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SECRET

149c
SB

On His Majesty's Service.

2ND DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY

WAR DIARY

FOR

MONTH OF FEBRUARY 1917.

RECORDED



Instructions regarding *Administrative and Intelligence Summaries* are contained in *Staff Digests*, Part II, and the *Staff Manual* respects the title pages will be prepared in accordance with the following:

SECRET.

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L O C A T I O N 2nd Divisional Artillery.

H.Q.R.A. W 24 b Central.

PARRY GROUP (RIGHT) H.Q.R 29 c 2.2 Brigade O.P. R 24 a 31.2*

	No. & nature of guns.	Battery Positions.	(O.P.)	Wagon lines.
34th Brigade) 50th Batty.	6, 18-prs.	R 28 d 6.3	R 24 a 45	W 21 c 4.4
56th ,,	4, 4.5" How	R 28 d 9.2	M 25 d 96	W 22 d 59
36th Brigade) 15th ,,	6, 18-prs	R 29 b 4.8	R 24 a 12	W 22 d 9.3
48th ,,	(4, ,,	(R 29 b 1.8)	M 25 b 77	W 15 central
71st ,,	(2, ,,	(R 23 d 5.2)	R 23 b 86	W 15 central
D/38 ,,	6, 4.5" How.	R 29 b 2.7	R 23 b 86	W 16 d 5.6

DOOPER GROUP (LEFT) H.Q.X 3 b 5.1.5 de.O.P.R 28 a 1.6* (Being constructed.)

41st Brigade) 9th Batty.	4, 18-prs	R 34 a 1.2	R 28 a 29	W 7 d 5.5
16th ,,	2, ,,	R 33 b 9.1	R 28 a 29	W 22 a 3.4
17th ,,	6, ,,	R 28 d 7.2	M 28 c 44	W 21 c 9.8
47th ,,	4, 4.5" How.	(R 33 b 7.0)	R 28 a 16	W 21 a 5.7
	2, ,,	(R 29 c 2.3)		

D.A.C. H.Q. W 13 d 7.8.

1 Section

W 7 c 9.9

2 & 3 Sections

W 13 d 9.5

* Can be reached unobserved by daylight.

R. Harrington

Major R.A.

3rd Feby. 1917.

Brigade Major R.A. 2nd Division.

Secret

1522
16
2nd Divisional Artillery Operation Order No. 53.

13th February 1917.

Reference Map ANCRE VALLEY 1/10,000, Edition 1.

The II Corps will at an early date capture with the 2nd and 18th Divisions the approximate line EAST MIRAUMONT Road from R 12 c 3.2½ to R 5 a 8.0 thence along road running to R 10 b 2.9½ to R 4 c 8.0 and thence along railway line to R 9 b 2.3½.

The boundary between 2nd Division and 18th Division will be a line running 50 yards west of the WEST MIRAUMONT Road, the road being inclusive to 2nd Division.

At the same time the 2nd Division will make a subsidiary attack and capture the enemy's trenches on the approximate line M 14 a 1½.4½ to R 12 c 9.1½.

Objectives will be :-

1st Objective.....Red Line.

Approximate line EAST MIRAUMONT Road from R 12 c 3.2½ to R 12 a ½.3 and thence along north side of GRANDCOURT TRENCH to R 11 d ½.4.

And for subsidiary Attack:-

Approximate line M 14 a 1½.4½ to R 12 c 9.1½.

2nd Objective.....Green Line.

Approximate line EAST MIRAUMONT Road from point R 12 a ½.3 to R 5 d 5.4 thence along SOUTH MIRAUMONT TRENCH to R 11 a 6½.7½.

3rd Objective.....Brown Line.

Approximate line EAST MIRAUMONT Road from R 5 d 5.4 to R 5 a 8.0 thence along road to R 5 c 4.5.

The Main Attack will be carried out by the 99th Infantry Brigade and the subsidiary attack by the 6th Infantry Brigade.

No troops will be attacking on the right of the 2nd Divn.

The rate of advance up to the 1st Objective will be 100 yards in 3 minutes and subsequently 100 yards in 4 minutes. There will be a halt of 30 minutes on each objective.

BARRAGE.

The Main Attack will be supported by the Right Group (7, 18-pr. batteries). The 17th Battery from the Left Group will prolong the Barrage of the Right Group to a distance of 250 yards East of the EAST MIRAUMONT ROAD to join up with the Flanking Barrage. The Barrage for the Main Attack will open at Zero with about 50% on the enemy Front Line R 12 c 1.9 to R 11 d 1.3½. The remainder on a line 200 yards in front of our own line viz., R 12 c 2.6½ to R 17 b 1.9½. At + 4 the latter will lift 100 yards and at + 7 on to enemy Front Line. At + 10 the whole will lift 100 yards per 3 minutes till it rests on the line R 12 a 0.7 to R 11 c 9.9. During the half-hour pause the ground will be searched to a distance of 300 yards beyond this line.

P. T.O.

Termination
At the of the $\frac{1}{2}$ hour viz., at + 48 intense fire will be re-opened on this line for 4 minutes and the Barrage will then creep forward at the rate of 100 yards per 4 minutes till it rests on the SOUTH MIRAUMONT TRENCH (Green Line). At + 1 hour 14 mins. it will continue to lift till it reaches a line 250 yards beyond the objective and then search as before.

At 1 hour 48 minutes fire will become intense as before and at 1 hour 52 minutes will creep forward at the same rate to a final consolidating Barrage line 300 yards beyond Brown Line then searching as before.

The 17th Battery will throughout extend the lines of Barrage eastwards as previously stated.

The Subsidiary Attack will be supported by the Left Group (less 1 Battery) and the 23rd Brigade R.F.A., the latter on the right.

within safety limits
At Zero the Barrage will open on German Front Line from M 8 c 5.0 to R 12 a 4.0 with greatest intensity from M 14 a 3.9 to ~~M 7 c 5.0~~ ~~M 7 d 1.5~~ dividing line between 23rd Brigade R.F.A. and Left Group M 13 b 0.0 to M 8 c 0.0.

At + 10 the Barrage will lift off front line between points M 14 a 1.7 $\frac{1}{2}$ and M 7 c 1.4 to a straight line joining these points and continue to lift at the rate of 100 yards per 2 minutes till it rests on a line M 14 a 3.9 to R 12 a 5.1, where a consolidating barrage will be formed searching forward to a distance of 300 yards.

At + 48, the Left Group will spread its consolidating barrage over the whole of this line and the 23rd Brigade R.F.A. will form a flanking Barrage on the line R 12 a 5.1 - R 6 c 2.0 - R 5 b 5.0.

At + 1 hour 48 minutes Two batteries from Left Group will prolong the flanking Barrage from R 5 a 5.0 to R 5 a 9.5.

4.5" Howitzers.

Right Group - 2 Batteries.

Zero to + 3 German Front Line from WEST MIRAUMONT ROAD to R 12 a 3.0 and trenches around R 12 a 0.0.

+ 3 to Search East and West MIRAUMONT Roads keeping 100 yards ahead of 18-pounder Barrage.

During pause on RED LINE, search both roads north of consolidating line and trenches between roads as far North as SOUTH MIRAUMONT TRENCH inclusive.

During advance from RED to GREEN LINE, search both roads keeping 100 yards ahead of the 18-pounder Barrage.

During pause on GREEN LINE, search both roads 100 yards north of consolidating Barrage, also Ravine running from HANDEL Road at R 5 d 8.7 to R 5 b 5.4.

During advance from GREEN to BROWN LINE, Last named Ravine and hidden ground in PETIT MIRAUMONT 100 yards ahead of the 18-pr. Barrage, continuing during final consolidation.

Left Group - 1 Battery.

Zero onwards COULEE TRENCH from R 12 a 3.0 eastwards but not West of R 12 a 7.0 after + 6.

Trench M 7 d 1.5 to M 7 b 4.1 but not South of M 7 d 2.7 after + 6.

23rd Bde. R.F.A. 1 Battery.
M 8 c 9.8 to M 14 a 3.9

Zero onwards :- GUARD TRENCH

W. G. G. G.

Major R.A.
Brigade Major R.A. 2nd Divn.

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R.A. II Corps.
Hvy. Artillery, II Corps.
2nd Division "G"
34th Bde.
36th Bde.
41st Bde.
23rd F.A. Bde.

Reference Operation Order No 53.

2nd PAGE. Line 16 and 17.

M.7.c.5.0 should read M.7.d.0.5.

2nd PAGE. Line 26.

R.12.b.5.1 should read R.13.a.5.1.

14th February 1917.

R. Gammie
Major R.A.
Brigade Major R.A. 2nd Div.

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2nd Divisional Artillery Operation Order No. 54

Reference Map 1/10,000 ANORE VALLEY.

1. This order and Barrage Tables supersede O.O. 53 where there are discrepancies.
2. Unless there is a counter attack in progress there will be a complete cessation of all 13 pr and 4.5" Howitzer Fire between 0.47 and 0.52 and between 2 hr 11 and 2 hr 16.
3. Shrapnel with a long corrector will be used for all moving barrages.
50% Shrapnel and 50% H.E. will be used during consolidation and in Flanking Barrages.
4. Great care will be taken to calibrate so that all guns of a battery shoot even. No salvos ammunition to be used in barrages.
5. The barrage will overlap by at least 25 yards on the line between 2nd and 18th Divisions.
6. Observers of batteries forming flanking and Right protective barrages will keep a specially sharp look out for counter attack from the direction of PYS and if seen will deal with it immediately on their own initiative and also report it to Group Head Quarters.
7. It is essential that the original barrage especially for subsidiary attack should not open too long. A slight error is better than an equal error.
8. From 0.13 Right and Left Group Commanders will arrange for one battery of their group to answer all N.F. calls within range.

R. Carrington

Major-R.A.

15th February, 1917.

Bde. Major R.A. 2nd Div.

18 pr. BARRAGE TABLE RIGHT GROUP + 17th BATTERY.

Time	Task	Rate of Fire.
Zero	500 yds GRANDCOURT TRENCH R.12.c.1.9. to R.11.d.1.7. prolonged 200 yards eastwards by 17th battery along COULET TRENCH.	4 rounds per gun per minute
Zero	500 on line R.12.c.2.5 $\frac{1}{2}$ parallel to our front trench to R.17.b.1.9 $\frac{1}{2}$ for 4 minutes then lift 100 yards every 3 minutes till it rests on GRANDCOURT TRENCH as above.	
+ 10	The whole lift 100 yards per 3 minutes to the line R.12.a.0.7 to R.11.c.2.3 $\frac{1}{2}$.	
+ 32	Consolidating Barrage searching forward 250 yards	$\frac{1}{2}$ rd per gun per minute.
+ 47	Pause	
+ 52	Reopen intense Barrage on line R.12.a.0.7. to R.11.c.2.3 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 rds per gun per minute.
+ 53	Barrage creeps forward 100 yards per 4 minutes to SOUTH MIRAMONT TRENCH R.5.d.5.3 $\frac{1}{2}$ to R.11.a.6.8.	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ rds per gun per minute except 1 hr 8 to 1 hr 10 2 rds per gun per minute.
+ 1 hr 16	Lift off SOUTH MIRAMONT TRENCH and creep forward 100 yards per 4 minutes to the line R.5.d.0.8 to R.5.c.3.4.	
+ 1 hr 32	Consolidating Barrage searching forward 200 yards	$\frac{1}{2}$ rd per gun per minute.
+ 2 hr 11	Pause	
+ 2 hr 13	Reopen intense Barrage on line R.5.d.0.8 to R.5.c.3.4.	4 rds per gun per min.
+ 2 hr 23	Barrage creeps forward 100 yards per 4 minutes to the line R.5.d.6.8. to R.5.a.0.2.	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ rds per gun per minute
+ 2 hrs 36	Final consolidative Barrage.	

At + 53 2 batteries lift to S. MIRAMONT TRENCH, as per attached special barrage table

Bd Major R. A. ...

SECRET.

16 pdr BARRAGE TABLE LEFT GROUP less 17th BATTERY.

Time	Task	Rate of Fire.
Zero	German Front Line M.13.b.7.7. to R.12.a.3 $\frac{1}{2}$.0.	Zero to $\rightarrow$ 20
+ 10	Lift to Line M.13.b.8 $\frac{1}{2}$.8 $\frac{1}{2}$ - M.7.d. $\frac{1}{2}$.4. thence along front line to R.12.c.5.7 thence to R.12.a.5.3.	4 rds per gun per minute.
+ 13	Lift to Line M.8.c.0.0 to M.7.d. $\frac{1}{2}$.5 thence as before.	
+ 13	Consolidating barrage on Line M.8.c.1.1 to M.7.d. $\frac{1}{2}$.5 thence as before.	$\rightarrow$ 20 onwards $\frac{1}{2}$ rd per gun per minute.
+ 48	Extend on right to M.8.c.5.0.	
+ 56	Detach two batteries for whom special table is attached.	

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15 pdr BARRAGE TABLE 23rd Brigade R.F.A.

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Time	Task	Rate of Fire
Zero	German Front Line M.8.c.3.0 to M.13.6.7.7. but cutting across base of salient M.13.6.8.0. to M.13.6.7.8.	4 rds per gun per minute
+ 10	Lift to line M.8.c.3.0 - M.14.a.1.7 - M.13.b.8.1.3.1.	4 rds per gun per minute
+ 15	2 Batteries lift to line M.8.c.3.0 - M.14.a.3.8 - M.8.c.0.0 1 Battery form Flanking Barrage on line M.12.a.3.3. to M.12.a.5.4.	4 rds per gun per minute 3 rds per gun per minute till + 33 then 1 rd per gun per minute.
+ 16	2 Batteries lift to line M.8.c.3.0 - M.14.a.7.9 to M.8.c.1.1	4 rds per gun per minute.
+ 52	2 Batteries form Flanking Barrage on line M.12.a.3.3. to M.12.a.5.4.	3 rds per gun per minute till 1 hr 33 then 1 rd per gun per minute.

SECRET.

SPECIAL BARRAGE TABLE.

2 Batteries Right Group 2 Batteries Left Group.

Time.	Task	Rate of Fire	Remarks.
◆ 58	Lift to SOUTH MIRAUMONT TRENCH R.5.d.7.4 $\frac{1}{2}$ to R.11.a.6.8 with 1 or 2 guns per battery searching and sweeping 250 yards beyond.	3 rds per gun per minute till 1 hr. 6 then 4 rds per gun per minute till 1 hr 16.	Left Group take Right half of lines given Right Group take left half. About $\frac{1}{4}$ of guns to be kept searching and sweeping ahead through-out.
1 hr 16	Lift 100 yards per 4 minutes to line R.5.d.1.9 to R.5.c.3.4	3 rds per gun per minute.	
1 hr 32	Consolidating barrage on above line searching forward 300 yards.	$\frac{1}{2}$ rd per gun per minute.	
2 hr 11	Pause		
2 hr 16	Reopen intense fire on above line	4 rds per gun per minute.	
2 hr 20	Lift 200 yards and then lift 100 yards per 4 minutes to the line R.5.a.7.7 to R.5.a.0.2.	3 rds per gun per minute	
2 hr 36	Consolidating Barrage on above line.	$\frac{1}{2}$ rd per gun per minute.	

SECRET.

4.5" Howitzers Right Group - 2 Batteries. 1600

Zero to + 3 German Front Line from WEST MIRAUMONT ROAD to R.12.a.3.0 and trenches around R.12.a.0.0. 2 rds per gun per minute.

+ 3 to + 19 Search East and West MIRAUMONT Roads keeping 100 yards ahead of 18-pounder Barrage. 2 rds per gun per minute

During pause on RED LINE, search both roads north of consolidating line and trenches between roads as far North as SOUTH MIRAUMONT TRENCH inclusive. 1 rd per gun per 3 minutes.

During advance from RED to GREEN LINE, search both roads keeping 100 yards ahead of the 18-pounder Barrage. 2 rds per gun per minute.

During pause on GREEN LINE, search both roads 100 yards north of consolidating Barrage, also Ravine running from HANDEL Road at R.5.d.8.7 to R.5.b.5.4. 1 rd per gun per 3 minutes.

During advance from GREEN to BROWN LINE, last named Ravine and hidden ground in PETIT MIRAUMONT 100 yards ahead of the 18-pdr Barrage, continuing during final consolidation. 2 rds per gun per minute till 2 hr 36 minutes, then 1 rd per gun per 3 minutes.

Left Group - 1 Battery.

2 rds per gun
per minute
till + 22,
then 1 rd
per gun
per 3 mins

Zero onwards COULEE TRENCH from R.12.a.3.0 eastwards but not West of R.12.a.7.0 after + 6.
Trench M.7.d.1.5. to M.7.b.4.1 but not South of M.7.d.2.7.
after + 6

23rd Bde. R.F.A. 1 Battery. Zero onwards :- GUARD TRENCH M.8.c.9.2. to M.14.a.3.9. 2 rds per gun per minute till + 22, then 1 rd per gun per 3 minutes.

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S E C R E T

2nd Div. G.S. 1073/48
R.A. S/378.

74th Brigade R.F.A.
38th " "
41st " "
Attached Units.

Reference Instructions for Offensive Operations No. VII
para. (1) :-

The following Code has been arranged :-

- (a) Lengthen Barrage - GREEN Very Light repeated 3 or 4 times.
- (b) Shorten Barrage - RED - do -
- (c) S.O.S. - GREEN - RED - GREEN repeated till
Artillery put down Barrage.

After reaching the second objective if the Signal (a)
is sent up by the Right Battalion the Barrage will be lifted to
approximately a line immediately N.W. of the deep Ravine at R 5
d 8.8., if by the Left Battalion it will be lifted to the line of
the MIRAMONT - GRANDMONT Railway.

On (b) being sent up after the above the Barrage will
revert to its original line.

W. H. H. H. H. H.
Lieut. Col. Major R.A.

15-2-1917.

Brigade Major R.A. 2nd Division.

S. 379
SECRET

34th Brigade R.F.A.
36th
41st
Attached Units.

Flares will be lighted by the leading troops :-

- (a) 15 minutes after the hour named for reaching the first Objective, Zero + 31.
- (b) 15 minutes after the hour named for reaching the second Objective viz Zero + 1 hour and 31 minutes.
- (c) When called for by the Aeroplane. Contact Aeroplanes are marked by square black flags on the lower plane.

Station Calls up to Zero the ordinary Position Calls will be used.

After Zero and in Advance of Advanced Battalion Headquarters existing Code Calls will be used.

Special Signals.

S. O. S.

MASS followed by Map square to denote enemy massing.

A.R.T. followed by Map square to denote our own shell falling short.

These Signals may be used either over the telephone lines, with visual or on power buzzer.

Station Calls.

Right Company Headquarters of Battalion in line of

6th Brigade.....	X A
Attacking Battalion H.Q. of 6th Bde....	X B
Advanced Coys. Right Battalion 99th)	X C
Infantry Brigade.....)	
Advanced Coys. Left Battn. 99th I. Bde.	X D
Advanced H.Q. Attacking Battn. 99 Bde.	X E
Advanced H.Q. 99th Inf. Bde.	X F

16th February 1917.

H. Harrington
Major R.A.
Brigade Major R.A. 2nd Divn.

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2nd R.A. / 3378
G.S. 1073 / 58

34th Brigade R.F.A.
34th
41st
Attached Units.

Reference 2nd Div. G.S. 1073/58 and 2nd Div. R.A. S/778,
of 15th February - X 1073/58

Should any of the signals mentioned therein be observed
the Officer who sees them will at once report to his Group Com-
mander: who if the Batteries affected are under his command will
take the necessary steps: if otherwise he will pass the informa-
tion to the Group Commander concerned, reporting in either case
to Headquarters R.A.

15th February 1917

Major R.A.
200 Brigade Major R.A. 2nd Divn.

SECRET

24
2nd Div. I.S. 1073/53.
2nd Div. Arty. S/391.

34th Bde.
36th Bde.
41st Bde. Attached Units.

165c

In continuation of 2nd Division G.S. 1073/48 dated the 13th inst, the following code of coloured Very Lights will be used in the event of our failing to reach the final objective.

The Artillery barrage programme must be carried out as laid down, but after it has been carried out the barrage could be brought back to any desired line by the following method:

- (a) A succession of Red lights may be sent up from the advanced troops. On this being seen by the Artillery the barrage will be brought back 200 yards.
- (b) A further series of Red lights may then be sent up and the barrage will be brought back a further 200 yards.
- (c) The same procedure will be adopted until the barrage has reached the line required.
- (d) If the barrage has been brought back too far a succession of Green lights should be sent up and the barrage will again lengthen 200 yards.

Artillery

Major R.A.

Bde. Major R.A. 2nd Div.

16³/17

SECRET.

7030

ANZAC Corps. G. No. 1520/3

d/-13-2-17.

2nd Div. G.S. No. 244/25/1.

2nd Div. Art. No. 8/334.

34th Lde. 41st Lde.
15th Lde. Attached Units.

S. O. S. Signal.

With reference to Fifth Army S.O. 534 d/-11th February, please note that the S.O.S. Signal for the 1st ANZAC Corps consists of a rifle grenade fired perpendicularly to the ground and bursting into two green and two red stars at the top of its flight.

W. J. Macdonald
R.A.

16th February, 1917.

Bde. Major R.A. 2nd Div.

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7

12-5

SECRET.

2nd Div. J.S. 1074/75
2nd Div. Art. 8/107.

34th Bde. 41st Bde.
38th Bde. Attached Units.

For the forthcoming operations position, calls for R.Q. will be as follows :-

Right Brigade	S.J.	7
Attacking Bn. (R. Bde)	S.E.	8.
Bn. in line (R. Bde)	S.J.	1
Left Brigade	S.A.	12
R. Attacking Bn. (L. Bde)	S.C.	3
L. Attacking Bn. (L. Bde)	S.P.	5
IT	S.H.	6

In the event of any H. I. moving forward in the course of the attack, they will be addressed by their code call, and NOT by their former position call.

16th. February, 1917.

Bde. Major R.A. 2nd Div.