

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

Artillery

Item number: 13/7/8

Title: Brigadier General, 1st ANZAC Corps
Heavy Artillery and Headquarters,
Australian Corps Heavy Artillery

November 1916



AWM4-13/7/8

HEADQUARTERS,
1st ANZAC
HEAVY ARTILLERY.

WAR DIARY

or

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

(Erase heading not required.)

Confidential.

Army Form C. 2118.

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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.

ORIGINAL.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VIVIERMILL	1916 November			
	1-5 th		Steady bombardment of enemy trenches with a view to assault by both Australian Divisions	Oper ⁿ orders + firing of Batteries
	6 th		Special bombardment for assault followed by lifts to form barrage. Energetic counter-battery work performed from assault onwards	issued during month.
	12 th		Heavy bombardment in conjunction with 5 th Army on the left	
	13 th		Special bombardment for attack by 2 nd Australian Division	
	21 st		Batteries commenced to be sent to Rest Camp at LA NEUVILLE, 250% of personnel relieved at a time. Instructional School started at Rest Camp.	
	26 th		Corps post shifted one Divisional post South, 3 rd HAG placed at disposal of III Cps HA until Nov 30 th and XIV Cps HA placed at our disposal until Dec 2 nd to cover re-adjustment of post.	

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VIVIER MILL	November 1-26		<p>This period is marked by no particular incident. The small offensives undertaken by Australian Divisions were, in each case, unsuccessful.</p> <p>The weather, during the whole period, was particularly bad. Rain, snow and frost were all experienced. Roads became so bad that the supply of ammunition became exceedingly difficult. Finally all lorry traffic had to be suspended and limited ammunition supply made by G.S. wagons pending the opening of an advanced Railhead.</p> <p>Counter battery work was vigorously undertaken on the few occasions when weather conditions made air observation possible.</p> <p>Throughout the period, new enemy work was kept under fire by day and villages and tracks in rear of his line by night.</p>	

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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.

or
~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VIVIERMILL	<p><u>November</u> 27th - 30th</p>		<p>Weather exceedingly unfavourable. Counter battery work undertaken and enemy trenches kept under fire almost entirely without observation owing to mist and rain.</p> <p>Batteries up to a maximum of 25% with drawn to rest.</p> <p>Guns being withdrawn for sending to XV Corps and 1st Army.</p>	
			<p>$\frac{2}{12}$ $\frac{16}{16}$</p>	
			<p><u>J. W. Dyer Capt RA</u> Bde Major 1st Angac Heavy Art</p>	

1st A. & N.Z.A.C.

HEAVY ARTILLERY ORDER NO. 16.

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Reference Sheet:-

GHEUDECOURT to BAPAUME,
1/10,000, 2nd Edn.

1. On 5th November, at an hour which will be notified later, the 1st and 5th Australian Divisions are conducting a minor operation. The object of the 1st Australian Division is to straighten out the Salient in N.20, that of the 5th Australian Division to establish itself approximately on the line -
N.19.a.4016, N.13.a.4015, M.18.d.3595, M.18.a.8020, M.18.a.2020.
(N.B. XV Corps H.A. Operation Order No. 53 of Octr. 24th is cancelled).
2. Zero hour will be notified later* * 1st zero - 12.30 a.m.
5th zero - 9.10 a.m.
3. The bombardment order in XV Corps H.A. Operation Order No. 54 will be continued until first zero hour; those portions of the trenches which are shewn as little damaged in the photos of the 31st ultimo being mainly dealt with.
4. At zero hour the following lifts will take place:-
14th H.A.G.
 - (a). One of the batteries on BAYONET and HILT trenches (viz. 126 Siege) will lift onto sunken roads in N.15.d.
 - (b). The other battery on BAYONET and HILT trenches (viz. 126 Siege) will be available for counter-battery work.
 - (c). The one battery on trenches N.20.d.35 - N.20.b.4005 will left to BARLEY trench from sunken road at N.15.d.3575 to N.15.c.4595.
 - (d). The one battery on BACON trench will lift onto gun positions in N.14.a. and c. and will continue firing a few rounds on BACON trench north of N.20.b.77.
 - (e). The one battery on STORMY trench will continue firing on that objective from N.21.b.1030 northwards and will fire into the sunken road from N.21.b.6045 northwards.
 - (f). The one battery firing on the sunken road in N.21.b. viz. 158 Siege, will be available for counter-battery work.21st H.A.G.
 - (g). The 3 batteries on BAYONET trench will lift on to BARLEY trench from N.15.c.4595 to N.26.c.5015, and on to trench from N.14.b.5095 - N.8.d.11.
 - (h). The two batteries firing on LUISEN trench, LUISENHOF FARM, JUICE ALLEY and OAT LANE will not fire on JUICE ALLEY or LUISEN trench. They will continue firing on LUISENHOF FARM and on OAT LANE from N.13.d.68 to its junction with road at N.13.a.8510.
 - (j). The one battery on BAY trench and LIME trench will from 0 to plus 4' concentrate on LINE trench from N.13.c.67 to N.13.c.9085. At plus 4' it will lift on to OAT LANE from N.13.d.68 to its junction with road at N.13.a.8510.
 - (k). The remaining battery, viz. 51 Siege, is available for counter-battery work.3rd H.A.G.
 - (l). One of the two batteries on BITE trench and trenches in M.24.a. and b. will lift to OAT LANE and WHEAT trench from N.13.a.9510 to M.12.c.7530.
 - (m). The other battery on BITE trench, viz. 78 Siege, and trenches in M.24.a. and b. will be available for counter-battery work.
 - (n). From 0 to plus 4' the battery on BANK trench will concentrate on BANK trench at M.18.d.3560 and on the trench for 50 yards on each side of this point. At plus 4' this battery will lift on to OAT LANE and WHEAT trench from N.13.a.8510 to M.12.c.7530.

(p) -

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- (p). The two batteries firing on GIRD trench and GIRD SUPPORT will lift on to OAT LANE and WHEAT trench from N.13.a.8510 to M.12.c.7530.
- (q). The one battery firing on BAYONET trench will lift to OAT LANE and WHEAT trench from N.13.a.8510 to M.12.c.7530.

- 5. Counter-battery work will be carried out vigorously from "FIFTH" zero onwards.
- 6. The 6" Mk.VII guns and any 60-prs. available will fire on the exits from the villages and roads of approach from zero to plus 1 hour, special attention being paid to the road crossings over TILL trench and to places where troops might mass in the valleys in N.15, 8 and 7, and M.12. For this purpose the 6" Mk.VII guns will come under the direction of the counter-battery officer. 120 rounds may be used by the 6" Mk.VII guns.

7. Rates of fire will be as follows:-

Prior to zero.	9.2" & 8"	2	per Bty.	per hour.	} By day.
	6"	6	"	"	
	9.2" and 8"	2	"	"	} By night.
	6"	4	"	"	
From zero to plus 1 hour.	9.2" & 8"	25	rds. per gun	per hour.	
	6"	50	"	"	

From 1 hour onwards. - A steady bombardment will be carried on during daylight hours at the following rates:-

9.2" & 8"	20	rds. per Bty.	per hour.
6"	25	"	"

Daylight hours will be considered as from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

- 8. Watches will be synchronised with this Headquarters at an hour which will be notified later.
- 9. Please acknowledge.

(sd) J.V.J. Ellis, Capt. R.A.
Bde. Major, 1st Anzac H.A.

Copies to:-

- No.1. 3rd H.A.G.
- 2. 14th H.A.G.
- 3. 21st H.A.G.
- 4. 23rd H.A.G.
- 5. 69th H.A.G.
- 6. 62nd H.A.G.
- 7. 18th H.A.G.
- 8. ~~600~~ C.R.A. 1st ANZAC.
- 9. 1st Australian Divn.
- 10. 2nd " "
- 11. 5th " "
- 12. 30th B.A.Group.
- 13. 12th B.A.Group.
- 14. 3rd Sqdn. R.F.C.
- 15. 3rd K.B.Section.
- 16. XIV Corps H.A.
- 17. III Corps H.A.
- 18. File.

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SECRET.

APPENDIX

1st Anzac H.A.
No 9/123.
Nov 4th 1916.

1st A. & N. Z. A. C.

HEAVY ARTILLERY ORDER NO 17.

Reference Sheet:-

GUEDECOURT to BAPAUME
1/10,000, 2nd Edn.

- 1.. The two minor operations given in para 1 of H.A. Order No. 16 of Novr 2nd will be carried out separately.
- 2. Zero hours will be:-
1st Australian Divn. Operation 12.30 a.m. ('First' zero) 5/11/16.
5th Australian Divn. Operation. 9.10 a.m. ('Fifth' zero)
- 3. Prior to 12.30 am ('FIRST' zero) all groups will fire at their usual night objectives at the following rates -
9.2" and 8" Hows. 2 rounds per Bty per hour.
6" Hows. 4 rounds per Bty per hour.

14th H.A.G.

From 12.30 a.m. to 1.30 a.m. the batteries of the 14th H.A.G. will bombard the objectives given in para 4 of Order No 16 with the following additions -

- (1) Battery mentioned in para. 4 (b) as available for counter battery work will lift to Sunken roads in N 15 d.
- (2) Battery detailed for counter-battery work in para 4 (f) will fire on BARLEY TRENCH from Sunken road N 15 d 85.75 to N 15 e 45.95.

21st H.A.G.

The three batteries of 21st H.A.G. mentioned in para 4 (g) will from 12.30 a.m. to 1.30 a.m. lift on to the objectives mentioned in that para.

- 4. Unless otherwise ordered, at 1.30 a.m., all batteries of 14th and 21st H.A.Groups will return to their usual night objectives firing at the rates given in para 3 above.

- 5. All batteries of the 14th and 21st H.A.Groups not mentioned above and all batteries of the 3rd H.A.G. will carry out the usual night firing at the rates given in para 3 above.

- 6. The batteries of the 14th and 21st H.A.Groups mentioned in para 3 above will, from 12.30 a.m. to 1.30 a.m. only, fire at the following rates:-

9.2" and 8" Hows. 10 rounds per Bty per hour.
6" Hows. 20 rounds per Bty per hour.

With this exception, all batteries will maintain the usual day and night rates until 9.10 a.m. on Nov 5th (FIFTH zero)

viz:- 9.2" and 8" Hows 2 rounds per Bty per hour } By day.
6" Hows. 6 rounds per Bty per hour }
9.2" and 8" Hows. 2 rounds per Bty per hour } By night
6" Hows. 4 rounds per Bty per hour }

- 7. At 7 a.m. the ^{usual} daily bombardment will be resumed. As however neither the 1st nor the 5th Australian Divisions will be clearing their trenches on the morning of the 5th, Group Commanders will confine their bombardment to these portions of enemy trenches which can safely be dealt with whilst all our own trenches are occupied. As the first Australian Division intends to establish itself after ('FIRST' zero) on the line N 20 a 2.1 - N 20 a 80.15 - N 20 b 65.10 no fire should be directed on the trenches in N 20 south of a line joining N 20 a 0.5 - N 21 a 0.5.

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SECRET.

1st Anzac H.A.Order No 17 continued.

2.

8. For the support of the 5th Australian Division Operation, all Groups at 9.10 a.m. on the 5th inst. ('FIFTH' zero) carry out the instructions laid down in H.A.Order No 16 of 2nd inst. with the following ammendments:-

21st H.A.G.

One of the batteries mentioned in para 4 (g) as lifting from BAYONET TRENCH will not lift as therein directed but will concentrate its fire from zero to plus 1 hour on points N 20 a 2.8 and N 14 c 13.10 where Machine Gun Emplacements are suspected. At plus 1 hour it will join the other two batteries on BARLEY TRENCH as directed by para 4 (g)

Para 4 (j) The Battery firing on LIME TRENCH from N 13 c 6.7 to N 13 c 90.85 will fire from zero to plus 1 hour instead of from zero to plus 4'. At plus 1 hour it will lift to OAT LANE as directed in para 4 (j)

3rd H.A.G.

Para 4 (n) The Battery firing on BANK TRENCH at M 18 d 55.60 and vicinity will fire from zero to plus 1 hour on this objective instead of from zero to plus 4'. At plus 1 hour it will lift to OAT LANE and WHEAT LANE as laid down in para 4 (n)

9. Rates of fire:-

Para 7 of H.A.Order No 16 of the 2nd is ammended as follows.

Line 5 - Cancel "From zero to plus 4' all natures quickest rates possible"

Line 6. For "From plus 4' to plus 1 hour" read "From zero to plus 1 hour"

Line 14 to 15 - Cancel "During night hours , , , , , to . . . 10 rounds. per Battery per hour"

10. Watches will be synchronised with this Headquarters at 9 p.m. on 4.11.16 and 6 a.m. 5.11.16.

- 11 PLEASE ACKNOWLEDGE BY WIRE.

(signed) J.V.J.ELLIS

Captain R.A.
Brigade Major, 1st Anzac H.A.

Issued at 6 p.m.

Copies to:-

- No 1. R.A. 1st Anzac.
- 2. 3rd H.A.G.
- 4. 14th H.A.G.
- 5. 18th H.A.G.
- 6. 21st H.A.G.
- 7. 62nd H.A.G.
- 8. 69th H.A.G.
- 9. FILE.

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SECRET.

1st Anzac H.A.
No 9/184.
Nov 5th 1916.

1st A. N. Z. A. C.

HEAVY ARTILLERY ORDER NO. 18.

References:-
1/10,000 GUEDECOURT TO BAPAUME sheet
(2nd Edn)

1. There will be a special bombardment to-day between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. of the trenches in N 20 d prior to a further assault by the 1st Australian Division.
2. O.C. 14th H.A.Group will detail four batteries to deal with the following objectives:-
 - (a) Trench from N 20 d 2.4 to HILT TRENCH and thence along HILT TRENCH as far North as N 20 a 65.20 where the trench crosses the road.
 - (b) HILT TRENCH from N 20 d 15.60 south-east to N 20 d 40.50 and thence to N 20 d 55.58.
 - (c) LARD TRENCH (N 20 d 3.5 to N 20 b 4.3)
3. RATES OF FIRE:-
 - 9.2" and 8" - 20 rounds per gun per hour.
 - 6" - 30 rounds per gun per hour.
4. Unless further instructions are received, the batteries detailed in para 2 will return at 6 p.m. to their usual night objectives, at ordinary rates of fire.

(signed) J.V.J.ELLIS.
Captain R.A.
Brigade Major, 1st Anzac H.A.

Issued at 11.45 a.m.
Copies to:-

- No 1. R.A. 1st Anzac.
2. 14th H.A.G.
3. C.B.S.O.
4. 1st Australian Division.
5. 39th D.A.Group.
6. 3rd Squadron R.F.C.
7. 3rd K.B.S.
8. XIV Corps H.A.
9. File.

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1st A. N. Z. A. C.

HEAVY ARTILLERY ORDER NO 19.

Reference:-
GUEDECOURT TO BAPAUME
1/10,000, 2nd Edition.

1. There will be a special bombardment of enemy trenches from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on 10th instant.
2. Objectives:-
21st H.A.G.
 - (a) BAYONET TRENCH from M 24 b 32.90 to N 13 d 55.30 (junction with ~~sin~~ken road)
 - (b) BANK TRENCH M 18 d 40.55 to N 13 c 45.50.
 - (c) BITE TRENCH, the whole of.
 3rd H.A.G.
 - (d) GIRD TRENCH from M 18 c 19 to 4.7 to 6.2 to M 24 a 75.97, thence along trench running East to junction of BITE and BAYONET TRENCHES in M 24 b 35.95.
 - (e) GIRD SUPPORT from M 18 a 30.15 to junction of BITE and BAYONET TRENCHES in M 24 b 35.95.
 - (f) Any connecting trenches between GIRD and GIRD SUPPORT in the portions mentioned above.
 - (g) BANK TRENCH from M 18 c 78.35 to M 18 d 40.55 and the small Trench from BANK TRENCH at M 18nc 9.4 to GIRD SUPPORT at M 18 c 83.20.
3. The attention of Group Commanders is drawn to the air photographs of the 6th instant. The least damaged portions of the trenches mentioned in para 2. should be particularly dealt with.
4. Group Commanders will arrange for all available co-operation with the R.F.C. and all possible visual observation is to be utilised. Free use will be made of the Divisional Artillery O.P's and communications on the front engaged.
5. In the event of shelling dangerous to our own infantry being observed or reported, fire will be stopped at once in the area concerned.
6. The 2nd Australian Division has arranged to clear all trenches in the area within a minimum of 250 yards from the enemy trenches engaged, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Novr 10th.
7. All batteries of both Groups will take part in this bombardment. Arrangements have been made for those batteries normally detached for counter-battery work to be replaced by batteries of the 14th H.A.G. during the period of bombardment.
8. Rates of fire:-
Heavy Howitzers - 20 rounds per gun per hour.
Medium " 30 rounds per gun per hour.
9. PLEASE ACKNOWLEDGE.

(signed) J.V.J.ELLIS, Captain R.A.
Brigade Major, 1st Anzac H.A.

Issued at 10 a.m.
Copies to:-

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| No 1. 3rd H.A.G. | No 7. 3rd Squadron R.F.C. |
| 2. 21st H.A.G. | 8. III Corps H.A. |
| 3. 14th H.A.G. | 9. 12th Divl. Arty Group. |
| 4. B.G. R.A. 1st Anzac | 10. C.B.S.O. |
| 5. 2nd Aust.Divn. | |
| 6. 1st Aust. Divn. | 11. File |

SECRET.

1st Anzac H.A.
No 9/131.
13th Novr 1916.

1st A. N. Z. A. C.

HEAVY ARTILLERY ORDER NO 20.
-----Reference:-
GUEDECOURT to BAPAUME.
1/10,000 2nd Edn.

1. At 6.45 a.m. on Novr 14th, the 2nd Australian Division is resuming the attack on GIRD SUPPORT TRENCH from M 24 b 35.95 - M 18a 35.10, whilst the Right Division of the III Corps is extending the attack to the left.
 2. The Anzac Heavy Artillery will co-operate as follows:-
 4. From Zero to plus 1 hour.
3rd H.A.G.
(c) All batteries mentioned above will lift on to OAT LANE from N 13 a 85.10 to its junction with WHEAT TRENCH at M 12 d 50.25 and thence along WHEAT TRENCH to its junction with road at M 12 c 55.25.
21st H.A.G.
(d) The two batteries mentioned in para 3 will lift on to OAT LANE from N 13 d 60.80 to N 13 a 85.10.

Fire will also be opened by the remaining batteries of this Group except those mentioned in para. 9 on:-

(e) LINE TRENCH from N 13 d 10.97 - N 13 c 50.60. and on the trench from N 13 d 10.90 to N 13 c 60.60.
(f) In addition an effective "stop" will be kept on the east end of BANK TRENCH and on the sunken road about N 13 c 45.55.
14th H.A.G.
(g) Prior to plus 12' the 14th H.A.G. will take no action, from plus 12' to plus 2 hours they will bombard sunken roads in N 15 d, and BARLEY TRENCH from N 15 d 3.8 to N 14 b 6.1 at rates given in para 8.
 5. 18th & 62nd H.A.G.
(h) One battery from each of those Groups will ~~open~~ from 0 to plus 4' open an H.E.barrage on the line M 18 d 50.35 - M 18 d 30.35 - M 18 c 72.98 - M 18 a 60.10.
(j) From plus 4' to plus 8' this barrage will creep gradually back on the line of the two roads and 100 yards West and East of them respectively to the sunken roads S of LE BARQUE on the line N 13 a 22.50 - M 18 b 40.96.
(k) From plus 8' to plus 12' shrapnel fire will be maintained on the line N 13 a 22.50 - M 18 b 40.96 and northwards up the sunken roads.
- * 3. At zero hour (6.45 a.m.)
3rd H.A.G.
(a) All batteries except those mentioned in para 10, will fire two salvos in rapid succession on the GIRD SUPPORT TRENCH from M 24 b 35.95 to M 18 c 35.95.
21st H.A.G.
(b) Two batteries will fire 2 salvos in rapid succession on BAYONET Trench N 13 c 0.2 to M 24 b 35.95.
6. (1) At plus 12 minutes the two batteries mentioned in para 5 will become available for shelling approaches

1st Anzac H.A. Order No 20 continued.

2.

7. 69th HMA.G.

(m) From zero onwards the 58th Siege Battery will be available for counter battery work. Targets will be allotted by the counter-battery officer. 60 rounds may be expended.

(n) The 44th Siege Battery will shell registerdpoints in LE BARQUE THILLOY AND LINGY THILLOY, 25 rounds may be expended.

8. Rates of fire:-

Hows. From zero to plus 1 hour -
30 rounds per gun. Heavy.
50 rounds per gun. Medium.

From plus 1 hour to plus 2 hours -
8 rounds per gun, Heavy.
12 rounds per gun .Medium.

Guns. From 0 to plus 12' -
2 rounds per gun per minute.

9. Counter battery fire will commence at zero and will be maintained for as long as is necessary.

10. Group Commanders concerned will please detail 51,78,126, and 158 Siege Batteries for counter battery work from zero onwards.

11. Watches will be synchronised at 7 p.m. on the 13th and 6 a.m. on the 14th.

12. ACKNOWLEDGE.

(signed) J.V.J.ELLIS, Captain R.A.
Brigade Major, 1st Anzac H.A.

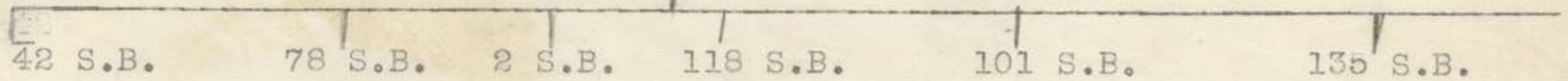
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Copies to.

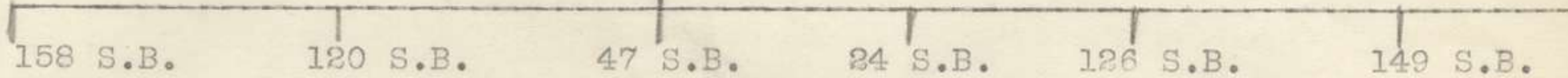
- No 1. 3rd H.A.G.
- 2. 14th H.A.G.
- 3. 21st H.A.GM
- 4. 23rd H.A.G.
- 5. 69th H.A.G.
- 6. 62nd H.A.G.
- 7. 18th H.A.G.
- 8. G.O.C. R.A. 1st Anzac.
- 9. 1st Australian Division.
- 10. 2nd Australian Division.
- 11. 30th D.A.Group.
- 12. 12th D.A.Group.
- 13. 3rd Squadron R.F.C.
- 14. 3rd K.B.S.
- 15. XIV Corps H.A.
- 16. III Corps H.AM
- 17. File.

GROUPS AND BATTERIES IN 1st ANZAC CORPS HEAVY ARTILLERY.

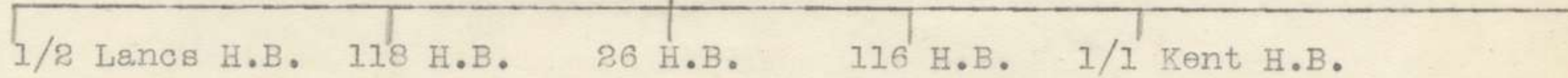
3rd H.A.G.



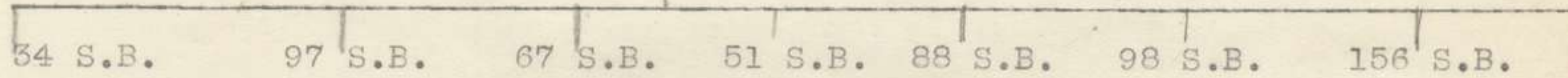
14th H.A.G.



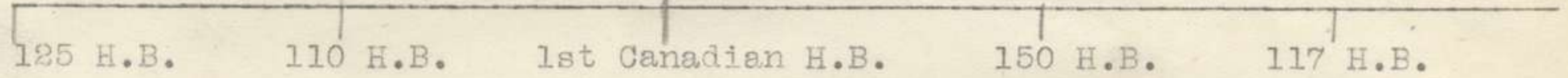
18th H.A.G.



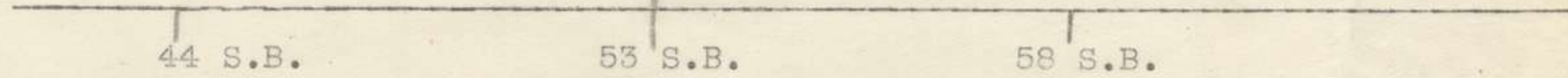
21st H.A.G.



62nd H.A.G.



69th H.A.G.



23rd H.A.G.

(Counter-Battery Group, attached H.Q., H.A.,)

1st November 1916.