

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

Formation Headquarters

**Item number:** 1/46/8 Part 3

**Title:** General Staff, Headquarters 3rd  
Australian Division

June 1917



AWM4-1/46/8PART3



SECRET.THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Divisional Headquarters,  
19th. June, 1917.



G.O.C.	A.D.M.S.
"G" Staff.	A.P.M.
"A.Q" Staff.	A.D.V.S.
C.R.A.	Camp Commandant.
C.R.E.	42nd. Squadron, R.F.C. (For inf).
Div. Sig. Coy.	2nd. Anzac "G" "
9th. Aust. Inf. Bde.	4th. Australian Division. "
10th. do.	25th. Division. "
11th. do.	11th. Division. "
3rd. Aust. Pioneer Bn.	New Zealand Division. "
3rd. Aust. Div. Train.	

With reference to Third Australian Division Order  
No. 46 of even date.-

Divisional Headquarters will move to RAVELSBERG  
on the 23rd. instant.

Permission has been granted to augment the  
accommodation at RAVELSBERG Camp by the transfer of huts from the  
WESTHOF FARM Divisional Headquarters, provided that sufficient  
huts are left at WESTHOF FARM for the accommodation of Brigade  
Headquarters. The greatest care is to be taken to prevent damage  
to NISSON huts during removal.

The work of preparing RAVELSBERG Camp for the  
accommodation of the Division will proceed forthwith.

Lieut-Colonel.-  
General Staff.

*War Diary*



*Appendix 45*

SECRET

THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

Copy No. *22*

THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION ORDER No. 46

19/6/17.

1. The Third Australian Division will relieve 25th Division (less Artillery) in the line from River DOUVE to BLAUWPOORT BEEK, as under.-

11th Aust. Inf. Bde. will relieve Front Line Brigade.

9th Aust. Inf. Bde. will relieve Support Brigade.

10th Aust. Inf. Bde. will relieve Reserve Brigade.

Reliefs will be carried out under arrangements to be made by respective Brigade Commanders, but Brigadiers of this Division will report to Divisional Headquarters proposed arrangements 24 hours in advance before issuing their final orders.

Relief to be completed by 12 noon 23rd June, 1917.

2. 9th and 11th Aust. Inf. Bdes. will move to Bivouac West of NEUVE EGLISE on 21st June, 1917. Move to be completed by 12 noon on that date.

3. 10th Aust. Inf. Bde., Engineers and Pioneers now working under C.E. and A.D.O.S. 2nd ANZAC in Right Division area will rejoin the 3rd Aust. Division on June 22nd, 1917.

4. A.Q. Branch will make necessary administrative arrangements for the above moves.

5. Orders for movement of 3rd Aust. Division Artillery will be issued later.

6. ACKNOWLEDGE.

*J.H. Beck*

Lieut-Colonel.-  
General Staff.

Issued at 9.30 a.m.

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| 3          | "A.Q" Staff.           | 17  | 2nd. Anzac "G". For inf. |
| 4          | C.R.A.                 | 18  | 4th. Australian Div. "   |
| 5          | C.R.E.                 | 19  | N. Z. Division. "        |
| 6          | Div. Sig. Coy.         | 20  | 25th. Division. "        |
| 7          | 9th. Aust. Inf. Bde.   | 21  | 11th. Division. "        |
| 8          | 10th. do.              | 22  | War Diary.               |
| 9          | 11th. do.              | 23  | File.                    |
| 10         | 3rd. Aust. Pioneer Bn. | 24  | Spare.                   |
| 11         | 3rd. Aust. Div. Train. | 25  | "                        |
| 12         | A.D.M.S.               | 26  | "                        |
| 13         | A.P.M.                 |     |                          |
| 14         | A.D.V.S.               |     |                          |



SECRET

Copy No. 40.....

THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION ORDER No. 47

Reference Map 1/20,000 28 S.W.

20/6/17.

Intro-  
ductory

1. The following will be the Divisional organization for the defence and for the construction of the defensive works in the Sector to be taken over by this Division on June 23rd:-

Sector

2. The Sector extends from BLAUWEPPOORTBEEK on the north (inclusive) to the River DOUVE on the south (inclusive), a total length of about 2600 yards. - It will be known as the "MESSINES" Sector:

Disposition  
of Infantry  
Brigades.

3. The sector will be held by one Infantry Brigade, (referred to as the Front Line Brigade) which will be disposed with two Battalions in the line and two Battalions in close support. - A second Brigade (referred to as the Support Brigade) will be quartered in close support immediately west of MESSINES. - A third Brigade (referred to as the Reserve Brigade) will be quartered in the western end of the Divisional Area, in the vicinity of WESTHOF FARM. - The three Brigades of the Division will be allotted to these respective stations in rotation.

Corps  
Brigade

4. There will also be quartered, within the Divisional Area, a Brigade of another Division, probably between WULVERCHEM and WESTHOF FARM. This Brigade is being employed for work, directly under Corps Authority.

Method of  
holding

5. The Sector will be defended by a system of four organized lines of defence, with such intermediate supporting points as may be approved by Divisional Headquarters, known respectively as the

- 1st or Front line
- 2nd or Support line
- 3rd or Subsidiary line
- 4th or Corps line.

This Division has no responsibility for the 4th line.

Front line  
Brigade.

6. The Front Line Brigade is responsible for the garrisoning and development of the defences in and forward of the Second line. - It will be disposed with two Battalions in line and two in close support, each Battalion being organized in depth on a 3 Company frontage with one Company in support. - Until sufficient living accommodation has been made available in appropriate localities, it will not be practicable to fully realize a distribution of personnel in conformity with these tactical dispositions, but these should be kept in view in the construction of all dugouts, shelters, splinter-proof cabins &c.

Economy of  
Garrison.

7. Every effort is to be made to economise personnel for the garrisoning of the forward lines by the following means. -

- (a) Organization of lines in a series of defended localities, disposed to render mutual support to each other, - with intervening gaps.
- (b) Efficient wiring in front of all lines.
- (c) Disposition of Machine and Lewis guns in depth, to cover gaps and to render mutual support to each other.
- (d) Wiring between the several lines, in conformity with the approved dispositions of Machine & Lewis Guns.

P.T.O.



20/6/17.

Communications

8. All lines will be constructed and maintained so as to give efficient lateral communication, between localities, with cover from view and fire, although only the portions to be garrisoned will need to be fire-stepped. - Fore and aft communications will be provided between first and second lines to the number of at least one per Company front. - Main fore and aft communication between second and third lines will be provided to the number of at least two per Battalion front.

Naming Trenches.

9. Names already given to trenches commenced by the 25th Division will be retained. - Names proposed to be allotted to any new trenches constructed will be reported to Divisional Headquarters.

Existing works.

10. All existing works will, as far as possible, be adopted and worked into the general scheme.

Responsibility for defences.

11. All works in and forward of the Second Line will be under the direction of the Front Line Brigadier, assisted by his affiliated Field Company Commander, and not under the C.R.E. - All works in and forward of the Third Line, as far forward as the Second line (exclusive) will be under the direction of the C.R.E.

Drainage.

12. The greatest care must be taken that in the location of all trenches and works due regard must be had to the principle of making the fullest use of the natural slopes of the ground to secure automatic drainage, and to prevent the accumulation of water during periods of rain. - All drains, in the respective areas, necessary to keep the defences clear of water will be dug or cleared as soon as possible. - The valleys of the DOUVE and of the BLAUWE-POORTBEEK afford convenient points of discharge.

Machine Guns

13. All plans for the disposition of Vickers and Lewis Machine Guns, both in the lines and between the lines, will be drawn up in the first instance by the Front line Brigadier, and submitted for approval to Divisional Headquarters.

Living Accommodation

14. No living accommodation is to be constructed in the first line. The practice of burrowing out shelters under the front parapet is forbidden. - There is no objection to temporary shelters against sun and rain behind the parapets.

Support Brigade.

15. The Support Brigade is available, primarily, but under Divisional Orders only, to reinforce the Front Line Brigade if attacked, or to retake, by counter-attack, any portion of the Sector which may be lost. - When not required for tactical purposes, the Support Brigade will provide working parties, under Divisional Orders. -

(a) Upon requisition by the C.R.E., for works in and forward of the third line up to the second line (exclusive)

(b) for administrative purposes

Every effort will be made to confine these demands upon the support Brigade for working parties to a total of not more than half the strength of the Brigade at any one time, so that the remainder may devote themselves to training.

All officers of the Support Brigade must be fully acquainted with the front system of defences, so as to be able to act promptly in support, whenever required.

Reserve Brigade.

16. The Reserve Brigade will, so far as the tactical situation permits, be left undisturbed for rest and training under the Brigadier.



-3- 20/6/17.

Machine Gun Companies.

17. The Third Divisional Machine Gun Co., and the Machine Gun Coys. of the Front Line and Support Brigades (total 48 Vickers Guns) will be available for the defence of the front line system. - Not more than two-thirds of their available guns and crews will be employed in the line at any one time, the remaining third being in reserve and at rest, in rotation.

The Front Line Brigadier will be responsible for the dispositions of the Vickers Machine Guns in action; but will act in consultation with the Divisional Machine Gun Officer. - The latter will be responsible for the telling off of the guns and personnel, and for the organization of protective S.O.S. barrages along the sector front, whether flanking or overhead barrages.

The Machine Gun Coy. of the Reserve Brigade will rest and train with the Brigade.

Engineers.

18. One Field Coy. with the Front Line Brigade.  
One Field Coy. under C.R.E. on Divisional Works.  
One Field Coy. resting and training.

Pioneers.

19. One Company with the Front Line Brigade.  
One Company on construction and maintenance of tramways under C.R.E.  
One company on general trade work.  
One Company resting and training.

Artillery

20. Until the 3rd Divisional Artillery again passes under the orders of this Division, the Divisional Sector will be covered by three Artillery Brigades under the C.R.A. of 25th Division. - One Liaison Officer, representing the whole Div. Artillery, will be maintained by the C.R.A. in touch with the Front Line Brigadier. - The C.R.A. will work out plans for S.O.S. action by Artillery and for concentrations respectively on the right and the left Battalion fronts; and will communicate same to the Front Line Brigadier.

Anti-Aircraft Defences.

21. The Front Line Brigade will at all times maintain not less than 3 anti-aircraft Lewis Guns, disposed between the three lines of defence. - For this purpose 4 Lewis Guns and crews of the Pioneer Battalion will be placed under the orders of the Front Line Brigade, and will be relieved in rotation.

Period of Relief.

22. The normal period of relief for Battalions in the line will be six days; and for Brigades will be 18 days. - Reliefs within the Battalions will be at the discretion of the Brigadiers.

Headquarters Dugouts.

23. Tunnelling Company personnel will be made available by Second Army for the construction of underground Brigade and Battalion Headquarters. - C.R.E. will go into this question and expedite the execution of these works. -

Policy of Defence.

24. Although it is not the policy of the Corps to advance our line or to adopt a general offensive against the enemy, for the time being, it is essential that the Brigade garrisoning the front system shall adopt a most vigorous policy of patrolling, with a view to

(a) obtaining a complete mastery of the whole of NO MAN'S LAND right up to the wire of the "WARNESTON" line.

(b) dislodging, and whenever possible capturing, the whole of the enemy's posts in advance of that line, and then withdrawing.

P.T.O.



20/6/17.

Policy of  
Defence  
(Contd.)

- (c) Reconnoitring the enemy's dispositions in the  
"WARRETON" line.  
(d) Raiding the enemy with a view to destroying  
personnel and defences.

Dummy Works.

25. Dummy Strong Points will be constructed at selected places with the object of drawing the enemy's fire on to localities where it will be harmless. This must be done gradually and all care must be taken to keep the enemy in ignorance of the true nature of the "dummy" works.

26. ACKNOWLEDGE.

*W. Beck*

Lieut-Colonel,  
General Staff.

Issued at *12 noon*

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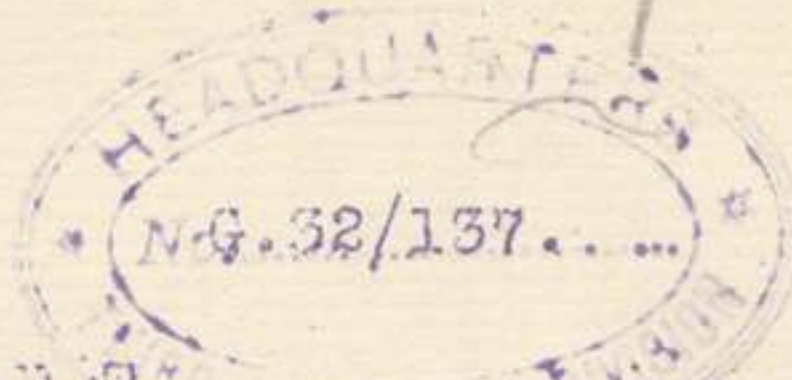
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4-16	C.R.A.
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18	3rd Aust. Div. Signal Co.
19	9th Aust. Inf. Bde.
20	10th -do-
21	11th -do-
22	3rd Aust. Pioneer Bn.
23	3rd Aust. Div. Train.
24	A.D.M.S.
25	A.D.V.S.
26	A.P.M.
27	42nd Squadron R.F.U.
28	Div. Machine Gun Offr.
29	207th M.G. Co.
30	Div. Bombing Offs.
31	Div. Gas Offr.
32	171st Tunnelling Co.
33	2nd ANZAC "G" (for information)
34	4th Aust. Division "
35	N.Z. Division "
36	25th Division "
37	C.R.A. 25th Div.
38	11th Division (for information)
39.	File
40	War Diary
41-42	Spares.



War Diary

Appendix 47

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SECRET COPY No. 40

SUPPLEMENT TO THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ORDER NO. 47.  
22-6-17.

Screening Works  
from Aeroplane  
Observation.

1. Care will be taken to avoid making the sections prepared for occupation conspicuous in air photographs.

Method of Carry-  
ing out work on  
3 lines.

2. Work on the 3 Divisional lines will proceed concurrently; the support and subsidiary lines must not be neglected in favour of development of the front line.

The work of developing each line will be undertaken chequer fashion, so that well-developed portions of one line will be behind the weaker portion of the line in front.

Communication trenches will be slitted and fire-stepped at suitable points as they are constructed.

Action in case  
enemy obtain  
footing in our  
Trenches.

3. In the event of the enemy obtaining a footing in our trenches, he will be counter-attacked by the troops immediately available on the initiative of the Commander on the spot.

The quicker the immediate counter-attack can be delivered the better, before the enemy has time to re-organize and consolidate.

Should the immediate counter-attack fail, or should it not be possible to organize it within two hours after the enemy has gained his footing, a deliberate counter-attack will be organized under instructions from the Corps in order to secure the employment of adequate forces and artillery support.

4. ACKNOWLEDGE.

Lieut-Colonel.  
General Staff.

DISTRIBUTION.

To all recipients of 3rd Aust. Div. Order No. 47.

T.C.