

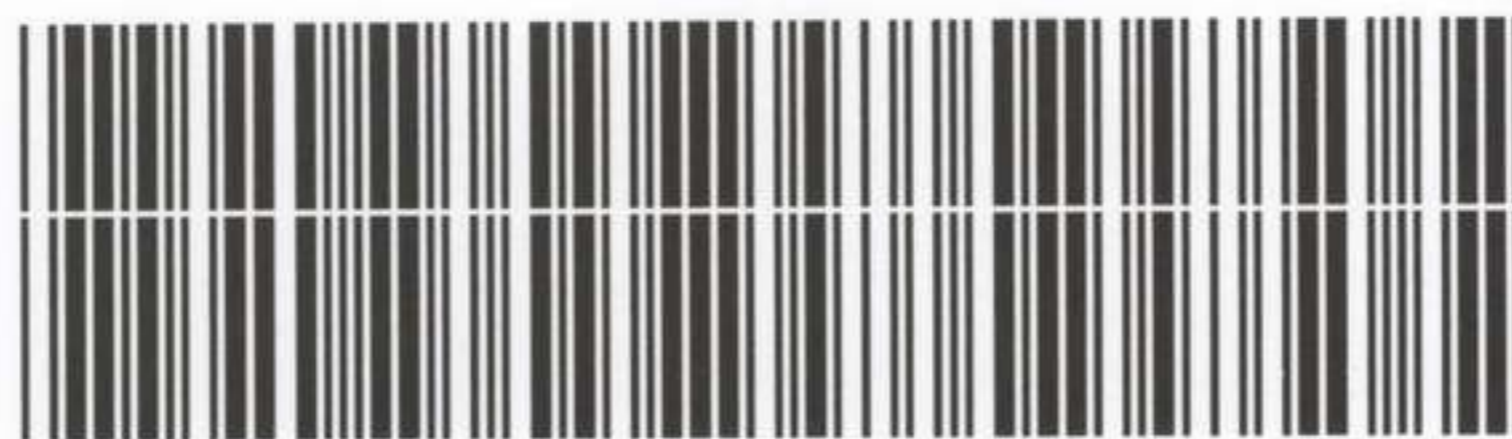
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Formation Headquarters

Item number: 1/41/3

Title: 57th West Lancashire Division

February 1917



AWM4-1/41/3

Confidential

Vol 1

War Diary

of

57th Divisional Artillery

from 7 Feb 1917 to 28 Feb. 1917

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WAR DIARY

or

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required.)

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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HAVRE	1917 Feb. 7		The Divisional Artillery started to disembark at HAVRE. The disembarkation finished on 16 th .	JAC
Neuf Berquin	Feb 10		The 255 th Brigade arrived in the concentration area in the neighbourhood of NEUF BERRUIN. The 57 th Division joined the 2 nd Australia and New Zealand Army Corps Second Army.	JAC
	Feb 11		The 257 th Brigade arrived in the concentration area.	JAC
Neuf Berquin	Feb 12		Headquarters 2A arrived in the concentration area.	JAC
	Feb 13		The 256 th Brigade arrived in the concentration area.	JAC
Cordonnerie	Feb 14		The 255 th Brigade commenced the relief of the 1 st Brigade N.Z. F.A. covering the 3 rd Infantry Brigade New Zealand Division in the CORDONNERIE Sector of the Divisional front.	JAC
Neuf Berquin	Feb 15		The 2A C. arrived in the concentration area.	JAC
Cordonnerie			The 256 th Brigade completed the relief of the 1 st Brigade N.Z. F.A.	
Cordonnerie			Personal French Mortar Officer and personnel of French Mortar Batteries proceeded to BERTHEN on a fortnight's course at the Trench Mortar School 2 nd Army on the ^{medium} 2 in and 4.5 mortar.	

WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1917 Feb 21		The 286 th Brigade commenced the relief of the 3 rd Brigade N.Z.F.A. Owing to the Divisional Artillery having been reorganised into two Brigades of four batteries and the necessity of having a three-group organisation, one battery of the 285 th Brigade moved to a position covering the centre sector, and a composite howitzer battery was formed for this sector. Three batteries of the 286 th Brigade formed the left group.	Appendix
	Feb 22		Concentration of the Divisional Artillery complete. Relief of the 3 rd Brigade N.Z.F.A. complete. The 2 nd Army Brigade N.Z.F.A. remained in action in the centre sector, one battery moving over to the right group and one battery to the left group.	Appendix
SAILLY-SUR-LYS	Feb 23	2pm	The Command of the Artillery passed to the C.R.A. 57 th Division. A quiet day; visibility bad, a bad day for registration.	Appendix
	Feb 24		Visibility again bad. Registration continued.	Appendix
	Feb 25		A quiet day.	Appendix
	Feb 26		Visibility very fair. Enemy artillery much more active. Two 5.9 ins. howitzer ^{howitzer} .	Appendix

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2

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

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1917		<p>firing from 36 N 34 a 0.2 did considerable damage to position occupied by A/285 in centre group; one man killed, five wounded.</p> <p>The Div Ammunition Column relieved the N.Z. S.A.C.</p>	<p>Append 2.</p>
	Feb 27		A quiet day.	
	Feb 28		The position occupied by A Battery 285 th Brigade was again shelled - there were no casualties.	

SECRET

APP. 2.

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No. 94 G,
3rd Echelon

I attach herewith Intelligence
Summary of 4th Left Group,
5th Divl Arty

J. W. Cook

Lieut & Capt RA
Left Group, 57 Div

6/3/17.

WAR DIARY

Army Form

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

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

HQ R.A.
57 D

fol

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
IN THE FIELD	21.2.17	-	Left Group Head Quarters 57 th Div. Arty. formed - " - Commander Lt. Col. R. C. DRURY. - " - Adjutant Lt. Adj. J. D. VOAK - " - Orderly Officer Lt. K. McCULLOCH	
- " -	22.2.17	-	Left Group formed A/286 th Bde R.F.A. commanded by MAJ. CATLEY B/286 th " " " " " " " " MAJ. HARRIS D/286 th (How) " " " " " " " " MAJ. WALKDEN 2 nd Bty N.Z.F.A. " " " " " " " " Capt WICKENS Left Group takes over Bois Grenier sector from 3 rd Bde N.Z.F.A. Positions Bde Hd Qtrs H 27 d 35.35 D/286 H 24 a 1.1 2 nd N.Z.F.A. H 23 a 7.6 A/286 H 24 b 2.9 B/286 H 18 b 48.63 } Ref. Map. 36. N.W. 4 Edition 6. C. 1/10,000	
- " -	23.2.17	-	Defence scheme issued (copy attached). Registration.	
- " -	24.2.17	-	Registration.	
- " -	25.2.17	-	Registration.	
- " -	26.2.17	-	Registration.	
- " -	27.2.17	-	Registration.	
- " -	28.2.17	-	Registration.	

Q. Voak to right N. a.
left front 57th Div Arty.

SECRET.Copy No. 257TH DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY OPERATION ORDER No. 1.
*****Reference 1/40,000 Sheet 36 and 33a.

20th February, 1917.

1. The relief of the New Zealand Divisional Artillery- (less Divisional Ammunition Column and Trench Mortars) will be continued on the night 21/22 February and completed on the night 22/23rd February.
2. The above moves and reliefs will take place in accordance with the attached Table of Moves and Reliefs.
3. On completion of the Moves and Reliefs the front will be covered by three groups as shown on the attached Distribution List. The batteries of the Divisional Artillery will cover the whole front. The batteries of the 2nd Brigade N.Z.F.A. will be at rest in action and will fire on 3.O.3. calls only, under the orders of the group to which they belong.
4. The details of all moves and reliefs will be arranged between Commanders concerned.
5. The command of each group will pass on completion of reliefs.
6. The completion of reliefs will be reported to Divisional Artillery Headquarters.
7. One officer, one linesman and two telephonists will be left by the N.Z.F.A. at
 - (a) Centre Group Headquarters.
 - (b) A/285.
 - (c) C/286.
 - (d) Left Group Headquarters.
 - (e) A/283.
 - (f) B/286.
 - (g) D/286.
 for 24 hours after completion of relief.
8. A composite 4 gun Howitzer battery under the command of Captain Muse, 285th Brigade R.F.A. will be formed and will occupy a position at H 23 c 1.8. This battery will come under the command of the Centre Group Commander and will cover the Centre Sector of the Divisional front.

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9. The 286th Brigade R.F.A. will occupy the wagon lines vacated by the 3rd Brigade H.Z.F.A. as follows :-

H.Q.	1 Section A/286.	L 11 d 8.5
Remainder	A/286	L 17 d 7.0
	B/286	L 8 d 9.3
	C/286	L 17 d 9.3
	D/286	L 4 c 8.8

They will arrive there not earlier than 2p.m. on 21st February. Advance parties will arrive by 10a.m. on 21st February to take over area stores.

- 10. The command of the Divisional Artillery and Army Brigade on the Divisional front will be taken over at 10a.m. on 23rd February.
- 11. The 57th Divisional Artillery Headquarters will close at VIEUX BERQUIN at 9a.m. on 23rd February and will open at SAILLY at 10a.m.
- 12. Acknowledge.

R. C. ...
Major,
Brigade Major, 57th D.A.

Issued at 9p.m. to :-

- | | | |
|----------|----------|--------------------------------|
| Copy No. | 1 | File. |
| | Nos. 2/3 | War Diary. |
| | 4 | 285th Brigade R.F.A. |
| | 5 | 286th Brigade R.F.A. |
| | 6 | Left Group Commander. |
| | 7 | H. Z. D. A. C. |
| | 8 | H. Z. Div. Artillery. |
| | 9 | 56th Div. Artillery. |
| | 10 | 3rd Australian Div. Artillery. |
| | 11 | 2nd Anzac Heavy Artillery. |
| | 12 | R. A. 2nd Anzac. |
| | 13 | 57th Division. |
| | 14 | Signal Officer, R.A. 57th Div. |
| | 15 | Staff Captain. |

TABLE OF MOVES AND RELIEFS.

Date.	Unit.	From.	To.	Remarks.
Night. Feb. 21/23.	One Section A/285th Bde. R.F.A.	H 31 a ^{25.00} 7.0	H 33 b 1.5	In relief of one section 5th Bty. N.Z.F.A.
	One Section 5th Bty. N.Z.F.A.	H 33 b 1.5	H 31 a ^{25.00} 5.0	In relief of one section A/285th Brigade R.F.A.
	One Section D/285th Bde. R.F.A.	H 31 b 8.1	H 23 c 1.8	To form composite How. Bty. under Capt. Guse. This position is temporarily occupied by the 15th How. Bty. N. Z. F. A.
	One Section, A/286th Bde. R.F.A.	Wagon Lines.	H 24 b 2.9	In relief of one section 12th Bty. N. Z. F. A.
	One Section, B/286th Bde. R.F.A.	Wagon Lines.	H 18 b 48.65	In relief of one section 11th Bty. N. Z. F.A.
	One Section, C/286th Bde. R.F.A.	Wagon Lines.	H 28 a 8.4	In relief of one section 2nd. Bty. N. Z. F. A.
	One Section, D/286th Bde. R.F.A.	Wagon Lines.	H 24 a 1.1	In relief of one section 4th How. Bty. N.Z.F.A.
Night Feb. 22/23.	One Section, 2nd. Bty. N.Z.F.A.	H 28 a 8.4	H 23 a 7.5	In relief of one section 13th Bty. N. Z. F. A.
	One Section, A/285th Bde. R. F. A.	H 31 a ^{25.00} 5.0	H 33 b 1.5	To complete relief of 5th Bty. N. Z. F. A.
	One Section, A/285th Bde. R.F.A.	H 26 c 5.5	H 33 b 1.5	
	One Section, 5th Bty. N. Z. F. A.	H 33 b 1.5	H 31 a ^{25.00} 5.0	To complete relief of A/285th Bde. R. F. A.
	Remainder A/286th Bde. R.F.A.	Wagon Lines.	H 24 b 2.9 (1 sec) H 24 a 9.7 (1 sec)	To complete relief of 12th Bty. N.Z.F.A.

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TABLE OF MOVES AND RELIEFS - Page 2.

Date.	Unit.	From.	To.	Remarks.
Night Feb. 22/23.	Remainder B/286th Bde. R.F.A.	Wagon Lines.	H 18 b 48.63.	To complete relief of 11th Bty. N.Z.F.A.
	Remainder C/286th Bde. R.F.A.	Wagon Lines.	H 28 a 8.4	To complete relief of 2nd Bty. N.Z.F.A.
	One Section, D/286th Bde. R.F.A.	Wagon Lines.	H 24 a 1.1	To complete relief of 4th Bty. N.Z.F.A.
	One Section, D/286th Bde. R.F.A.	Wagon Lines.	H 23 c 1.8	To form composite battery.
	One Section, 2nd Bty. N.Z.F.A.	H 28 a 8.4	H 23 a 7.5	To complete relief of 13th Bty. N.Z.F.A.

DISTRIBUTION LIST.

Group.	Unit.	Position.	Remarks.
Right.	H. Q.	H 31 a 8.8	Present position.
Lieut-Colonel D. COOKES, R.F.A.	B/285	H 31 c 9.2 H 26 c 40.45.	4 guns.) 2 guns.) Present position.
	C/285	H 6 a 9.9 H 18 a 6.8	4 guns.) 2 guns.) Present position.
	5th Battery N.Z.F.A.	H 31 a 25.00	Now occupied by 4 guns A/285.
	D/285 (4 guns)	H 31 a 75.10	Present position.
Centre.	H. Q.	H 20 1 6.6	Present position.
Lieut-Colonel S. SIMPSON, R.F.A.	A/285	H 33 b 1.5	Now occupied by 5th Battery N.Z.F.A.
	C/285	H 28 a 8.4	Now occupied by 2nd Battery N.Z.F.A.
	9th Battery N.Z.F.A.	H 28 a 13.17 H 28 a 45.80	2 guns.) 2 guns.) Present position.
	6th (How.) Bty. N.Z.F.A.	H 29 b 20.25	Present position.
	Composite How. Bty.	H 23 c 1.8	To cover Centre Group zone.
Left.	H. Q.	H 17 d 35.35	Present position.
Colonel R.C. DRURY, R.F.A.	A/286	H 24 a 9.7 H 24 b 2.9	2 guns.) now occupied by 4 guns.) 12th Bty. N.Z.F.A.
	B/286	H 18 b 48.65	Now occupied by 11th Bty. N.Z.F.A.
	2nd Battery N.Z.F.A.	H 25 a 7.5	Now occupied by 4 guns 13th Battery N.Z.F.A.
	D/286 (4 guns)	H 24 a 1.1	Now occupied by 4th (How.) Battery N.Z.F.A.

SECRET.

Copy No. 3

57TH DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY OPERATION ORDER No. 2.

Reference 1/40,000 sheet 36 and 36a.

22nd February, 1917.

1. The 57th Divisional Artillery will complete the relief of the New Zealand Divisional Artillery (less Trench Mortars) on the 26th February.
The 57th Divisional Ammunition Column will take over responsibility for ammunition supply at 10a.m. on 26th February.
2. The 57th Trench Mortars will relieve the New Zealand Trench Mortars under orders to be issued at a later date. Heavy Trench Mortars will be handed over. Medium Trench Mortars will not be exchanged.
3. The 57th Division R. A. Defence Schemes are being prepared, but until they are issued, the New Zealand Artillery Defence Scheme will remain in force with the exception of the alteration in Zones shown on attached sheet.
4. The Batteries of the 2nd Brigade N. Z. F. A. now in action on the Divisional front will only fire on an "S.O.S." call.
5. Acknowledge.

P. G. Knappett
Major,
Brigade Major, 57th D.A.

Issued at 12.00pm. to :-

- Copy No. 1 File.
Nos. 2/3 War Diary.
- 4 285th Brigade R.F.A.
 - 5 286th Brigade R.F.A.
 - 6 Left Group Commander.
 - 7 O.C., 2nd Brigade N.Z.F.A.
 - 8 57th Division, "G".
 - 9 - do - "Q"
 - 10 N. Z. D. A.
 - 11 D. T. M. O., 57th Division.
 - 12 D. T. M. O., N. Z. D. A.
 - 13 2nd Anzac Heavy Artillery.
 - 14 R. A. 2nd Anzac.
 - 15 3rd Australian Divisional Arty.
 - 16 56th Division.
 - 17 57th Div. Ammunition Column.
 - 18) Signal Officer 57 DA
 - 19) Spare.
 - 20)
 - 21)

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ZONES COVERING TRENCHES ALLOTTED TO BATTERIES.

Group.	Battery.	Zones covering Trenches.
Right.	B/285.	N 9.4, N 10.1, N 10.2, N 10.3, N 10.4, N 10.5, N 4.1.
	C/285.	N 8.3, N 8.4, N 8.5, N 9.1, N 9.2, N 9.3.
	D/285.	N 8.3, N 8.4, N 8.5, N 9.1, N 9.2, N 9.3, N 9.4, N 10.1, N 10.2, N 10.3, N 10.4, N 10.5, N 4.1.
Centre.	A/285.	N 5.1, N 5.2, N 5.3, N 5.4, N 6.1, N 6.2.
	C/286.	N 6.3, N 6.4, N 6.5, I 31.1.
	Composite.	N 5.1, N 5.2, N 5.3, N 5.4, N 6.1, N 6.2, N 6.3, N 6.4, N 6.5, I 31.1.
Left.	A/286.	I 26.5, I 26.4, I 26.3, I 26.2, I 26.1, I 32.1.
	B/286.	I 31.5, I 31.4, I 31.3, I 31.2.
	D/286.	I 26.5, I 26.4, I 26.3, I 26.2, I 26.1, I 32.1, I 31.5, I 31.4, I 31.3, I 31.2.