at 3.30 p.m. in V.7.D. Just after sunrise a light, apparently the reflection from the lense of a telescope was seen at the top of the JARRISON TOWER U.12.c.9.4. Movement was observed a few yds north of Tower at U.12.c.55.15. During the afternoon continual metallic hammering sounds were heard in JARRISON. SIGNALS. Owing to bright night very few flares were used. Double red flares were sent up occasionally but no action followed.

Lieutenant.
for G.O.C., 7th Australian Infantry Bde.

TABLE OF SHOT SHELLING.

Taken from O.P. U.11.a.90.10.

Time	No.	Calibre.	Interval.	Direction.	Area shell
A.M.					
8.20	3	M... (H)	1/2 min.		U.11.d.caf 1.
	3	.77	"		- do -
9.15	104	5.9 H.L.	1 min.	106° T.B.	U.4.d.
10.35	21	5.9 Gas.	1 "	"	"
11.35	5	5.9 H.L.	2 "	"	U.10.d.
P.M.					
12.45	8	"	2 "	"	do
1.10	2	"	2 "	E-N.	U.1.b.
1.30	10	5.9 Shrap.	1 "	"	do
1.30	72	"	3 "	91° T.B.	U.11.a.
	33	"	3 "	"	TILLEUL FARM area.
1.35	8	Pineapple Gas.	1 "	95° T.S.	Left close s'ts.
1.35	11	M... (H)	2 "	U.12.c.90.45.	Post Front line.
6.45	3	.77	1 "	86° T.B.	U.10.b.
7.15	1	5.9 H.L.	-	-	Duckwalk 10.b.
7.25	27	M... (H)	1/2 min.	H.S.E.A.	Supports.
7.35	9	5.9	1 min.	86° T.B.	U.10.c. & d.
8.25	15	5.9	1/2 min.	-	U.10.a. & b.
8.30	28	M... (H)	1 "	93° T.S.	U.11.c. & d.
8.45	6	5.9	1/2 min.	"	U.11.a.
9.15	12	.77	1 "	77° T.B.	U.4.d.
10.00	5	.77	1 "	"	do
11.35	10	Pineapples	1 "	95° T.S.	U.11.a. & b.
11.40	8	.77	1/2 "	Gasometer	U.11.b.
12.10	8	.77	1 "	do	do
12.45	10	.77	1 "	do	do

Gun flashes were seen during the night from O.P. at U.15.a.6.6. at -

- 108° M.B. at 7.15 p.m.
- 102° " " 8.25 p.m.
- 76° " " 2.00 a.m.

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7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.SUPPLEMENT TO INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. 11.

26/12/17

PATROLS.

The patrol consisting one Officer and 12 other ranks and Lewis Gun which left our lines at 5 a.m. was not entirely successful.

The party went out from a point at U.11.d.35.90. proceeding Eastward to the small rise which affords good observation. From here the officer and three scouts moved in a nor-westerly direction making good the sap - which runs north and south at point U.11.b.80.29.

The sap was followed to the junction at U.11.b.80.00. A hostile machine gun opened fire from a position in the trench at approx. U.11.d.99.89. Lying "doggo" for 15 minutes the patrol made westward, rejoining the covering party at U.11.d. 55.94.

The sap, although badly smashed is well defined and shows no trace of recent occupation.

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

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7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

No. 12.

SUMMARY OF INTELLIGENCE from 6 a.m. 26/12/17 to 6 a.m. 27/12/17.

OPERATIONS.

ARTILLERY. During the early morning our field batteries systematically shelled roads and tracks in and around WANNETON. Afternoon our shelling was reduced to the normal desultory harassing fire on enemy's back areas.

PATROLS. At 9.30 p.m. 1 n.c.o. and 3 men left post No. 3, U.17. and established themselves in the listening post at U.17.d. 72.75. as last night. No movement was seen as on previous night and party moved to U.18.a.1.5. from which spot the SPINNA was kept under observation until 11.30 p.m. Some movement was seen here, the nature of which could not be ascertained.

A patrol left our Left Sn. lines at 4 a.m. but report is not to hand. This will be issued as an Addendum to this Summary.

MACHINE GUNS. Known centres of activity were subjected to bursts of fire for 10 minutes during each hour during the night. m.g. position at U.11.d.9.4. received some attention and a relief of this position was observed to be in progress during one of these bursts. Working party at U.24.a.10.99. was also fired on. 12,000 rounds expended.

AIRMAILS. Advantage was taken of the high visibility by our airmen between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., and large numbers of our reconnaissance and scouting machines flying over the enemy's lines were subjected to heavy A.A. and m.g. fire.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

ARTILLERY. Our back areas and battery positions were subjected to a deal of attention, but in the forward area there was an appreciable reduction of hostile shelling. At midday several direct hits were made on ULLINC AVANUE by 5.9s. damaging the trench. Table of shelling and gun flashes appended.

MACHINE GUNS. Very little activity, and mostly directed on to the WARR TRACK and DOUVE VALLEY.

LAUNCH BOMBS. Between 7.45 and 8.30 a.m. about 35 light and heavy m.g. bombs fell in U.11. from direction of U.13.c. All known m.g. positions in this vicinity were then engaged by our Artillery and were quickly silenced. Several of these bombs are reported to have made a very slight detonation, and giving off dense clouds of smoke smelling like burning charcoal. A special report is being made on this matter.

AIRCRAFT. At midday 6 D.F.s. and ABBATOSS machines were in evidence apparently registering for hostile batteries on positions in U.17.a. These disappeared on the approach of our planes. Six balloons were seen from O.P. at U.11.a.9.1. on true bearings as follows - 52°, 82°, 92°, 130°, 153°, 173°.

DEFENCES. A covered machine gun position is suspected at U.12.d.30.6

FLARES. On our Artillery becoming active several single orange flares were sent up by the enemy, but no action followed.

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MOVEMENT 10.15 a.m. three men left sap at U.18.c.45.05. toward Tower. 10.25 a.m. four men at point 150 yds south of Gasometer disappeared along SUMNER TRACK. 8.50 a.m. eight men with rifles and equipment proceeded along road in direction of Supports. 9.30 a.m. ten men entered Pill-Box at U.18.c.45.22. 8.00 a.m. four men appeared to unload a transport wagon at U.18.b.8.2. 8.30 a.m. three huns wearing service caps and greatcoats seen at U.18.c.20.05. 9.30 a.m. ten huns ran from a trench at U.18.c.15.05. to U.18.c.20.05.

GENERAL There is a footbridge across river at the foot of the old bridge just above water level at U.18.a.55.95. This has not been noticed before.

S. H. H. H.
Lieutenant.
For G.O.C., 7th Australian Infantry Brigade.

TABLE OF ENEMY SHELLING

Taken from O.P. - U.11.a.90.10.

Time.	No.	Calibre.	Interval.	Direction.	Area shelled.
A.M.					
7.10	6	4.2	$\frac{1}{2}$ minute	104° T.B.	Subsidiary Line.
8.00	36	Pineapples	$\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 min.	Vicinity Tower.	Front line & Support
	14	M... H.			
9.5	3	"	"	"	"
11.00	12	5.9 Hb	1 min	77° T.B.	U.10.d.
11.45	20	" "	"	67° "	U.11.c., U.10.d.
P.M.					
12.5	10	.77 shrap.	3 min	-	Front line.
1.5	8	5.9 Hb	1 - 2 min	-	U.11.c., U.10.d.
1.5	10	5.9 "	1 - 2 "	S.E. T.B.	"
1.25	8	(salvoes of 2)			
1.25	6	Pineapples	$\frac{1}{2}$ min.	87° T.B.	Front line.
10.00	10	"	$\frac{1}{2}$ "	" "Nitu"	" & Supports.
11.30	4	M... I.	3 "	"	Front line.
1.50	21	5.9 Hb	1 "	122° T.B.	U.11.c., U.10.d.
2.15	15	" "	1 "	67° "	U.10.a. & b.
3.35	12	" "	1 "	" "	-do-
4.40	6	" "	$\frac{1}{2}$ "	122° "	U.10.c. & d.

True bearings obtained of the direction of fire of the following batteries :-

Howitzer 5.9 67°

" 5.9) 102°

4.2)

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7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

APPENDIX TO INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. 12, dated 27/12/1917.

PATROLS A patrol consisting of one officer, 12 other ranks, 3 Battalion Scouts, and Lewis Gun left our line at point U.11.d.35.90 at 4 a.m. and worked eastward to the slight rise at U.11.d.74.94. From here the covering party commanded the further advance of the Scouts, who making N.N.W. made good the sap at point U.11.b.80.86.

Following the sap southwards for a distance of eighty yards, the patrol advanced on to the fill-box at U.11.b.90.09. At a distance of ten yards the low hum of conversation carried on between several persons could be distinctly heard. regaining the sap the party made south to point U.11.d.80.75. following the trip wires for a hundred and fifty yards. This wire which constitutes a belt about eight yards wide is supported on wooden and iron stakes at a height of twelve or fourteen inches. It is by no means thick and in itself forms no serious obstacle.

The machine gun located last night in the trench at U.11.d.99.89, was again extremely active - the observation rise at U.11.d.65.90, being continually searched. The covering party were forced to take up a position two hundred yards further south. On the scouts rejoining the covering party the entire patrol returned to our lines at 6.10 a.m.

[Handwritten signature]

Lieutenant.
For G.O.C., 7th Australian Infantry Bde.

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No. 13.

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

SUMMARY OF INTELLIGENCE from 6 a.m. 27/12/17 to 6 a.m. 28/12/1917.

OPERATIONS

ARTILLERY In the early morning harassing fire was directed by our Field Batteries on communications, roads and tramways in and around ARNETON. Activity was then normal until 8 p.m. when hostile batteries became lively and our guns vigorously responded and a lively duel ensued until 10 p.m. when things became quiet again.

PATROLS Visibility was too high for vigorous patrolling. Protective and liaison patrols were active throughout the night and one reconnaissance party left our lines at 4 a.m. but had not returned in time for report to be embodied in this Summary.

MACHINE GUNS Enemy M.G. positions and centres of activity were kept under bursts of fire at regular intervals. Footbridge at U.18.a.52.25, also received similar attention. Expenditure 10,000 rounds.

SNIPING. One Hun was shot when emerging from Tower.

AERIAL. Photography and registering was in progress during the day and at night a number of our planes were heard above ARNETON and several bombs were dropped just in rear of this place.

ENEMY ACTIVITY:

ARTILLERY. Showed a general decrease during the day, the DOUVE VALLEI and the IRON GATE at U.16.b.6.4, getting a little attention from 5.9 and 4.2 batteries. Between 8 and 10 p.m. during a lively bout a direct hit was obtained on our Support Line, but no other damage resulted. Appended is a table of shelling.

MACHINE GUNS. Below normal. The position at U.11.d.9.4, has been silenced for three days now, but there is no other indication that this position has been abandoned.

TRENCH MORTARS. Between 8 and 9 p.m. our front and support lines were shelled from batteries lying in the area U.12.c.55.73. - U.12.d.80.40. At 11.30 p.m. three gas M.G. projectiles fell in U.11.b. The detonation was considerable less than the usual bursts and was followed by a dense cloud of gas. The smell of phosgene has been confirmed from various sources.

AERIAL 8 - 9 p.m. a flight of planes crossed our lines making S.W. course, the explosion of bombs could be heard in the back areas.

SNIPING Nil.

MOVEMENT Trains were heard to arrive just in rear of ARNETON at 12 midnight, 3 a.m., and 6 p.m. and depart at 12.30 a.m. and 5.15 a.m. At 8 a.m. two Huns left the Tower and proceeded in the direction of U.12.c.25.05. one carried a small leather case and the other field glasses. the second one was shot by our Snipers.

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MOVEMENT. 10.15 a.m. party of 17 moving S.E. along track U.18.a.15.3. crossing bridge they were joined by a larger party at U.18.a.9.0. turning N.E. they moved along track and disappeared at house U.18.b.25.00. Owing to rapidity of their movements our Artillery were not successful in engaging them.

1.00 p.m. three huns apparently on sentry duty in trench at U.11.d.95.55. 3.40 p.m. Smoke seen at U.12.c.40.84. presumably a cook-house. 8.30 and 10.30 a.m. a party of about 50 were seen between V.13.a.1.7. and U.12.d.8.4. Some were apparently digging a trench while others were carrying revetting material, chiefly brush wood. The party were wearing dark overcoats and service caps while two men walked up and down carrying rifles as if on guard.

ISOBARRANOUS. The snow in the vicinity of enemy wire at U.12.d.1.5. observed to be considerably trampled. Evidently a party was working here overnight. At three a.m. observed at U.12.c. central - small bursts of flame and detonation at half minute interval responding in every way to the firing of the ordinary trench mortar. No sound of a projectile in flight or further explosion followed. This phenomena was witnessed by all attack line officers of our Left Battalion who have no explanation or suggestion to offer.

FLARES. At 10.40 p.m. Aircraft dropped white flare over ARNETON followed in quick succession by flares - green - red - green. No action followed.

W. J. J.
Lieutenant.
For G.O.C., 7th Australian Infantry Brigade.

TABLE OF ENEMY SHELLING - Taken from O.P. U.11.a.90.10

Time.	No.	Calibre.	Interval.	Direction.	Area shelled.
A.m.					
6.5	10	4.2 HE	$\frac{1}{2}$ min.	87° T.B.	U.10.a.
7.5	16	5.9 "	1 "	108° "	U.11.c.
7.15	8	5.9 "	$\frac{1}{2}$ "	342° "	U.11.a. N. Boundary
8.50	2	H.T.M.	1 "	92° "	U.11.c.70.50
9.00	10	4.2 HE	3 "	105° "	U.10.a. central.
9.30	1	.77 "	-	-	Front Line U.11.d.
"	15	5.9 "	1 "	-	U.4.
P.m.					
1.00	7	4.2 "	3 "	90° T.B.	Supports
1.30	2	H.T.M.	3 "	" "	"
1.30	2	Pineapples	1 "	" "	"
7.25	5	H.T.M.	$\frac{1}{2}$ "	117° T.B.	U.11.d.
	5	5.9 HE	1 "	67° "	Hyde Park Corner
7.50	6	H.T.M.	1 "	147° "	U.11.d.
8.5	22	" (salvoes 2-min)	"	97° "	U.11.a. & C.
8.5	15	"	"	"	-do-
8.5	6	Pineapples	3 min.	147° T.B.	U.11.c.
9.00	13	5.9 HE	"	110° "	"do-
9.15	30	" "	"	" "	U.11.a.
9.20	12	" "	"	" "	U.11.c. central
9.25	12	" "	1 "	100° "	U.11.c.
9.30	16	" "	1 "	120° "	U.10.b.
9.55	3	" "	1 "	" "	U.10.a.

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SHELLING

Time.	No.	Calibre.	Interval.	Direction.	Area shelled
10.5	45	5.9 H&S	(salvoes 2 min)	100°	T.B. U.11.c.
12.00	12	4.2 "	3 min.	80°	" U.11.b.
12.40	10	4.2 "	2 "	"	" "
11.15	1	H.T.M.	-	110°	" } W.11.d.
11.20	1	"	-	"	"
11.55	3	" Gas	4 mins.	100°	" U.11.b.
9.25	3	"	3 "	"	" U.11.c.
A.M. 3.00	*22	H.T.M.	1 "	"Hester"	U.11.b. (out of our sector)

* No explosion of projectile heard
see report miscellaneous column.

TAKEN FROM O.P. - U.16.b.95.65.

A.M. 7.15	32	4.2 - 5.9	30 secs.	92°	L.B.	U.16.b.-U.10.a.
9.15	6	4.2	1½ mins.	90	"	U.16.a.
9.40	5	4.2	30 secs.	90	"	U.17.d.
10.30	6	4.2	Salvo.	"	"	U.11.d.-U.17.b.
P.M. 1.5	6	"	10 secs.	90	"	Left Bn.
1.10	6	"	2 mins.	98	"	U.17.c.
1.20	6	"	2 "	90	"	U.22.b.
1.27	36	"	3 "	98	"	U.17.c.-U.22.b.
2.40	2	"	5 "	90	"	U.17.c.

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No. 14.

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

STATE OF INTELLIGENCE from 6 a.m. 28/12/17 to 6 a.m., 29/12/1917

OPERATIONS

ARTILLERY The usual hara-sing fire was directed to centres of activity in and around WARRINGTON throughout the day and night. Our heavy batteries paid attention to the back areas, but on the whole firing was below normal.

PATROLS Owing to extremely high visibility extensive patrolling could not be carried out. Protective and liaison patrols were active along our entire front during the night.

MACHINE GUNS Below normal. Roads, tracks and railways in and around WARRINGTON received bursts of fire at irregular intervals. expenditure 7,250 rounds.

AIRCRAFT Several of our planes crossed into enemy territory between 8 and 9 a.m., and at 2 p.m. eight machine having crossed over were subjected to heavy A.A. fire without result. One of our planes engaged an enemy machine and forced it down behind his own lines at 11.50 a.m.

ENEMY OPERATIONS

ARTILLERY Has, on the whole, shown a marked decrease. ULIMÓ AVENUE in U.16.a. a b and U.17.a., was under irregular 5.9 and 4.2 H.E. fire and registration is suspected of being in progress. In the Left Bn. area there was an increase of 77 mm fire and a decrease of 4.2. Detail of days shelling appended.

MACHINE GUNS Quiet. The usual sweeping bursts of indirect fire on duckwalks and tracks in our supports and reserve areas during the night. The machine gun at U.12.c.39.90. has been inactive since our artillery concentration on the night of the 25th instant.

MORTAR BATTERIES Inactive during day. Battery opened mortar fire between 10.30 - 11.30 p.m. on a true bearing of 114° taken from O.P. at U.11.a.90.10. Twentysix min. mortar fell in the front line system during this period. A pineapple mortar is suspected at U.11.b.85.25. A total of 57 mortar bombs fell in our forward area during the last 24 hours.

AIRCRAFT Five planes only were seen, three flying very high, and the other two flew up and down our front line for half an hour and then disappeared. They were vigorously engaged by our A.A. machine guns without effect.

MOVEMENT 8.25 a.m. movement seen at opening near top of tower. 3.45., transport and unloading of metal heard in WARRINGTON. 7.15 a.m., smoke seen issuing from pill box at U.18.c.9.7., also from post at U.18.a.1.9. 8.15 a.m., - a scattered party of 10 huns seen between U.18.b. a U.13.c. apparently doing nothing. They finally disappeared at 10 a.m. in the vicinity of V.13.c.3.7.

DEFENCES New work is noticed at U.18.a.2.8. At 2.30 p.m. a man was seen to place a bird (plover?) on the parapet. It fed about for a few minutes and afterwards disappeared into the trench. There are about 30 yds of new earthwork at U.12.c.9.4. New trench work can be seen at approx U.18.a.2.8.

MISCELLANEOUS The telephone wires run from half way up tower to ruined building 50 yds S.E. of same at about U.12.c.8.3. A hand was seen pointing from the hole three parts of the way up the tower.

SIGNALS A lamp was seen flashing at V.13.c.2.9. apparently from the MAIAlé-de-VARNETON.

[Signature]
Lieutenant.
For G.O.C., 7th Australian Infantry Bde.

TABLE OF ENEMY SHOOTING

Taken from O.P. -
U.11.a.90.10

Time.	No.	Calibre.	Interval	Direction	Area shelled.
A.M.					
5.0	20	77s. salvoes	1/2 min.	E., TB.	(Front line & supports.)
6.30	8	In Pineapples	3 mins.	N.E.,	"
10.30	6	5.9s H.E.	1 min.	77°	U.10.d.
10.45	18	"	1 "	"	U.11.c.-U.10.d.
11.15	12	"	1 "	"	-do-
P.M.					
5.30	20	"	1 1/2 "	106°	U.11.c.
9.30	75	77s	1/2 min.	104°	U.10.d.
10.00	20	5.9s H.E.	3 "	"	-do-
10.35	10	"	1 "	"	-do-
11.00	10	77s	1 "	"	-do-
11.30	12	"	"	"	-do-
12.00	12	"	"	"	-do-
12.30	13	"	"	"	-do-
1.00	9	"	"	"	-do-
10.30	4	H.T.M.	1 "	"	Front line
10.40	12	Pineapples	1 "	N. of tower	do & Sup'ts
11.00	12	H.T.M.	2 "	U.12.c.85.20.	do right
11.15	10	"	2 "	S. of tower.	near S'pts left.
A.M.					
1.5	10	5.9s H.E.	3 "	118° TB	(Hyde Pk Corner area.)
1.30	10	"	1 "	"	U.10.d.
1.30	6	H.T.M.	15 secs.	"	U.11.b.
1.45	12	5.9s H.E.	1/2 min.	"	U.10.d.
2.15	5	"	1 "	"	U.10.b.
2.45	1	"	"	"	"
3.50	5	H.T.M.	10 secs.	77° TB	U.11.a.
3.00	15	5.9s H.E.	1 min.	118°	U.10.d.
4.10	10	"	"	"	-do-
4.35	2	"	"	"	U.11.c.

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TABLE OF ANTIM SHOOTING

Taken from O.P. U.10.b.95.65.

Time.	No.	Calibre.	Interval.	Direction xxxxxxx	Area shotted.
A.M.					
8.45	2	4.2	1 min	90° MB	Left Bn.
9.15	20	4.2	1 "	92 "	U.15.b. 16.a.
10.5	15	77s		" "	U.16.d.
10.15	3	4.2	3 "	90 "	U.16.a.
10.25	10	5.9	3 "	" "	U.16.b.
10.55	5	4.2		" "	"
11.00	25	5.9	1 "	" "	"
4.15	6	4.2	2 "	" "	U.16.a.
4.45	7	"	1 "	93 "	U.17.d.

From O.P. - U.15.d.f.f.

7.10	32	5.9s	1 min	93° M.B.	U.14.
7.35	5	4.2	HE Schrap 1 min.	" "	U.16.a. a b.
8.00	38	5.9s	30 secs.	" "	(U.10.c. & d.-
9.15	20	"	30 "	" "	(U.16.a. & d.-
10.15	28	"	30 "	91, 93 "	-do-
10.30	29	"	30 "	" "	-do-
11.40	9	"	30 "	93 "	U.15.a.
12.30	14	4.2	1 min	91 "	U.15.d.
1.10	6	"	1 to 5 "	" "	U.15.d.
2.00	15	"	15 secs.	93 "	U.15.a.b.c.

Battery flashes picked up as follows :-

1.30 p.m. 4.2 ? battery firing from clump of trees at approx V.13.b.4.5.

Flashes on 129° 140° true bearings from U.11.a.90.10.

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No. 13.

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

SUMMARY OF INTELLIGENCE from 5 a.m. 30/12/17 to 5 p.m. 30/12/17

OPERATIONS

ARTILLERY Our field artillery maintained its usual activity by day and night. At 10.30 p.m. effective retaliation was brought to bear on registered P.A. positions.

PAROLS (1) Lateral patrol kept touch along the front throughout the night.

(2) A patrol left our lines at about U.17.b.7.9. at 6 p.m. and re-entered at U.17.b.85.10. at 10.30 p.m. During this time they kept the SPINNING MILL under observation. All was quiet there and no enemy movement was observed anywhere.

(3) A.M.C.O.'s patrol of four scouts reconnoitred the DOUVE VALLEY. Pill box at U.11.b.4.1. was found empty, but tracks in the snow indicate recent visit by large enemy patrol. The bridge across the DOUVE at U.11.b.82.52. is constructed of wood and would take men in single file. No one crossed while the patrol was observing. A machine gun fired on patrol from U.11.b.85.40. 7 or 8 men were observed around pill-boxes about U.12.a.2.2. and seemed to approach from G.P. in rear. A belt of wire 3 feet high and 20 feet deep was observed extending from about U.11.d.9.9. to river bank at U.11.b.95.30.

MACHINE GUNS & TRENCH MORTARS Our M.Gs. fired on Gasometer WARRINGTON and tracks in U.12.d. at irregular intervals throughout the night. Light T.Ms. fired on trenches at U.11.d.8.4. at 10.30 p.m. enemy quickly retaliated but wide of mark.

ENEMY OPERATIONS

ARTILLERY Comparatively quiet. Irregular fire was directed on our rear areas and communications, but there was no sign of registering.

MACHINE GUNS & TRENCH MORTARS Hostile M.Gs. and T.Ms. were rather less active than usual. A flash from a T.M. has been frequently observed on a true bearing of 111° from U.11.a.9.1.

AIRCRAFT Both sides active. About 3 p.m. an enemy aeroplane with blue painted body flew low over our lines from north to south. Machine gun fire had no effect.

MOVEMENT Slight movement of individuals and small parties was observed in U.18. about the SPINNING MILL and in U.12.c. WARRINGTON. Transport was heard behind WARRINGTON between 6 and 7 a.m. Noise of digging and sicing was heard in the German lines across the DOUVE VALLEY.

C. J. [Signature] Captain,
for G.O.C., 7th Australian Infantry Bde.

G.O.C.

TABLE OF AREA SHOOTING

Taken from O.P. - U.11.a.90.10

Time	No.	Calibre	Interval	Direction	Area shell
A.M.					
5.20	50	4.2 Hb	1 min	80°	U.11.a. - 1.
6.30	12	5.9 "	1 "	118°	U.11.c.
7.35	"	5.9 "	"	"	U.11.a.
9.35	"	H.I.M.	"	103	U.11.d.3.8.
11.00	7	5.9 Hb	1 "	113	Left Sector rear
P.M.					
2.35	12	7.7	15 sec	106	U.11.a. b
3.30	17	"	5 "	"	U.11.d
6.40	2	5.9 Hb	1 min	118	U.10.c.
7.25	8	H.I.M.	30 sec	"	U.11.c.
7.30	5	5.9 Hb	1 min	"	U.10.d.
8.10	15	"	"	103	U.10.c. - d.
9.00	10	"	1 min	106	U.11.d.
9.55	15	"	"	110	U.10.a. c.
9.40	30	Pineapples	3 sec	104	Front line S't.
11.00	10	4.2 Shrap	5 "	114	U.11.c.
11 - 12.	7	H.I.M.	"	100	U.11.b.
A.M.					
1.25	32	5.9 Hb	1 min.	N. of Tower	Left Sector
1.45	10	H.I.M.	1 "	100°	" "
	10	Pineapples	"	104	N. Boundary
4.15	10	H.I.M.	"	100	Front line

Taken from O.P. - U.17.b.95.65.

A.M.					
9.45	12	7.7	10 sec	107°	L.B. J.17.a. J.20.c.
10.15	19	"	50 "	100	J.17.d.
10.30	10	4.2	2 min	"	"
10.50	15	"	1 min	"	J.23.b.
11.30	12	5.9	"	90	Hyde Park
11.50	1	7.7	"	107	J.11.b.
P.M.					
3.10	3	4.2	2 min	100	Left Bn
3.30	15	"	10 sec	90	U.10.d.
4.15	2	"	"	"	J.17.d.

Taken from O.P. - U.15.d.65.

P.M.					
7.50	12	"	30 sec	88°	M.B. Hyde Park
8.10	30	4.2	10 "	98	U.16.b.
10.00	18	"	10 "	107	J.15.d. U.16.a.
2.10 am	16	5.9	10 "	"	J.17.

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No. 16

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

SUMMARY OF INTELLIGENCE from 6 a.m. 30/12/17 to 6 a.m. 31/12/17

OPERATIONS

RAINFALLS A permanent listening post has been established at U.17.d.8.4.

(1) At midnight two officers reconnoitred sap leading from No. 4, U.17., post to River Bank, and found it in good condition but under direct observation from U.18. From this sap, excellent observation can be gained of NO. 4'S LAND to the left and good enfilade fire could be directed on troops attacking our left sector. Five corrugated dug-outs on the River Bank were searched and found to be in fair repair but wet and had entrances facing ARNOLD. The sap had entanglements all along and the wire crossed it in several places.

(2) One m.c.o. and ten men with a Lewis Gun left post 9, U.17.; at 6.30 p.m. and moved along railway to U.11.d.90.23.; when they encountered a party of 4 huns moving down hedge on their right, and another party of 3 moving down hedge along railway. Our patrol emptied nearly two L.G. magazines into them and later engaged a wiring party at U.11.d.85.30. From 10 to 12 huns were bagged during these encounters, but no identifications were obtained owing to the said huns being behind their wire.

(3) One officer twelve other ranks and a Lewis Gun left post 4, U.11., to reconnoitre trench between U.11.d.70.45. & 80.75. Shell holes in vicinity U.11.d.8.8. were examined and found to bear no traces of recent occupation. Party then moved down trip wire from U.11.d.80.75. to 80.60., crossed trip wire and were fired on by L.Gun from trench at U.11.d.80.45. Much coughing, but no other sound emanated from this trench. There is a strip of about 50 yds of trip wire 4 or 5 inches high in front of this trench and plain wire about 15 feet deep but in disrepair and should not present much obstacle to troops. The ground passed over is in good condition and passable for troops.

TRENCH MORTARS (Stokes) 25 rounds were fired on enemy machine gun position at U.11.d.80.15. and trench at U.11.d.8.4. In each case enemy retaliated with his Trench mortars on our right sector.

ARTILLERY & MACHINE GUNS. Carried out normal operations with slightly reduced activity.

ENEMY ACTIVITY

SHILO AVENUE, the DOUV. VALLEY and ARN track were shelled intermittently with bursts of 5.9 and 4.2 H.E. The rear of our supports was also lightly shelled with 7.7 mm H.E. during the day from direction of BAS-ARNOLD. Table of shelling appended.

MACHINE GUNS Bursts of indirect fire swept our supports during the night from r.s. 98°, 113°, 131°, and 138° taken from O.P. at U.11.a.90.10. but activity was below normal.

TRENCH MORTARS & AERIAL much below normal.

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MISCELLANEOUS. At 1 p.m. some 7.7 mm shells fell in approx. U.11.b.4.4. and immediately four orange flares were fired from U.11.b.6.4. each bursting into seven or eight golden stars. The shelling then lifted to approx. U.11.a.7.4. 11.30 a.m. A gun was seen firing three shots into the Div. area on our left from approx. V.19.a.6.8. 11.45 a.m. The hostile battery reported on the 29th inst. was again observed in action firing over the Sugar Refinery to our back areas. The location of the battery is approx. V.13.b.4.5. 8 - 9 a.m. - Four men were seen digging a trench U.12.c.35.95. 11.25 am. The men entered Tower, one carrying a roll of maps (?) 8.50 a.m. A dog and a man left the SPINNING HILL, ran quickly and disappeared at U.18.c.20.05. The presence of the former animal is not considered to bear any particular significance

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

TABLE OF ENEMY SHELLING			Taken from O.P. - U.11.a.85.00.			
Time.	No.	Calibre.	Interval.	Direction.	Area shelled.	
A.M.						
6.25	20	4.2 H.	5 min	135°	U.9.c. & d.	
9.40	62	5.9	(Section salvos) (of 5 min.)	90	U.10.c. & d.	
12.35	20	4.2	3 min.	"	U.11.a.=U.10.b.	
1.00	10	"	"	110	do, b & central	
1.30	18	5.9	"	118	U.10.central.	
1.40	15	"	"	110	U.11.c.	
2.00	12	"	"	118	U.11.c.	
2.35	20	"	2 5"	133	U.11.b.	
3.15	4	4.2 Shrap.	1 1/2 min.	118	do	
4.40	2	5.9 H.E.	1 "	110	U.11.a.	
5.45	67	4.2 "	30 secs.	118	U.10.c. & d.	
7.50	12	Pineapples	5 secs.	103	Left front line	
11.00	48	4.2 H.E.	Salvos	98	U.11.d.	
11.15	6	H.T.A.	1 min.	113	Front line.	
11.40	23	4.2	1 1/2 "	98	U.11.d.	
12.45 Am	7	H.T.A.	1 "	105	Front posts.	
8.45 pm	8	"	10 secs	130	Front line	
A.M.						
1.20	35	4.2 H.E.	1 min.	118	U.10.d.	
2 - 4.35	41	5.9 "	1 "	103	U.10.d.	
Taken from O.P. - U.16.b.95.65. :-						
10.5 am-						
11.15 am	95	7.7	5 secs.	90°	H.B. (U.16.d. (U.17.a.b. & d.	
1.00 pm-						
4.00 pm.	91	4.2	1 min.	92°	" (U.10,11.17. (U.23	

CONFIDENTIAL

No. 17.

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

SUMMARY OF INTELLIGENCE from 8 a.m. 31/12/1917 to 6 a.m. 1/1/1918.

OPERATIONS

RELIEFS The 26th Bn. relieved the 28th Bn. in the left sector of the front line last night. Relief reported complete without casualties at 7.30 p.m.

PATROLS Protective patrols were active throughout the night, but no special reconnaissance was carried out. An enemy wiring party was heard in vicinity of U.11.b.7.5. One of our patrols was fired on by machine gun from U.11.d.8.8. Sounds of activity were heard all along the enemy's front line but no movement was seen.

SNIPING 1 man was shot in U.11.d.9.2. evidently on sentry duty

ENEMY ACTIVITY

ARTILLERY AT CHASSEUR CABT was subjected to fairly heavy 5.9 shelling at 6.30 a.m., (and at 9.30 am) our machine gun barrage battery at U.16.a.12.12. was shelled with 4."s. but no damage resulted. Table of shelling appended.

MACHINE GUNS & TRENCH MORTARS Very little activity.

DEFENCES Digging is in progress at U.12.c.4.5.

FLARES Used freely by the enemy throughout the night, and although red, green and yellow spray flares were used at times no action followed.

AIRCRAFT None seen, but several planes were heard flying very high.

L. L. L.
Lieutenant.
For G.O.C., 7th Australian Infantry Bde.
O.P. - U.16.b.95.65

TABLE OF ENEMY SHELLING

Time	No.	Calibre.	Interval	Direction	Area shelled.
<u>A.M.</u>					
9.00	21	4.2	1 min.	90° M.B.	U.17.d.
10.15	11	"	"	92 "	U.11.c.
10.30	34	"	"	90 "	U.11.c. & U.10.d.
11.30	36	" & 5.9	2-3 "	90 "	U.17.b.
<u>P.M.</u>					
12.35	3	"	3 min	" "	U.17.a.
1.30	56	7.7	2 "	" "	U.17.
2.31	116	5.9	30 secs	87 "	U.16.b.
3.0	48	7.7	-	95 "	U.17.
4.00	17	4.2	-	90 "	U.17.
7.23/9.00	48	"	30 secs	85 "	U.11.c.
9.15	16	"	10 "	90 "	U.16.a. & b.
11.20	20	"	-	-	U.11.c.
12.30 am	10	5.9	-	-	U.16.b.
12.30	10	4.2	-	-	U.10.d.

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

CASUALTIES for month of December 1917.

Unit	Killed		Wounded		Sick	
	Off.	o/r	Off.	o/r	Off.	o/r
7th A.L.T.M.B.	-	1	-	-	-	2
7th A.M.G.Coy	-	1	-	-	-	9
25th Battalion	-	3	-	11	-	40
26th "	-	4	-	6	1	62
27th "	-	5	1	7	1	39
28th "	-	4	-	13	3	40
	-	18	1	37	5	192

APPENDIX 11

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

ARRIVALS during month of December 1917.

Unit	From Hospital.		From Base.	
	Off.	o/r.	Off.	o/r
7th A.L.T.M.Bty	-	2	-	-
7th A.M.G.Coy	-	6	1	17
25th Battalion	-	14	6	115
26th "	1	107	2	4
27th "	-	27	2	51
28th "	6	75	1	5
	7	231	12	192