

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

Artillery

Item number: 13/13/14

Title: Headquarters, 4th Australian
Divisional Artillery

July 1917



AWM4-13/13/14

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
STEENWERCK	June 27/July 1 July 1/July 2		4 th Aus Div arty relieved the N2 Div artillery covering the right divisional front of the II ANZAC	Instructions nos 10 & 11 of 27 th June
	July 2	10 am	The CRA 4 th Aus Div took over command at 10 am July 2 nd . Here were established at STEENWERCK.	
	July 2 nd to July 10 th		Very little firing was done and no operations were undertaken.	
	July 8 th / July 9/10 th		N2 Div artillery relieved the 4 th Aus Div artillery and the CRA N2 Div arty took over command of the Sector held at 10 am July 10 th	Order no 79 of 7/7/17
	July 11 th		10 th & 11 th AFA Bdes & NO 1 & 2 sections 4 Aus Bde marched to X th Corps area and came under the command of the CRA 47 th Div	Order no 80 of 9/7/17

"Confidential"

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

"Duplicate"

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices												
VIEUX BERQUIN	1917 July 11 th	Continued	<p>The Order and sections D&C were established in Waern dices in the vicinity of DICKERBUSCH.</p> <p>Hd Qrs 4th Aus DA moved to VIEUX BERQUIN</p> <p>Since the commencement of the operations, leading up to the Battle of MESSINES, and the subsequent events until the 11th July, the 4th Aus Div Artillery have been awarded the following decorations for specific acts of gallantry</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>D.S.O</td> <td>M.C.</td> <td>DCM.</td> <td>Military Medal</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>11</td> </tr> </table> <p>The following casualties were sustained in the operations</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Officers 1 Killed (Lieut RIDLEY A.V.C.)</td> <td>NCO's & men 26 Killed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6 Wounded</td> <td>114 Wounded.</td> </tr> </table>	D.S.O	M.C.	DCM.	Military Medal	1	2	3	11	Officers 1 Killed (Lieut RIDLEY A.V.C.)	NCO's & men 26 Killed	6 Wounded	114 Wounded.	
D.S.O	M.C.	DCM.	Military Medal													
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WAR DIARY

or

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices																		
VIEUX BERQUIN	1917 July 11th Contd.		<p>The following casualties were sustained July 11th to 29th incl.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>officers</td> <td>0</td> <td>Killed</td> <td>ORs.</td> <td>14</td> <td>Killed</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>3</td> <td>Wounded</td> <td></td> <td>54</td> <td>Wounded</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>Gassed</td> <td></td> <td>39</td> <td>Gassed.</td> </tr> </table> <p> { Maj. P.M. EDWARDS { Lt. H. NAGEL { Lt. E.E. KING Lt. E. SAUL. </p> <p> G Halford Lieut for Brigade Major RA 4th Aus. Div. Artillery 31. July. 1917 </p>	officers	0	Killed	ORs.	14	Killed		3	Wounded		54	Wounded		1	Gassed		39	Gassed.	
officers	0	Killed	ORs.	14	Killed																	
	3	Wounded		54	Wounded																	
	1	Gassed		39	Gassed.																	

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
	2nd July		<p>The G.O.C. 4 Aus Divⁿ was killed and the CRA 4th Aus Divⁿ took over the command of the Division in addition to his own duties and continued so until July 16th when the new Divisional Commander arrived from England.</p>	

SECRETINSTRUCTION No. 10HEADQUARTERS,
27th June 1917.

1. On the nights 30th June/1st July and 1st/2nd July, the 4th Australian Divisional Artillery will relieve the NEW ZEALAND Divisional Artillery as follows :-
- | | | |
|---------------------------|----------|----------------------------|
| 10th Aus. F.A. Bde. | relieves | 1st N.Z. F.A. Bde.. |
| 11th Aus. F.A. Bde. | " | 3rd N.Z. F.A. Bde.. |
| 4th Aus. D.A.C. | " | N.Z. D.A.C.. |
| V 4 A Trench Mortar Bty." | | N.Z. D.A. Heavy T.M. Bty.. |
- 18-pr. Batteries will relieve 18-pr. Batteries of N.Z. D.A. in order of numerical seniority.
2. The 4th Australian Division Infantry will have relieved the N.Z. Division Infantry - less 4th N.Z. Infantry Brigade - by the 30th June, when the front line will be held as follows :-
- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| <u>4th Aus. Inf. Bde.</u> | River DOUVE to |
| (Bde. H.Q. at | River WARNAVE. |
| U 20 a 8 8, rear | |
| H.Q. at T 21 b 4 0) | |
- 4th N.Z. Infantry Brigade (under the command of G.O.C. 4th Aus. Division)
- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| (Bde. H.Q. at NIEPPE) | River WARNAVE to where |
| | River LYS crosses the line. |
3. The C.R.A. 4th Australian Division will take over the command of the Field Artillery covering the Sector at 10 a.m. 2nd July, at which hour this Office will close at VIEUX BERQUIN and re-open at STEENWERCK.
4. All reliefs will be arranged between the Brigade and D.A.C. Commanders and D.T.M.Os. concerned. In the case of Batteries, one Section of N.Z. Batteries will be relieved on the night 30th June/1st July and the remaining Sections on the night 1st/2nd July. The D.A.C. and Trench Mortars of the N.Z. D.A. will be relieved by 12 noon, July 1st.
5. At 12 noon July 1st, the 4th Australian D.A.C. will become responsible for the supply of ammunition.
6. No movement into action, in the case of Batteries will take place before 10 p.m.
7. Command of Units will pass to the 4th Aus. D.A. Brigade and D.A.C. Commanders on the completion of the relief.
8. Ammunition will be taken over at Battery positions as from 12 noon on July 1st. Brigade and D.A.C. Commanders and D.T.M.O. will render receipts for ammunition as taken over at that time.
9. Wagon and D.A.C. lines will remain as at present until further orders. Trench Mortar Headquarters will remain in NIEPPE.
10. ACKNOWLEDGE.

Normal Distribution.

C.M. Mate

Major, R.A.,
Brigade-Major,
4th Australian Divisional Artillery.

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SECRET.

INSTRUCTION NO. 11

HEADQUARTERS,
27th June 1917.

1. At 10 a.m. on the 2nd July the front covered by the 4th Aus. Divisional Artillery will be divided into two Sectors and Groups -

X GROUP :- Consisting of 2 18-pr. Batteries) 11th A.F.A. Ede.
1 How. Battery)

covering the 4th N.Z. Infantry Brigade.

Y GROUP :- Consisting of 10th Aus. F.A. Brigade and 1 18-pr. Battery of 11th Aus. F.A. Brigade.

covering the 4th Australian Infantry Brigade.

The Battery of the 11th Aus. F.A. Brigade detailed for Y GROUP will be that detailed by the O.C. 11th Aus. F.A. Brigade to carry out the Instructions given in this Office No. C 7/32 of the 26th instant as regards covering as far North as the River DOUVE.

2. Group Commanders will arrange for their Group Headquarters to be with or near the Infantry Brigade whose front they are covering.
3. R.A. Signal Officer, 4th Australian Divisional Artillery will arrange a direct wire between X and Y Group Headquarters.
4. S.O.S. Barrage Line will remain the same as taken over from the N.Z. Divisional Artillery.
5. Howitzer Battery of X GROUP must be able to cover the whole Divisional Front from the River LYS to the River DOUVE.
6. Y GROUP will have a direct call on 1 Howitzer Battery of X GROUP for S.O.S. purposes, either by day or night. This Howitzer Battery will always be laid on night lines in Y GROUP's Zone
7. Group Commanders will discuss the question of night lines with the G.O's.C. Infantry Brigades concerned, and report to this Office by evening of the 2nd prox. the night lines of each Battery.
8. X GROUP will be prepared to thicken up Y GROUP's S.O.S. Barrage Line with 1 18-pr. Battery on the front -

River WARNAVE - LETRUIE FARM.

9. Owing to the broad front to be covered, the successful Artillery defence of the line must depend on close liaison between Group Commanders on the one hand and Group Commanders and G.O's. C. Infantry Brigades on the other.

Owing to the presence of the River LYS, the front of the 4th N.Z. Infantry Brigade is not likely to be attacked.

X GROUP must therefore be prepared to give every assistance possible to Y GROUP on the Sector - River WARNAVE - LATHUIE FARM, in the event of attack.

It is believed that little assistance can be obtained from 57th D.A. on Right.

INSTRUCTION NO. 11 (Continued)

10. The Artillery policy will be as follows :-

- A. Every opportunity of engaging visible targets must be taken and an aggressive policy on these lines carried out.
- B. Zone calls must be watch^{ed} for and answered.
- C. No night firing unless ordered from this Office or asked for by G.O's. C. Infantry Brigades.
- D. Vigilance for and instantaneous response to S.O.S. calls.
- E. Instruction of young Officers and calibration of guns.
- F. Except for above, Artillery activity is to be kept as low as possible.

11. ACKNOWLEDGE.

CM Dates

Major, R.A.,
Brigade-Major,
4th Australian Divisional Artillery.

Distribution.Issued to -

No.	1	-	5	10th A.F.A. Bde.
	6	-	10	11th " "
	11	-	15	4th A.D.A.C.

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16	4th Aus. Div.
17	N.Z. D.A.
18	N.Z. Inf. Bde..
19	4th Aus. Inf. Bde.
20	12th " " "
21	13th " " "
22	R.A., 2nd ANZAC.
23	War Diary
24	File
25	Spare.

FOURTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY.

4th
AUSTRALIAN
DIVISIONAL
No. <i>69/4</i>
Date.....

S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS,
4th July 1917.

X Group (2 copies)
Y Group (2 copies)
4th Aus. Div. (for inf.)

The following notes on the Artillery defence of our present front are circulated for guidance of all concerned :-

Enemy action may take the form of either -

<u>A</u>	--	Raids.
<u>B</u>	--	Attack in force.

Raids will be considered first :-

On the NEW ZEALAND Infantry Brigade Front, except immediately North of PONT ROUGE, we hold posts right up to the Left bank of the LYS and those should be able to give ample warning of any surprise crossing by a temporary bridge or other means. North of PONT ROUGE this is not so and it would be easy for the enemy to get across from DEULEMONT and attack our posts in U 29 and 23.

On the 4th Aus. Infantry Brigade front, our posts do not reach the River and the enemy has the further advantage that the River bank between WARNETON and the SUGAR REFINERY is not in view and is steep. It would seem feasible for the enemy to collect a strong raiding party under cover of the buildings in U 17 d and b and raid our posts and front line, probably returning directly on the WARNETON Line and WARNETON.

As regards the prevention of raids; with the small force of Artillery at our disposal, there would seem to be no chance of stopping a raid, and our action must be mainly directed towards the prevention of the raiding party's return or towards making it as costly as possible. Buried cable will shortly give us the means of quick and accurate information from the front and with O.Ps. forward and S.O.S. lines from the Infantry, we should be able to ensure our aims.

Attack by the enemy :-

The undoubted key to our position is the very marked high ground comprised between HILL 27 (U 11 c) on the North and HILL 30 (U 16 b) on the South. With these in the enemy's position, our whole line to the South as far back as the Subsidiary Line would be endangered. With this ground in our possession it is hard to see how any attack from the SUGAR REFINERY to the South could succeed, enfiladed as it would be by machine gun fire as it crossed the flat country South of ULTIMO AVENUE.

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(2)

Attack by the enemy (continued) :-

All Artillery action must therefore be devoted to the protection of this high ground.

All guns must be sited so that effective fire can be brought to bear on squares U 17 and 11.

18-pr. positions as at present in C 1 and C 7 do not fulfil the above condition, though they are suitable for the front South of U 17.

In event of attack there can be no doubt but that all our present strength in guns would be required to cover squares U 17 and U 11 in the first instance and that if we were successful there, we should have no difficulty in dealing with the position to the South, later.

The enemy seems to be learning his lesson of counter Battery work. With the large force of Artillery available in these times, the Artillery preparation of an attack can be very much shortened, and there might not be time for reinforcing Artillery to be brought up.

It is essential therefore, that the enemy should be kept in the dark as regards our dispositions.

No Battery position which has been obviously located by the enemy should be maintained. The guns should be moved at once and possibly brought back to the old position later.

Groups will therefore reconnoitre forthwith for alternative Battery positions, which when selected, will have a gun put in them and registered. These positions would also serve as reinforcing Battery positions if required.

Group and Battery Commanders should also consider the feasibility of doing their night firing or routine work from a single gun or Section from each Battery detached from the rest and constantly moved.

The defence of a long front with few guns demands quick initiative on the part of all Commanders and instant response by quick switching on the part of the Batteries.

One gun to 300 yards has never stopped an attack, a gun to 50 yards or even 100, can and will.

No action should therefore be taken which results in a greater dispersion than a gun to every 100 yards, otherwise the only result is dissipation of our strength.

The danger spots can only be located and concentrations suitable for them worked out, by a careful and constant study of the ground and aeroplane photographs - all new work being carefully noted, and an endeavour made to deduce the reason for the new work.

There seems to be a tendency to consider that, because a Battery is allotted a certain zone, its guns should be laid on this zone at night. This is not so. Night lines for all the guns of a Group should be so chosen that the maximum strength of guns is covering the danger area. Then, if trouble ensues, a heavy barrage

can be.....

(3)

can be brought down on this area, while information is being sought about the neglected points, where after all there are Infantry with all their very efficient appliances for defence.

Map locations of alternative Battery positions selected will be sent to this Office by evening of the 10th instant.

(Sgd) C.R. BATES, Major, R.A.
Brigade-Major,
4th Australian Divisional Artillery.

FOURTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY. COPY NO. ²⁴.....

S E C R E T

ORDER NO. 78

HEADQUARTERS,
5th July 1917.

-
1. In view of the duplication of Group numbers with the Heavy Artillery, "X" GROUP (11th Aus. F.A. Brigade) will in future be known as "Z" GROUP.
 2. ACKNOWLEDGE.

C. M. Sater

Major, R.A.,
Brigade-major,
4th Australian Divisional Artillery.

Distribution.

Normal and
Copy to 2nd ANZAC. H.A.) for
R.A. Signals,) inf..

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FOURTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY. V COPY NO. 24

SECRET

ORDER NO. 79.

HEADQUARTERS,
7th July 1917.

REFERENCE MAPS SHEETS 28 and 36.

1. The 4th Australian Divisional Artillery will be relieved by the NEW ZEALAND Divisional Artillery on the nights 8th/9th and 9th/10th July 1917, one Section of each Battery being relieved on the night 8th/9th and the remaining Sections on the night 9th/10th; relief to be completed by 12 midnight July 9th/10th.
2. Completion of relief on each night will be reported to this Office.
3. Command of the Artillery in each Group will devolve on the Os. C. N.Z. D.A. Groups on completion of the relief of each Group.
4. Command of the Artillery covering the Sector will devolve on the C.R.A. N.Z. Division at 10 a.m. on the 10th July.
5. The relief will be carried out as under :-

"Z"	(3rd N.Z. Bde. H.Q.	relieves	"Z" Group (11th A.F.A. Bde.)	
				at B 16 c 1 9
GROUP	(11th N.Z. Battery	"	41st Battery "	C 7 a 4 9
	(12th " "	"	42nd " "	C 2 a 4532
	(4th " (How) "	"	111th (How) " "	C 8 c 4295
	(1st N.Z. Bde. H.Q.	"	"Y" Group (10th A.F.A. Bde.)	
				at T 21 d 2010
"Y"	1st N.Z. Battery	"	37th Battery "	C 2 a 7380
GROUP	2nd " "	"	38th " "	U 14 b 7082
	7th " "	"	39th " "	U 26 d 8042
	(15th " (How) "	"	110th (How) " "	U 19 b 9535
	(13th " Battery	"	43rd Battery "	C 2 c 7542
6. The 4th Aus. D.A.C. and Divisional Trench Mortar Batteries will be relieved by the equivalent Units of the N.Z. Divisional Artillery by 12 noon on the 9th under arrangements to be made between the Commanders concerned.
7. All trench maps will be handed over to the relieving Brigades and Batteries.
8. Liaison arrangements will remain the same as at present. Liaison Officers with 4th Aus. Inf. Brigade and Battalions in the line will be relieved by 8 p.m., 9th July.

/9

ORDER NO. 79 (Continued).

9. 4th Aus. Divisional Artillery Brigades and D.A.C. on relief will withdraw to their Wagon lines.
10. All guns on loan from the NEW ZEALAND Divisional Artillery will be left in position and accounts of numbers of rounds fired from them handed over to relieving Units.
11. Ammunition on charge of Batteries will be taken over by NEW ZEALAND Divisional Batteries as from 12 noon, July 9th.
12. ACKNOWLEDGE.

C. M. Mates

Major, R.A.,
Brigade-Major,
4th Australian Divisional Artillery.

DISTRIBUTION.

Normal.
Copy to N.Z.D.A. (for inf.).

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Diary

FOURTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY.

COPY NO. 24

SECRET

ORDER NO. 80

HEADQUARTERS,
9th July 1917.

REFERENCE SHEETS 28 and 36, 1/40,000.

1. On the 11th July the troops as per margin will march to wagon lines in Sheet 28, N 4 and N 10.

ROUTE :- NEUVE- EGLISE - DRANOUTRE - LOCRE
- LA CLYTTE.

Order of march as per margin.

STARTING POINT :-

Cross Roads, Sheet 36, B 1 b 0 0.

10th Aus. F.A. Brigade -- 6.15 a.m..

11th Aus. F.A. Brigade -- 7.10 a.m..

10th Aus.

F.A. Bde.,

No. 1 Sect.

4th D.A.C.,

11th Aus.

F.A. Bde. &

No. 2 Sect.

4th D.A.C..

Distances of not less than 500 yards will be maintained between Brigades, distances of 100 yards will be maintained between Batteries and D.A.C. Section and 2nd line transport within each Brigade.

2. There will be halts of 10 minutes at each clock hour.

3. 2nd Line transport of each Brigade column will march in rear of its Brigade under the command of an Officer and with suitable baggage guards.

4. On arrival in Xth Corps Area they will come under the orders of the C.R.A. 47th Division.

5. Nos. 1 and 2 Sections 4th Aus. D.A.C., for the purposes of the march and subsequent operations will be attached to and come under the orders of the Os. C. 10th and 11th Aus. F.A. Brigades respectively.

6. Supply wagons will march filled with rations for consumption on the 12th instant, and will refill on arrival in the new area for consumption on the 13th from 47th Divisional Refilling Point, the location of which will be notified later.

7. Advance parties consisting of the Adjutants of Brigades and one N.C.O. per Battery and D.A.C. Section will report to the Adjutant 47th D.A.C. at the Dump, Sheet 28, N 4 c 5 2, by 10 a.m. on the 10th July, returning to their own Units after reconnaissance of the wagon lines.

/ s.

ORDER NO. 80 (Continued)

8. Marching-out States (as per pro forma attached) will be rendered to this Office by 6 p.m. on the 10th instant, and Marching-in States will be rendered to 47th Divisional Artillery (Headquarters - WESTOUTRE) on arrival.
9. All Units will march with filled eschelons.
10. ACKNOWLEDGE by wiro.
=====

C.M. Jakes

Major, R.A.,
 Brigade-Major,
 4th Australian Divisional Artillery.

DISTRIBUTION.

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23	Filo
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MARCHING OUT STATE
IN

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>OTHER RANKS</u>	<u>HORSES OR MULES</u>	<u>BICYCLES</u>	<u>GUNS</u>	<u>AMMN. WGNs.</u>	<u>G.S. WGNs. for amm. or tech. stores</u>	<u>Limbd. G.S. Wgns.</u>	<u>Baggage & Supply Wagons.</u>	<u>Other Vehic.</u>	<u>Ammunition</u>		
											<u>A</u>	<u>AX</u>	<u>BX</u>

APPENDIX