

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

Artillery

**Item number:** 13/13/9

**Title:** Headquarters, 4th Australian  
Divisional Artillery

February 1917



AWM4-13/13/9



# 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.

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
POMMIERS	Feb 1st	1st 7pm	4 <sup>th</sup> Inf Bde attacked enemy trenches from N 22C 0560 to N 21 D 55 Summary of events from the artillery point of view is as in Special Report to Operation report Feb 1st attached. In the result we captured 40 prisoners including 2 officers but our men were finally out bombed & forced back into our own lines. X 4 A Bty had done good work in wire cutting.	Ref GUEDECOURT 57C SW 1 10000 4 A Bty Order 59 Decisions taken at Conference held at 4 Inf Bde HQ. NO 6/25/43 4 Am Div 28 Jan 4 A Bty Order no 60
	Feb 2/3rd		Vide Operation report of this date 2 B Group, 1 <sup>st</sup> AN 2AC Artillery order no 18  On the 2 <sup>nd</sup> 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> the 10 <sup>th</sup> A FA Bde was to have been relieved by the 6 <sup>th</sup> A FA (airway) Bde, but in view of further operations the relief was suspended & the 6 <sup>th</sup> A FA Bde was placed in action in T 2A, N 32C, & T 7A, the 3 Batteries only having 11 guns.	



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Pommiers	Feb 4	10pm	The attack on the objectives of Feb 1st was resumed. The objectives were further enlarged to the N by 250 yds and a fresh MG told off for the attack. The artillery story is told in the "Special Report". In the result we captured and by dawn 5th unit had consolidated on a line running from N 21 B 2540 to N 22 C 0560. The enemy's counterattacks (twice during the night) were reported to have been entirely broken up by artillery fire. About 60 prisoners, 2 officers and 1 MG were captured.	B Group 1st Arzac artillery order No 19. artillery instructions no 77 4th Div G 5/167
	Feb 5 <sup>th</sup>		Operation report attached	
	" 6 <sup>th</sup>		"	
	7 <sup>th</sup>	11 24pm	a counter attack on new line in N 21 B was vainly repulsed. report attached	
	8 <sup>th</sup>		Daily report attached	



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or

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
POMMIERS	9 <sup>th</sup>		6 <sup>th</sup> A7A 1 <sup>st</sup> relieved 10 <sup>th</sup> A7A 1 <sup>st</sup> in the line. 10 <sup>th</sup> A7A 1 <sup>st</sup> to Wagon driver Operation report attached	4A/55 order NO 61
	10 <sup>th</sup>		" " "	
	11 <sup>th</sup>		" " "	
	12 <sup>th</sup>		" " "	
	13 <sup>th</sup>		" " "	
	14 <sup>th</sup>		4 <sup>th</sup> Aus DA inserted 5 <sup>th</sup> Aus DA in a raid. Operation report attached	B & W art order NO 22
	15 <sup>th</sup>		" " "	



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
POMMIERS	17 <sup>th</sup>		Operation report attached	
	18 <sup>th</sup>		" "	
	19 <sup>th</sup>			
	20 <sup>th</sup>			
	21 <sup>st</sup>	4 am	No 1 group covered the 12 <sup>th</sup> Aus Inf Bn who extended their line up STORMY TRENCH to N21A 2565. 29 prisoners were captured. Daily operation report attached	B Div Artillery order 23
	22 <sup>nd</sup>		Daily report attached During the night 22/28 <sup>th</sup> the 12 <sup>th</sup> Aus Inf Bn further extended their line 32 prisoners were captured. Our losses very slight	

A5834 Wt. W4973/M687 750,000 8/16 D. D. & L. Ltd. Forms/C.2118/13.



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or

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
POTIMIEB	23 <sup>rd</sup>		Operation report attached	
"	24 <sup>th</sup>		<p>5<sup>th</sup> Aus DA took over command of No 1 group, and 1<sup>st</sup> Aus DA that of No 2 group, on relief of 4<sup>th</sup> Aus Div Infantry. The 10<sup>th</sup> AFA Bde at this time was in action with the 2<sup>nd</sup> (Antist Division). The 11<sup>th</sup> AFA Bde &amp; 10<sup>th</sup> AFA Bde will be relieved later.</p> <p>The operations carried out by the 12<sup>th</sup> Aus Inf Bde had proved very successful. Over 150 men were captured in all from 3 <del>regiments</del> Bns of the 362 Regt.</p> <p>A copy of the G.O.C 4<sup>th</sup> Aus Inf Bde report is attached</p>	<p>4<sup>th</sup> Aus 8A Order 62</p>



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## or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
POMMIERS	26th		DIV ARTY HQR marched to BAVELINCOURT	
	25th			
	26th		DIV ARTY Trench mortar Batteries arrived in BAVELINCOURT.	
	26			
BAVELINCOURT	27		at BAVELINCOURT	
	28			
			at the end of the month the distribution of the units of the Div Artz was as follows	
			HQR. BAVELINCOURT	
			10th Bde less 110th & 37th Bde att'd to 2nd (British) Div	
			11th Bde attached to 5th Aus Div	
			37th Bde in Wagon lines at near LONGUEVAL	
			110th Bde attached 5th Aus Div	
			Trench mortar BAVELINCOURT.	



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## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices									
			<p>from Jan 1st to Feb 28<sup>th</sup> inclusive, the following casualties occurred</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td></td> <td>Killed</td> <td>Wounded</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Officers</td> <td></td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>OR</td> <td>1</td> <td>4</td> </tr> </table> <p>CMMater map RA Bde Trayn 4 Aus Div arty</p>		Killed	Wounded	Officers		1	OR	1	4	
	Killed	Wounded											
Officers		1											
OR	1	4											



Army Form C. 2118.

or

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX SUMMARY XXXX~~

(Erase heading not required.)

[illegible]



S E C R E T

ORDER NO. 59

HEADQUARTERS,  
30th January 1917.

REFERENCE MAPS :- 57 C (S.W.) 1 } 1/10,000. Edition 3 A.  
57 C (S.W.) 2 }

The 4th Australian Division will, on the evening of February 1st, capture enemy trenches in N 21 d.

Zero hour will be 7 p.m..

Watched will be synchronised at 4th Australian Divisional Artillery Headquarters three hours previously, viz. 4 p.m..

MEDIUM  
TRENCH  
MORTARS

- At 4 p.m. on the 30th instant the 4th Australian Divisional Medium Trench Mortars, assisted by 5th Australian Divisional Medium Trench Mortars, will cut wire in front of enemy front line trenches from N 21 d 35 95 to N 22 c 10 80. O.C., No. 1 Group "B" Divisional Artillery (4th Australian Division) will give necessary 18-pr. covering fire. On night of 30th/31st January an Infantry reconnaissance of wire will be made, and if necessary, medium Trench mortars will further bombard on the morning of the 31st instant and 1st February, under arrangements to be made direct with the O.C. Battalion concerned. Covering fire from 18-prs. again to be given.

HEAVY  
ARTILLERY

- From 1.30 to 3.30 p.m. on the 31st instant, Heavy Artillery will bombard enemy front line trenches from N 21 a 75 70 to N 22 c 75 65, also trench from N 22 c 25 85 to N 21 b 70 25. Special attention will be paid to strong points at N 21 d 50 70, N 21 d 85 55 and N 22 c 25 85. Infantry will be withdrawn from trenches : prior to bombardment.

FIELD  
ARTILLERY  
BARRAGE

- Simultaneously with the opening of Heavy Artillery fire at 1.30 p.m. on the 31st instant, "B" and "A" (4th and 5th Australian Divisions) Field Artillery will place a heavy barrage on enemy front line trenches from N 21 a 75 70 to N 22 d 50 60, for a period of five minutes in order to prevent the enemy garrisons from leaving their trenches. This barrage will be established by Field Artillery in accordance with tasks in para. 5.

ACTION ON THE 1ST FEBRUARY

- INFANTRY 4. At 4.30 p.m. Infantry will commence assembling the assaulting troops in their "Jumping off" trenches - and at 7 p.m. will advance to the attack.

FIELD  
ARTILLERY

5. At two minutes before zero hour, 18-prs. of No. 1 Group "B" Divisional Artillery will engage FARLEY TRENCH firing a few rounds per gun, primarily to warm the guns to ensure uniform barrage, but also as a signal to the assaulting Infantry. At Zero hour the Field Artillery will place a heavy barrage on enemy front line as follows :-

No. 2 Group "B" Divisional Artillery :-

from N 21 a 75 70 to N 21 b 25 05.

No. 1 Group "B" Divisional Artillery :-

from N 21 b 25 05 to N 22 c 40 80.

No. 8. on trench junction in N 21 b.

over.



ORDER NO. 59 Continued

## FIELD

## ARTILLERY

"A" Divisional Artillery. :-5.  
(Contd).

from N 22 c 25 85 to N 22 d 50 60.  
Noitzers on trench junctions at N 22 b 45 30, 05 65 and  
40 80, also N 22 d 95 80.

Simultaneously with the placing of this barrage, the Infantry  
will move up as close as possible under it.

At

At zero plus 2 minutes, No. 1 Group "B" Divisional Artillery  
will lift on to a straight line connecting N 21 b 25 05 with  
N 22 c 40 80.

No. 2 Group "E" Divisional Artillery and "A" Divisional  
Artillery will not alter their barrage lines.

## HEAVY

## ARTILLERY

From 4.30 p.m. till 7 p.m. Counter Batteries will stand by  
6. but will not fire unless called for.

From 7 p.m. all available guns of Counter Batteries and 14th  
H.A. Group, will neutralise known enemy Batteries.  
Divisional Artillery Headquarters will inform Heavy Artillery  
when their services are no longer required.

## DIVERSION

7. The 5th Australian Division will, simultaneously with the  
above operation, carry out a diversion on N 35 a.

R.F.C. 8. Arrangements have been made for R.F.C. to prevent enemy planes  
from approaching our front lines between 4.30 p.m. and dusk  
on the 1st February.

SIGNALS

The following signals will be used by Infantry :-

- (1) Red asteroid rocket -  
means "COUNTER BATTERY WORK REQUIRED"  
(If fired, will be before 7 p.m..)
- (2) White "Very" light.-  
means "OBJECTIVE CALLED"
- (3) Red and white asteroid rocket fired  
simultaneously -  
means "SLACKEN RATE OF FIRE"

These Signals will be fired from front line and will be repeated  
from CHALK PIT north east of GUEDECOURT, and from Battalion  
Headquarters situated south west of GUEDECOURT.  
Artillery will watch for these signals from Group O.P.s and  
act on them immediately.

Over.



ORDER NO. 59 Continued

SIGNALS (Continued)

O.C. No. 1 Group "B" Divisional Artillery will immediately inform Divisional Artillery Headquarters if signal (1) is fired, and as opportunity offers, will also report firing of signals (2) and (3).

ACKNOWLEDGE

*C. G. HOTTES*  
Captain,  
for Brigade-Major,  
4th Australian Divisional Artillery.

COPIES

Issued to :-

1	4th Australian Div.
2 - 3	4th Inf. Brigade.
4	No. 1 Group, " " Div. Artv. } 4th Aus. Div.
5	No. 2 Group, " " " " }
6	"A" Divisional Artillery (5th Aus. Div.)
7	"C" Divisional Artillery (1st " " )
8	G.O.C.R.A., 1st ALZAC.
9	G.O.C. ALZAC. H.A.
10	C.O., 14th H.A. Group
11	C.O., Counter-battery Group.
12	3rd R.F.C.
13 14	5th Div. Art
15	War Diary.
16	File
17 25	Spares.



SECRET.

URGENT.

Fourth Australian Infantry Brigade,

HEADQUARTERS,

28th January, 1917.

5 p.m.

Headquarters,

4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

As the result of a conference with the O.C. 15th Battalion and the Company Commander (Major Mundell) who with his Company plus 2 platoons will carry out the minor operation in N.21.d. the following proposals are submitted :-

30th January  
3 to 5 p.m.

4 PM

Under cover of an 18 pounder shoot, the 4th Division Medium Trench Mortar Battery to cut wire from N.21.d.3.9 $\frac{1}{2}$  to N.22.c.1.6. The 4th Division Medium Trench Mortar Battery can do this effectively from its present enfilade position. The 4th Light Trench Mortar Battery to co-operate on targets selected later. The 15th Trench Mortar Battery engaging enemy from N.22.c.1.6. to N.22.c.5.7.

Night 30/31st  
January.

Reconnaissance to be made of the result of wire cutting by Trench Mortar Battery.

31st January  
~~11 a.m.~~  
1-30 PM

Heavies to engage strong points N.21.d.5.7., N.21.d.8 $\frac{1}{2}$ .5 $\frac{1}{2}$ . and N.22.c.2 $\frac{1}{2}$ .7 $\frac{1}{2}$ . If wire not sufficiently cut then Medium Trench Mortar Battery to co-operate.

Night 31st  
Jany/1st Feb.

4th Brigade to take over firing line up to and including Trench N.22.3. Further reconnaissance of wire.

1st February.

- (a) Under cover of semi darkness attacking units to assemble in N.21.3. and N.22.3. as under :-
- (1). Attack on strong point N.21.d.5.7.  
4 platoons (total about 150) plus Lewis Gunners and Bombers.
  - (2). Attack on enemy line N.21.d.8.6. to N.22.c.1.6. 2 Platoons (total about 60) plus Lewis Gunners and Bombers.
- (b) When (a) is completed (exact hour later) an 18 pounder barrage of 2 minutes duration from N.21.b.3.2. to N.22.c.5.7. to precede attack thence a box put down -
- (1) Along STORMY TRENCH from N.21.d.3.9 $\frac{1}{2}$ . to N.21.b.2.2.
  - (2) From N.21.d.3.9 $\frac{1}{2}$ . to N.21.b.5.4.
  - (3) Along trench down to N.22.c.2 $\frac{1}{2}$ .7 $\frac{1}{2}$ .  
Box to slacken fire when ordered (Signals later)
- (c) 1st and 5th Division diversion shoots (18 pounder) on their own front same time the attack is launched.

The object of a short preliminary barrage is to keep the Huns down as at any time in the night our troops will be seen getting out of their trenches. No likelihood of fog.

/OVER



SECRET.Page 2.

The above dates will be adhered to if the G.C. Minor operation is convinced that arrangements are perfected and that the operation will be a complete success. If he is not satisfied, then it is proposed to postpone the operation until he is confident of success.

Certain minor preparations are being arranged direct with G.O.C. 15th Infantry Brigade.

(sgd) C. H. BRAND, Brig-General,  
Comdg., 4th Aust. Inf. Brigade.

Not to be taken beyond Battalion Headquarters.

Copy to :-

C.O., 15th Battalion.  
G.O.C. 15th Aust. Inf. Brigade.

Acknowledged G.A.2063.  
Approved G.A.2072.

H.G.M.  
29/1.



SECRET

No. G.

25/43/3

Headquarters,

4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

28th January 1917.

4th Aus. Infantry Brigade.

1. The Divisional Commander wishes the operation against the enemy salient N.22.c.1.7. to N.21.b.3.0., to be carried out as soon as preparations are complete. The importance of carrying out this operation before the thaw sets in must be borne in mind.
2. All arrangements for Artillery barrages and employment of Medium Mortars will be made by the G.O.C. 4th Aus. Infantry Brigade with the C.R.A. direct.
3. The C.R.A. will arrange with the C.R.A. 5th Aus. Division for any necessary Artillery co-operation.
4. Any extra work required on the trenches within the 5th Aus. Divisional boundary will be arranged by the G.O.C. 4th Aus. Infantry Brigade direct with the Commander of the left Brigade, 5th Aus. Division.
5. The hour and date on which it is proposed to carry out this operation should be communicated to this Office as soon as possible, so that an Artillery diversion by the 5th Aus. Division may be arranged.
6. Two copies of the Brigade Orders issued for the attack will be forwarded to this Office 24 hours before it comes off.

*D.K. Brown*

•Lieut - Colonel.

G.S. 4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Copy to -

C. R. A.  
5th Aus. Division.



CONFIDENTIAL  
=====

DAILY INTELLIGENCE REPORT

for period

6 p.m. 31st Jan., - 6 p.m., 1st February '17  
----- \* -----

OBSERVATION :- Good

GENERAL :- At 5.5 p.m. enemy fired 14 red rockets from the Right of No. 1 Group Zone.

OUR ACTION :- The 37th Battery fired at targets at

N 20 a	N 14 c
N 8 Central	N 8 d
N 13 d	N 8 c
N 20 b	N 14 a

The 110th How. Battery searched and swept roads and approaches in No. 2 Zone.  
At 6.10 p.m., our 18-prs. fired on MILKY WAY and BREAD TRENCH.  
Our Batteries carried out registrations on N 14 d 8 8 and N 22 c 0 6.  
Our 2" Medium Trench Mortars shelled N 21 d.

HOSTILE ACTION

:- Enemy shelled DECAUVILLE Railway just in front of DELVILLE WOOD, at 9 p.m., also GUEDECOURT and FLERS at intervals.

At 10. a.m.	16 rounds of 4.2's	fell on	LONGUEVAL CIRCUS
" 12 noon	4 "	" .77's "	" NEEDLE TRENCH
" 12.30 p.m.	14 "	" 5.9's "	" LARK HILL
" 2.30 p.m.	4 "	" .77's "	" Duckboards in T 2 a.

AERIAL ACTIVITY

:- Normal.

A hostile 'plane flew over our lines, but was driven off by anti-aircraft guns.  
Five hostile balloons were up during the day.

A hostile plane worried our Left Sector this morning and was finally driven off by our 'planes.

Staff Lieutenant,  
for Brigade-Major,  
"B" Group, 1st ANZAC. Artillery.



"B" GROUP FIRST ANZAC. ARTILLERY

CONFIDENTIAL  
=====

DAILY OPERATION REPORT

for period

6 p.m., 1st Feb. - 6 p.m., 2nd Feb. 17.

----- \* -----

OBSERVATION :- Good.

GENERAL :- During our bombardment a cluster of yellow stars was fired by the enemy. This drew Artillery fire. The enemy immediately retaliated, though apparently with few guns.

OUR ACTION :- The 39th Battery fired on targets, including roads and means of communication in N 21 a, N 15 c, N 14 b N 14 d and N 15 a. Registrations on targets from N 21 b 0 5 to N 22 a 5 2 were completed by the 35th Battalion. Enemy trench mortars at N 20 a 2 8 and N 14 c 0 5 were fired on by our Howitzers. Road at N 21 b 7:9 was fired on by the 110th How. Battery at 8.30 a.m..

HOSTILE ACTION :- Normal.  
Enemy fired 4.2s and .77's on N 36 b, S 11 d, S 11 b.

AERIAL ACTIVITY :- At 11.30 a.m., a hostile 'plane passed fairly low over FLERS. Two hostile 'planes flew low over our lines several times during the day and remained over for fully half an hour.

REPORT ON OPERATION ON NIGHT 1st/2nd

Objective was reported as gained at 7.5 p.m.. (green rockets seen), and barrage was gradually slowed down as per orders till 8.2 p.m. when it was quickened again for essential Batteries, in consequence of reports received of bombing on the left flank of the attack, by O.C. No. 1 Group. Again at 8.35 p.m., in consequence of further reports of bombing, the O.C. No. 2 Group increased his rate, till at the time all his three Batteries were firing at 2 rounds per gun per minute, while 5th Australian Division and No. 1 Group Batteries were firing at 1 round per gun per 3 minutes, i.e. Battery fire 30 seconds.

COUNTER BATTERIES.

At 7.57 p.m., the G.O.C. 4th Australian Infantry Brigade said that counter-Battery work could be slowed down, but almost at once (at 8 p.m.) this had to be countermanded as O.P.s reported an enemy shrapnel barrage had been started. Counter-Batteries were finally told they might cease fire at 8.56 p.m.. At 8.57 p.m., 5th Aus. Divisional Artillery were told they might cease fire, leaving one gun laid on trench junction at N 22 c 32 87.

This/



DAILY OPERATION REPORT

(Continued)

REPORT ON OPERATION ON NIGHT 1st/2nd Continued

This gun fired 3 rounds per minute till 10.45 p.m., when it was stopped, and thereafter employed bursts of fire for the rest of the night.

At 9.35 p.m., No. 1 Group O.C. - after consultation with G.O.C. 4th Australian Infantry Brigade - ordered a Battery to shell trench from N 22 c 1575 to trench junction N 22 c 2585 owing to reports of the Right attack being held up by wire in their bombing operations.

At 12.5 a.m. the infantry again asked O.C. No. 1 Group to barrage same trench between same points. This was done by a Battery at the rate of 1 round per gun for 5 minutes, then 1 round per gun per 2 minutes.

At 12.45 a.m. this Battery was ordered to slow down and stop.

At 12.51 a.m. an S.O.S. Signal was seen coming from captured trench. All Batteries on the zone of No. 1 Group opened fire till all reported quiet a few minutes later. This signal was not seen by 5th Australian Divisional Artillery Batteries.

At 1.3 a.m., in answer to a message by telephone from the Battalion Liaison Officer that Infantry were assembling at Cross Roads N 21 b 6 0, the O.C. No. 1 Group ordered 1 gun to be placed on that point, and the rest of a Battery on barrage line to N 22 c 2585, while a second Battery was placed on communication trenches leading to this part of STORMY TRENCH, with a Howitzer Battery on MILKY WAY and road running parallel and East of it;

At 1.3 a.m. No. 1 Group saw an S.O.S. Signal well to the Right in the 5th Division Area.

5th Aus. Div. Artillery also saw this and opened fire till 1.13 a.m. when all was reported quiet.

1.30 a.m. Liaison Officer reported to No. 1 Group that we were being bombed from trench joining STORMY TRENCH to N 21 b 6 0, and that situation was critical. All guns of a Battery were turned on to this trench by O.C. No. 1 Group, for 10 minutes, firing 60 rounds, and he then left three guns on it at one round per gun per minute.

1.45 a.m. Word was received from Company Liaison Officer that everything was clear, and slackening fire was suggested, except on point N 21 d 4 9 to point N 21 b 6 0. Two guns were left on this point firing at the rate of 2 rounds per minute.

2.5 a.m. Liaison Officer reported that fire could be slackened as "Infantry were comfortable but anxious".

One gun only was left firing on the last mentioned target firing one round every 2 minutes till 3.30 a.m., when various tasks were laid down by the Group Commander of No. 1 Group as a preventative barrage, for various times up till 6.50 a.m..

Counter/



226

DAILY OPERATION REPORT Continued.

Counter Batteries :-

At 3.47 a.m. Counter Battery Group was informed of the situation at 1.5 a.m. when the S.O.S. call was sent up, and assistance asked for. ~~XX-XX-XX-XX-XX~~.

Reports were received of shelling of GOODWIN'S POST and they were again asked for help.

4.40 a.m..

S.O.S. Calls were seen from most O.Ps., though the time reported varied from 4.35 a.m. (No. 2 Group) to 4.50 a.m. (5th Div. Artillery).

R.B. Inx this latter case it was probably seen sent up from the CHALK PITS.

All Batteries opened and finally information was received that our Infantry were back in their own trenches.

AMMUNITION EXPENDED :-

	<u>A &amp; AX</u>	<u>BX</u>
5th Australian Divisional Artillery :-	2532	641
4th Australian Divisional Artillery :-	4340	(not received)
	----	
Total	6872	----

*C.M. Harte*

Major, R.A.,  
Brigade-Major,  
"B" Group, 1st ANZAC. Artillery.



CONFIDENTIALREPORT ON OPERATION ON N 21 dHEADQUARTERS,  
5th February 1917.

Our fire opened at 10 p.m.; from thence onwards the operation proceeded as follows :-

- 10.3 p.m. :- No. 2 Group reported green flare up from objective. Other green flares were reported by other Groups and 5th Divisional Artillery at 10.3 and 10.4 p.m..
- 10.9 p.m. :- Enemy barraged EVE ALLEY with .77's.
- 10.11 " :- 1 red rocket from front line.  
This was reported to Counter-Battery Group, who said they were 'on' to every known Battery and that their strength amounted to about 1 gun per Battery.
- 10.12 " :- Rate of fire reduced to 2 rounds per gun per minute.
- (10.13 " 1
- (10.14 " :- More green flares.
- 10.17 " :- Howitzer Batteries ordered to keep on after zero plus 22 at one round per gun per minute.
- 10.22 " :- Rate of fire reduced to 1 round per gun per minute.
- 10.25 " :- 5th Australian D.A. asked to have a Battery ready to search BEAULIEUCOURT - CULLECOURT Road.
- 10.25 " :- Golden cluster rockets on No. 2 Group zone.  
These seemed to be answered by Artillery fire on 1st Div. Artillery zone.
- 10.30 " :- Re. rocket (not asteroid) reported over N 21 d.
- 10.30 " :- No. 2 Group reported enemy retaliation slight.  
No. 1 Group's guns ordered to slow down by Group Commander to one round per gun per minute.  
Left Group, 5th A.D.A. in readiness to await counter attack in support of "R" and No. 1 Group.
- 10.40 " :- No. 2 Group's guns ordered to slow down by Group Commander.
- 10.47<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> " :- "R" Group saw S.O.S. Signals.
- 10.52 " :- No. 2 Group saw S.O.S. Signals.
- 10.53 " :- 5th A.D.A. saw S.O.S. Signals.  
"R" and No. 1 Group opened fire immediately after 10.47<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>.
- No. 2 Group at 10.53 and 5th A.D.A. at 10.53, all at S.O.S. rates.
- 10.54 " :- Various reports of repeated S.O.S. Signal.
- 10.56 " :- D.A. receive report of S.O.S. - passed on to all concerned.
- 11.13 " :- Enemy's fire steadied off.
- 11.15 " :- Flank Batteries ordered to slow down to 1 round per gun per two minutes.
- 11.17 " :- No. 1 Group, who had also slowed down, ordered to increase to one round per gun per minute.
- 11.20 " :- Howitzers ordered to stop and employ bursts of fire at intervals.
- 11.28 " :- Left Battalion, 5th Australian Division, reported all quiet except for fairly heavy shelling.
- 11.58 " :- O.C. No. 1 Group increased his rate to 3 rounds per gun per minute for 5 minutes, other Groups slowing down rapidly.
12. 2 a.m. :- Reported that enemy were bombarding heavily at N 21 c 1075 to 2585.  
One section of 18-in. Battery in enfilade was turned on and ordered to fire 3 rounds per gun per minute for 10 minutes.

One./



## REPORT ON OPERATIONS on N 21 d.

Continued

12.2 a.m.

Contd. :- One gun of this Section was kept on this line all night.

At same time EVE ALLEY and SHINE TRENCH and supports were being shelled pretty heavily.

12.30 a.m. :- Red asteroid rockets going up from our centre.

12.33 a.m. :- O.C. No. 1 Group from Advanced Battalion Headquarters asked for counter Battery work and explained situation.

12.36 a.m. :- Passed on above to Counter-Battery ~~xxxxxxx~~ Group.

12.42 a.m. :- "R" Group ordered to fire 20 to 25 rounds per hour per Battery.

12.45 a.m. :- Another 10 minutes burst ordered on N 21 c 2585.

1.12 a.m. :- O.C. No. 1 Group suggested that Heavies might slacken. Passed on to all concerned.

From thence onwards for 2 hours, the Batteries of No. 1 Group kept up a barrage, very slow at times, quickening to bursts in front of flank of captured trench, other Groups employing occasional bursts of fire.

3.7 a.m. :- No. 2 Group reported S.O.S..

"B" Group, reported S.O.S..  
All Batteries responded very promptly.

3.23 a.m. :- Onwards. All slowed down as matters were reported quieter, both from Left Battalion 4th Infantry Brigade and 13th Battalion.

H.A. Group asked to put some shells on to ATOLL Trench Headquarters.

3.40 p.m. :- No. 1 Group reports matters much quieter. This passed on to H.A.G. and Counter Battery Group.

By 3.55 a.m., Batteries were back on their several tasks in bursts of fire at intervals.

At 3.50 a.m. all communication between 13th Battalion and Infantry Brigade Headquarters had to go through Artillery lines.

At 5.10 a.m. further counter-Battery work was asked for, and at 5.30 a.m. Groups were informed from D.A. that Brigade Liaison Officer stated that our troops were consolidated in captured trench with their Left on N 21 b 0550.

There would thus seem to have been two counter-attacks by the enemy, one at 10.50 p.m. and the other at 3.7 p.m..

The 4th Aus. Div. Artillery fired approximately 16,275 18-pr. and 1071 4.5" shell, the 5th Aus. Division, 3400 18-pr.

Had there been buried telephone communication to the front line, this expenditure might have been halved.

Efforts made to get visual signalling from F.L.T. to Battery O.C.s. failed, probably owing to lack of time for reconnaissance.

*For order of merit that*

Major-General,  
M.A., 4th Australian Division.



"B" GROUP FIRST ANZAC. ARTILLERY

CONFIDENTIAL

DAILY OPERATION REPORT

for period

6 p.m., 2nd Feb. - 6 p.m., 3rd Feb. 1917.

OBSERVATION :- Poor, up to 10 a.m., improved later.

OUR ACTION

:- The 37th Battery fired on roads and tracks in N 14 a, b and c, N 15 a and b, and N 9 c. Enemy T.S. at N 20 a & 8, LUISEHOF FARM, the junction of PORK and BASON Trenches and N 14 a & 5 were fired on by 110th Battery.

At 11 p.m. we made a feint attack. We put up a barrage from N 21 a 75 70 to N 21 b 25 05 lasting one minute. The barrage was then lifted for two minutes and brought back again on to the objective. This was repeated at 6 a.m.. The 5th Australian Divisional Artillery co-operated. Enemy made no response.

Our Heavy Artillery bombarded trenches in N 21 d from 1.30 to 3.30 p.m..

HOSTILE ACTION

:- Very quiet.

At 11.40 a.m., enemy shelled vicinity of SHINE Trench.

AIRIAL ACTIVITY

:- Three enemy 'planes flew over our lines at 11 a.m., but were flying at high altitudes.

*G Halford*

Staff Lieutenant,  
for Brigade-Major,  
"B" Group, 1st ANZAC. Artillery.



FOURTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERYSECRET

ORDER NO. 60

HEADQUARTERS,  
31st January 1917.

1. The 10th A.F.A. Brigade and No. 1 Section D.A.C. will be relieved by the 6th A.F.A. Brigade (Army) and B.A.C., on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th February, relief to be completed by 6 p.m. 3rd February.

2. For relief purposes, Batteries are affiliated as under :-

37th Battery	with	16th Battery
38th "	"	17th "
39th "	"	18th "
110th How.	"	6th A.F.A. Brigade How. Battery.

3. The 10th A.F.A. Brigade will hand over to 6th A.F.A. Brigade all guns and Howitzers in action, with the following stores only :-

All sights  
Sight Carriers  
Sight Clinometers  
Gun History Sheets  
Aiming posts in position

Any guns necessary to replace guns not in the line will be brought in by the 6th A.F.A. Brigade.

4. The 6th A.F.A. Brigade will hand over to the 10th A.F.A. Brigade a similar number of guns and Howitzers similarly equipped, on the 3rd instant, at the 6th A.F.A. Brigade Wagon Line in X 29 d.

5. The relief will be arranged as follows :-

February 2nd :- Brigade Commander, Adjutant and 3 telephonists.  
B.Cs. and 3 telephonists per battery of 6th A.F.A. Brigade, to No. 2 Group Headquarters and Batteries of 10th A.F.A. Brigade. One Section per Battery 6th A.F.A. Brigade relieved 1 Section per battery 10th A.F.A. Brigade.

February 3rd :- Remaining Sections of Batteries and remainder of Brigade Headquarters relieve remainder of 10th A.F.A. Brigade, command of Group devolving on O.C. 6th A.F.A. Brigade at 6 p.m.

6. March and movement table will be as per attached Schedule.

7. Guides will be at HAMPTZ Cross Roads at 11. a.m., 2nd February as follows :-

- A. 4 guides from 11th A.F.A. Brigade to conduct Batteries to Wagon Lines X 29 d.
- B. 1 guide from 10th A.F.A. Brigade to conduct B.A.C. to wagon line S 21 c (new D.A.C. wagon line under construction).

Over



ORDER NO. 60 Continued

## 7 Contind.

C. 2 Guides per Battery and Brigade Headquarters 10th A.F.A. Brigade to conduct Battery and Brigade Commanders' parties and Sections of Batteries to Battery positions.

8. Completion of relief to be reported by wire to this Office.

9. The general lines of G.H.Q. Artillery Circular No. 2 of January 14th, will be followed throughout.

One Officer per Battery of 10th A.F.A. Brigade will remain behind till the evening of the 4th, as laid down in para. 4 of the above Circular.

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER IN CONNECTION WITH ABOVE.

- (1) All ammunition on charge will be correctly accounted for and handed over to relieving Brigade. ANZAC. D.A. Transfer Certificate to be used, and when completed, forwarded to D.A.H.Q..
- (2) All information regarding the supply of rations and ammunition to be passed on to relieving Units.
- (3) O.C. 10th A.F.A. Brigade and No. 1 Section D.A.C., will arrange for billeting parties to proceed in advance of main body.
- (4) The Supply Officer, 14th A.S.C., will arrange to refill 10th A.F.A. Brigade at DUIRE Staging Camp on evening of 4th February.
- (5) The 6th A.F.A. Brigade will come under the Supply Officer 14th A.S.C. for rations, etc., on and from 3rd February 1918.

COPIESACKNOWLEDGE

## Issued to :-

No. 1 - 7 10th A.F.A. Bde.  
 8 11th " "  
 9 4th A.D.A.C.  
 10 - 16 6th A.F.A. Bde.

*W. J. Baker*  
 Major, R.A.,  
 Brigade-Major,  
 4th Australian Div. Artillery.

Copies to :- (for inf.)

17 4th Aus. Div.  
 18 1st A.D.A.  
 19 5th A.D.A.  
 20 R.A., 1st ANZAC.  
 21 Supply Officer 14th A.S.C.  
 22 File  
 23 War Diary.  
 24 - 30 Spare.



# SCHEDULE

## MARCH AND MOVEMENT PROGRAM

(To accompany ORDER 60)

February 5th :-	UNIT	FROM	TO	REMARKS
	10th A.S.A. Brigade B.A.C. 1 Section per Bty. 10th A.S.A. Bde.	BUIRE STACING Camp. ST. CATHERINE Line	X 29 d and line. S 51 c Wagon line	To be clear of METZ Cross Roads by 12 noon.  (When relieved)
February 5th :-	Completion of relief. Remainder of 10th A.S.A. Brigade to Wagon Lines when relieved.			
February 6th :-	10th A.S.A. Brigade 1. 1 Section ) D.A.C. )	Wagon Lines  BUIRE	BUIRE STACING AREA.  FRANVILLERS	
February 6th :-	10th A.S.A. Brigade 1. 1 Section ) D.A.C. )	BUIRE STACING Camp. FRANVILLERS	LEHENCOURT  LEHENCOURT	Under Orders of O.C.; 10th A.S.A. A. Brigade.

APPENDIX



FOURTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERYSECRET

Headquarters,  
14th H.A. Group.

-----  
4th Aus. Div. (for inf.)

HEADQUARTERS,  
3rd February 1917.

Reference attached order.

The Division will be glad if, between 2.30 p.m. - 3.30 p.m. on the 4th instant, you can arrange to shell the sap at N 21 b 2005 to N 21 b 5525, and also the lower end of MILKY WAY communication trench from N 21 b 4540 to N 15 d 7 0. The trenches will be cleared from N 21 c 6 9 to N 21 d 5 5.

During the operation the Division wishes a Heavy Artillery Liaison Officer to be at 4th Australian Infantry Brigade Headquarters, and from Zero plus 3 hours to daybreak, for the 60-pr. Batteries attached to you, to sweep approaches in N 22 b, N 15 d and N 16 c in bursts of fire at times, to try and prevent troops massing for counter attack.

*CM Tate* *Wain RA*  
*for* *Regt 4 AIDA*  
Brigadier-General,  
C.R.A., 4th Australian Division.



"B" GROUP FIRST ANZAC ARTILLERYSECRETORDER NO. 19HEADQUARTERS,  
3rd February 1917.REFERENCE 1/10,000 CUEDEGOURT to THILLOY.

1. On the night 4th/5th February, the 4th Australian Infantry Brigade will capture and occupy with one Battalion, the enemy P.L.T. from N 22 c 05 65 to N 21 b 25 50 and communication trench from N 21 d 4 9 to N 21 b 5 0. 05
2. Zero hour will be communicated later.
3. Task and barrage table for Divisional Artillery attached.
4. For the attack, No. 1 Group will have attached to it the 38th Battery, and the How. Batteries will be detached from it. A group to be termed the "R" or "RESERVE" Group will be formed, consisting of the 6th A.F.A. Brigade and the 111th and 112th How. Batteries. This Grouping will remain in force till counter orders from this Office.
5. The O.C., No. 1 Group will be with Battalion Headquarters of the Battalion carrying out the attack, at CHALK CLIFF. Visual signalling will be established between this point and T 8 a 1 8, and also necessary telephonic communication to Batteries.
6. Group Headquarters of "R" Group will be at No. 1 Group's Headquarters at S 18 c 4 6, the Group being commanded by Major DEAN, 18th Battery.
7. In event of communications between CHALK CLIFF and T 8 a 1 8 or Batteries breaking down, O.C. "R" Group must be prepared to give orders to No. 1 Group, on information received from 4th Infantry Brigade, or other sources.
8. The H.A. Group and Counter-Battery Group will be co-operating.
9. Orders as to light signals will be issued later.
10. R.A., 1st ANZAC. are arranging for the 1st Aus. D.A. to watch the Division's Left flank.
11. The attack will synchronise with attacks of the 5th Aus. Div. and the 29th Division.
12. ACKNOWLEDGE.

COPIES

=====

*C. M. Bates*  
Major, R.A.,  
Brigade-Major,  
"B" Group, 1st ANZAC. Artillery.

Issued to -

No. 1	to File.	19	14th H.A. 1st ANZAC.	24	13th Inf. Bde.
2 - 6	No. 1 Group	20	R.A. 1st ANZAC.	25	1st Aus. D.A.
7 - 18	" 2 Group	21	4th Aus. Div.	26	War Diary. (No
12 - 17	"R" Group.	22	5th Aus. Div. Arty.		
Copies to (for inf).		23	4th Inf. Bde.		
18	Counter-Battery Group.				



SECRET

BARRAGE AND TASK TABLE

226

Time	Batteries	Task	Rate of fire	Ammunition
Zero to zero plus 2	38th ) 41st ) 42nd ) 43rd )	F.L.T. from N 21 a 75 70 to N 22 c 40 70	5 rounds per gun per minute.	P.S. between N 21 b 2500 and N 22 c 05 60. Balance of line A X.
PHASE 1. =====	16th ) 17th ) 18th )	F.L.T. N 22 c 2585 to N 22 d 50 60	5 rounds per gun per minute	A X
==	37th ) 39th )	N 21 b 2 8 to N 22 a 0 1	4 rounds per gun per minute.	A X
Zero plus 2 onwards	38th ) 41st ) 42nd ) 43rd )	On line F.L.T. N 21 a 7570 to N 21 b 1 4, thence to N 22 a 0 1, thence to N 22 c 2 8	Zero plus 2 to zero plus 12 = 4 rds. per gun per min.	50% A 50% A X
PHASE II =====	16th ) 17th ) 18th )	As in PHASE 1.	Zero plus 12 to zero plus 22 = 2 rds. per gun per min.	
	37th ) 39th )	Line N 21 b 4545 to N 22 a 3 2.	Zero plus 22 onwards = 1 round per gun per minute, or as ordered.	
Zero onwards	Howitzers No. 1 Group 1 Battery	ATOL TRENCH N 16 c 9 0 to N 22 b 1 5	Zero to zero plus 12 = 3 rounds per gun per minute.	E X
	1 Battery	Barrages N 15 d 7 0 to N 22 a 4 6.	Zero plus 12 onwards = 1 rd. per gun per minute.	
	No. 2 Group 1 Battery	N 21 a 75 70 to N 21 a 3 7		

After capture of objective, in the event of the S.O.S. signal being received, batteries will open at once on their lines as laid down in PHASE II and Howitzers as above - rates as follows :-

18-PRS.:- For 5 minutes, 5 rounds per gun per min, then 2 rounds per gun per minute till the situation is clear, or ordered to stop.

4.5" HOW'S :- Half these rates.

APPENDIX

27



## APPENDIX

SECRET"E" GROUP FIRST ALZAC. ARTILLERY

COPY NO. ....

AMENDMENTS AND ADDITION TOTASK TABLEHEADQUARTERS,  
3rd February 1917.1. HOWITZER BATTERIES :-

Tasks will be as under ;and not as stated.  
From Zero hour onwards.

NO. 2 GROUP :-

Communication trench N 21 b 5 3 to N 15 d 7 0.

"R" GROUP :-

1 Battery LILKY WAY from N 15 d 7 0 to N 15 d 7 6.  
1 Battery STORMY TRENCH from N 21 a 9 5 to N 21 a 7 8.

"R" GROUP HOWITZERS will also at intervals to be ordered by the Group Commander, search the tracks in N 22 a and the hollow ground in squares N 21 b and N 22 a, after Zero plus 22, in addition to the above they will return to their original targets at intervals.

RATES OF FIRE :-

Zero to zero plus 12 -- 2 rounds per gun per minute.  
Zero plus 12 to zero plus 22 or later, if ordered, one round per gun per minute.

After the above, in bursts of fire as ordered by the Group Commander.

AMMUNITION ALLOTMENT :- 100 rounds per Howitzer.

## 2. After fire has been stopped for barrage of PHASE II, Group Commanders will arrange for bursts of fire throughout the night till observation is possible, on the following lines, at intervals :-

"R" GROUP - 18-prs. :- Search ground between SUNRAY TRENCH N 22 c and d and DEAULENCOURT and GUEDELCOURT road as far west as N 22 a 5 6.

NO. 1 GROUP :- As considered best by G.C. Group, on information received.

AMMUNITION ALLOTTED (per battery) = 175 A X  
25 A

*G.M. Bates*

Major, R.A.,  
Brigade-Major,  
"E" Group, 1st ALZAC. Artillery.



FOURTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY

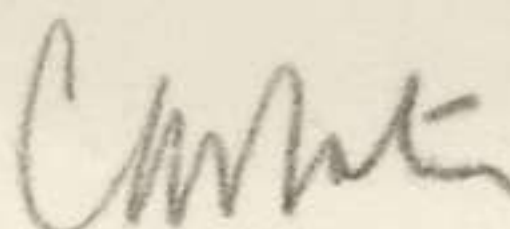
S E C R E T

No. 1 Group.  
No. 2 Group.  
-----

HEADQUARTERS,  
4th February 1917.

Reference Order No. 19.

Up to zero hour the usual night firing will be carried out by Groups, due regard being paid to ammunition expenditure.

  
Major, R.A.,  
Brigade-Major,  
"B" Group, 1st ANZAC. Artillery.



"E" GROUP FIRST ANZAC ARTILLERYSECRETORDER NO. 19 (1)HEADQUARTERS,  
4th February 1917.REFERENCE ORDER NO. 19.

1. The following signals will be used :-

GREEN 'VERY' LIGHT	--	Objective gained.
RED ASTEROID ROCKLET (before 7 p.m. only)	--	Counter Battery work required.

and the usual "S.O.S." Signal.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 TO TASKS AND ORDER NO. 19

2. It is desired to thicken the barrage on the Enemy F.L.T. round the salient.  
1 Battery 18-prs. No. 2 Group will therefore not carry out its task previously laid down.  
This Battery will maintain a standing barrage on enemy F.L.T. from N 21 a 7570 to N 21 b 1 4 (STORMY TRENCH).  
Rate of fire -- PHASE I, 5 rounds per gun per minute and thereafter as previously.  
This will place the left flank of No. 1 Group on N 21 b 1 4 and correspondingly thicken its barrage.
3. 5th Australian Divisional Artillery are co-operating from zero to zero plus 50 continuously and thereafter in bursts of fire at intervals searching and sweeping hollow ground N 21 b, N 22 a, N 15 d, N 16 c.
4. Zero hour will be 10 p.m. on the 4th February.  
Matches will be synchronised to all concerned at 6 p.m..

ACKNOWLEDGE

*C. M. S. A. T.*  
Major, R.A.,  
Brigade-Major,  
"E" Group, 1st ANZAC Artillery,

COPIES

Issued to -	
1 - to File	20 R.A. 1st ANZAC
2 - 6 No. 1 Group	21 4th Aus. Div.
7 - 10 No. 2 Group	22 5th Aus. Div. <i>Art.</i>
11 War Diary	23 4th Inf. Bde.
12 - 17 "E" Group	24 15th Inf. Bde.
Copies to - (inf.)	25 1st Aus. B.A.
18 Counter-Battery Group.	
19 14th H.A. Group.	



"A" Form.  
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form C.2121  
(in pads of 100).  
No. of Message

Prefix	Code	m.	Words	Charge	This message is on a/c of:	Recd. at	m.
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.			Sent			Service.	Date
			At		m.	From	
			To			By	
			By		(Signature of "Franking Officer.")		

TO { Counter Battery Corps

Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
* 100737	4th		

Ref amendment Order 19  
dated 4th AAA Signals AAA  
delete before 7 pm AAA  
please acknowledge

addressed to  
1st Lt  
5th AAA Bn  
14

From	4 AAA		
Place			
Time	3.10 pm		

The above may be forwarded as now corrected.

(Z) Malesman

Censor.

Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.

\* This line should be erased if not required.

750,000. W 2186—M509. H. W. & V., Ltd. 5/16.



S E C R E T .

APPENDIX

Copy No.

32

## ARTILLERY INSTRUCTIONS No. 77

by  
G.O.C.R.A. 1st ANZAC.3rd February 1917.

1. The 4th Australian Division is resuming the attack on the enemy trenches in N.21.d on the night of the 4th/5th at zero hour.
2. The trenches are being subjected to a destructive bombardment by heavy Howitzers on the 3rd instant.
3. The 4th Australian Divisional Artillery will place a barrage on the enemy front trench from N.22.d.50.60 to N.21.c.5.8 at zero hour.
4. At zero + 2 minutes this barrage will be lifted behind the enemy front trench as required by 4th Division.
5. During the continuation of the operation the 1st Australian Divisional Artillery will be responsible for the defence of the line from their boundary as far as N.21.a.5.8.
6. The 1st Australian Divisional Artillery will also carry out a feint artillery attack in M.18, putting down as heavy a barrage as if they were about to attack at zero hour, lifting *at + 0.7* minutes and ceasing at + 0.10.
7. The 5th Australian Divisional Artillery will similarly, if they are not engaged in any operation, carry out a feint attack on their front in N.29.
8. Field Howitzer Batteries of 4th Divisional Artillery will commence at zero hour and will keep a continuous fire until no longer required on the trench junction at N.21.b.5.3, will block STORMY TRENCH in N.21.a, and will search at intervals the tracks in N.22.a and the hollow ground in squares N.21.b and N.22.a.
9. At zero hour the counter batteries of the Heavy Artillery, assisted by any other Howitzer Batteries available, but less one 60-pdr. Battery, will commence neutralization.
10. One 60-pdr Battery will search the approaches in N.15.d Northwards, and in N.16.d towards BEAULENCOURT with intermittent bursts of fire at short intervals throughout the night.
11. A C K N O W L E D G E .

*R. A. Staff*  
Captain R.A.

Issued as under :-

Staff Officer R.A. 1st Anzac.

Copies 1 to 5	1st Anzac.
6	1st Aust. Divnl. Arty.
7	2nd Aust. Divnl. Arty.
8	4th Aust. Divnl. Arty.
9	5th Aust. Divnl. Arty.
10	Heavy Artillery, 1st Anzac.
11	G.O.C.R.A., Fourth Army.
12	3rd Squadron R.F.C.
13	Diary
14	File.
15 )	
16 )	Spare.
17 )	



## APPENDIX

33  
No. G. 5/167

Headquarters,

4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

3rd February 1917.

4th Aus. Infantry Brigade.

Reference Trench Map H.21/22.

1. The 5th Aus. Division are to take the enemy trenches N.29.c.2.2. to N.35.a.3.2. on the 4th February. The 29th Division are also to carry out a minor operation in conjunction with the above.
2. At the same hour as the above, the Divisional Commander directs that you occupy with one Battalion, the enemy trenches N.22.c.05.65., CLOUDY Trench to N.21.b.25.05. in STORMY Trench, also the Communication Trench N.21.d.4.9. to N.21.b.5.0. "Stops" to be established at N.22.c.05.65., N.21.b.25.05., N.21.b.30.05. and N.21.b.5.0.
3. Zero Hour will be communicated later.
4. The C.R.A. will have the 6th A.F.A. Brigade (Army Troops) at his disposal and will arrange with the C.R.A. 1st and 5th Aus. Divisions and ANZAC H.A. for the necessary Artillery co-operation.
5. Any extra work required on the trenches within the 5th Aus. Divisional Boundary will be arranged by the G.O.C. 4th Aus. Infantry Brigade direct with the Commander of the Left Brigade, 5th Aus. Division.
6. Please arrange direct with the 13th Aus. Infantry Brigade for any machine gun co-operation.
7. Two copies of the Brigade Orders issued for the attack will be forwarded to this Office by 3 P.M. tomorrow.

*J.H. McRae Mayn*Lieut-Colonel.  
G.S. 4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Copy to :-

1st Aus. Division.  
 5th " "  
 C.R.A.  
 1st A.N.Z.A.C.  
 3rd Squadron, R.F.C.  
 14th H.A.G.  
 13th Aus. Infantry Brigade.



ORDER NO. 12

4/2/17.

Reference Map - GUEUDECOURT 1/10,000.

1. On the night 4th/5th February the 13th Battalion will capture and occupy enemy trenches from N 22 c 05 65 to N 21 b 2505 also the communication trench from N 21 d 4 9 to N 21 b 5 0. Bombing stops will be established at N 22 c 05 65, N 21 b 25 05 N 21 b 30 05 and N 21 b 5 0.
2. Two companies 14th Battalion will be in support in (a) SHINE TRENCH and GREASE TRENCH and (b) POSSUM RESERVE.
3. There will be a heavy bombardment of enemy's <sup>rear</sup> trenches and gun positions to cover the operations. The 4th A.L.T.M.B., and 4th A.M.G. Co. also are assisting.
4. Zero time will be 10 p.m..
5. Opening Artillery barrage will be two (2) minutes from zero time.
6. Company frontages on abjective will be :-  
 "A" Coy. N 22 c 05 65 to N 21 d 8  $\frac{1}{2}$  5  
 "C" " N 21 d 8  $\frac{1}{2}$  5 " N 21 d 7 7  
 "B" " N 21 d 7 7 " N 21 d 4  $\frac{1}{2}$  8  $\frac{1}{2}$   
 "D" " N 21 d 45 85 " N 21 b 25 05
7. Bombing Platoon will work with "D" Company.
8. Jumping off frontages will be :-  
 "A" Coy. N 22 c 1 3 to N 21 d 8 3  
 "C" " N 21 d 8 3 " N 21 d 5 5 45  
 "B" " N 21 d 55 45 " N 21 d 25 65  
 "D" " N 21 d 25 65 " N 21 d 00 85
9. The battalion will assault in two waves, the second wave consisting of Lewis Gunners and 20 carriers per Company carrying grenades.
10. After the position is captured "A" Company will dig a communication trench from N 22 c 0585 towards shell crater near Trench N 223. "D" Company will dig a communication trench from N 21 b 25.05 towards trench N 215. "B" Company will improve the communication trench from N 21 d 45 55 to N 21 d 45 70.
11. Pass-word is BRISBANE.
12. In addition to S.O.S. the following signals will be used :-  
 GREEN VERY LIGHT "Objective gained"  
 RED ASTEROID ROCKET "Counter Battery work required".
13. Battalion Headquarters at CHALK PIT.

(Sgd) A.W. DAVIS Captain,  
 Adjutant, 13th Battalion. A.I.F..

Copy No. 1	War Diary	2	O.C. "A" Company.
3	O.C. "B" Company	4	" "C" "
5	" "D" "	6	Bombing Officer
7	Signalling Officer	8	Lewis Gun Officer
9	4th Aus. Inf. Bde.	10	14th Battalion
11	4th Aus. Div. Arty.	12	4th A.M.G. Company
13	4th A.L.T.M.B.	14	15th Aus. Inf. Bde.
15	16th Battalion.		



COPYSECRET

Fourth Australian Inf. Brigade,  
HEADQUARTERS.  
8th February 1917.

Headquarters,  
4th Australian Division.  
-----

Report on Minor Operation 4th/5th February.

Attached herewith is the report by the C.O., 15th Battalion on the minor operation carried out on night 4th/5th February.

The objective was not quite the same as that of 15th Battalion on night 1st/2nd February as stated in para. 2 on page 1. The objective was extended about 200 yards further to the left to cope with the two enemy communication trenches running into STORMY TRENCH.

Attention is directed to para. 10 on page 6. Some Signal ought to be devised to inform the Artillery when to slacken fire after the reply to an S.O.S. has proved effective.

Headquarters,  
4th Aus. Div.  
G 5/174. 8/2/17.  
-----

Sgd/ C.E. BRAND, Brig.-General,  
Comdng. 4th Aus. Inf. Brigade.



REPORT ON OPERATIONS  
CARRIED OUT BY 13TH BATTALION A.I.F.  
STORMY TRENCH N.E. of GUEDECOURT  
 night of 4th/5th February 1917.

Reference Map - GUEDECOURT. 1/10,000.

PART 1.

- (1) On 3/2/17 I received orders to attack the position at STORMY TRENCH, with 13th Battalion on the night 4th/5th February 1917.
- (2) The objective was the same position as that attacked by two companies of 15th Battalion on night 1/2nd February 1917.
- (3) Instructions were issued me by G.O.C. 4th Australian Infantry Brigade at 8 p.m., which were confirmed in writing by 4th Australian Infantry Brigade Order No. 61 of 3/2/17.
- (4) I immediately assembled my company commanders at Battalion Headquarters and explained their orders, which I afterwards confirmed in writing the next day. See 13th Battalion Order No. 12 of 4/2/17 attached.
- (5) The two company commanders who were not familiar with their frontage then went up to the front line and made a personal reconnaissance of Bo-Man's-Land with the Brigade Major.
- (6) Realising the great difficulty would be to hold the position against counter attack, I asked for 80,000 Mills Grenades, 1,000 rifle grenades, and stronger Artillery support. During daylight on 4th, 12,000 grenades were carried up into SHINE Trench and GRASS Trench and 8,000 in reserve at CHALK PIT. I arranged for each company to have 20 carriers, who would carry over the bombs to the captured position immediately it was taken. The rifle grenades I calculated would effectually deal with the enemy's bombers throwing egg bombs.
- (7) During the 4th, the Officers explained to the men full details of the attack, and prepared their men for the attack. All Officers and N.C.O.'s who had not seen the position went up to the front line in daylight and reconnoitred it over the parapet.
- (8) At 4 p.m. on the 4th, I once more assembled my company commanders at Battalion Headquarters and went over every detail of their orders.
- (9) The disposition of the Battalion on 4th February was as follows :
 

"A" Company -	Two platoons in SHINE Trench and advanced posts. One platoon in WATLING Street. One platoon in CHALK PIT.
"B" Company -	Two platoons in GRASS Trench. Two platoons in POSSUM Reserve.
"C" Company -	Pilgrims Way.
"D" Company -	BULLS Trench.
- (10) During daylight on 4th, the platoons of "A" Company and "B" Company which were not in the front line were sent up in small parties of two or three men.



- (11) After dark "A" Company closed to its right to its jumping off place, "C" Company went up EVE Alley to its place, "B" Company closed to its right and "D" Company went up FUGITIVE Alley to its jumping off place in GREASE Trench.
- (12) At 8 p.m. I moved my Headquarters to CHALK PIT, and 10 minutes prior to zero time I had received word that the Battalion was in position for assault, and everything was quiet.
- (13) At 9.30 p.m. the O.C. No. 1 Group Artillery (Lieut. Col. WAITE M.C.) had joined me in my Headquarters at CHALK PIT, from whence he had direct communication by telephone to all his Batteries.
- (14) I will describe the rest of the fight in narrative form from the narrative kept during the operation :-

At 9.57 p.m. the Artillery fired a few rounds to warm the guns, and at 10 p.m. the barrage commenced. Our assaulting wave immediately "hopped over the top" and moved across No-Man's-Land in an unbroken line, which approached as close as 5 or 6 yards to the barrage, so excellent was the shooting.

On the way over an enemy Maxim gun in N.M.L. was captured and the crew killed or wounded.

At 10.2 p.m. the barrage lifted and our men rushed in on top of the trench. Most of the Germans were in their dug-outs and on the left they surrendered freely, but on the right they showed fight and hand to hand conflicts took place, although they did not last long. About 40 Germans were killed.

While advancing in the moonlight, Captain MURRAY ("A" Company) saw that the wire in his front was very strong; this was expected and his company swung to the left and passing round the wire rushed the trench, which manoeuvre however, prevented them getting as far to the right as ordered. A smart bombing attack was made on our right flank at once, by 10 or 12 German bombers, but the right bombing section dealt with it, completely wiping out the party.

At 10.8 p.m. the first of several green flares went up indicating that the position was captured.

Our losses in the assault were very light indeed.

On the way across No-Man's-Land which was an average width of 150 yards, an enemy Maxim gun was captured and all its crew killed or wounded.

At 10.15 p.m. two prisoners of 10th Company, 362nd Regiment were brought to Battalion Headquarters, and a wire was at once despatched to Brigade Headquarters to establish identification, which reached General Headquarters within one hour of zero time.

At 10.9 p.m. the enemy barrage came down, a fierce and terrible concentrated fire mostly on "A" Company, SHIRE Trench, GREASE Trench, EVE ALLEY and FUGITIVE ALLEY. This fire died away at about 10.40 p.m..

At 10.50 p.m. the right flank was fiercely attacked by enemy bombers, the first shower of bombs killing and wounding seven out of the nine bombers at the bombing stop. The S.O.S. was sent up and a beautiful barrage was forthcoming in 30 secs. The enemy made five separate attacks here at short intervals, but every attack was beaten off by our Mills bombs and rifle grenades with heavy loss. When these attacks had failed the heavy shelling recommenced.

At 10.58 p.m. the left flank was attacked by bombers and the S.O.S. sent up. Again our barrage was down in 30 seconds, this attack was easily repulsed with heavy loss to the enemy.



(3)

At 11.30 p.m. I received a report that two machine guns in "A" Company had been blown out by shell fire - two new guns in reserve at CHALK PIT were quickly sent to "A" Company.

The messages from Company Commanders informed me that the work of consolidation, covered by Lewis Guns and bomber escorts, was proceeding as fast as the hard frozen ground would permit. All the companies had gained their objective, and were in touch, but "A" Company was being fiercely shelled, and was losing heavily.

The carrying parties were working feverishly getting bombs across to the new position, and seeing that they were losing heavily from the enemy barrage fire, the Company of the 14th Battalion in support lent their aid, and magnificently supplemented the work of my carriers.

"D" Company on the left reported that they could not find the saps they were ordered to block (next day it was apparent that these were of no great depth) and I ordered Captain BONE to work along STORMY Trench to his left as far as the barrage would permit; This brought my left flank further to the left than was intended, but this did not turn out to be a disadvantage, and the excellent bombing block was put in.

At 11.50 p.m. I received word that MURRAY was being bombed from the right, and after ascertaining from him the exact map location of his right, I arranged for Artillery fire to sweep up CLOUDY Trench to its junction with SUNRAY Trench. This fire proved very effective and the enemy lost very heavily indeed, as his stretcher parties proved next day. But the shelling of "A" Company continued, and at 12.45 a.m. on 5/2/17 I succeeded in obtaining a sound bearing to the 5.9 Battery which was doing so much damage, and sent it through to the Heavy Artillery. This proved to have the desired effect.

At 3 a.m., "A" Company was again attacked by swarms of bombers, and the S.O.S. went up. Our Artillery again put down a barrage, in less than a minute, and it was reported to me afterwards by Captain MURRAY that this barrage inflicted great loss on the enemy. The enemy's attacks were made with great determination and he made most strenuous efforts to get back his most important position. But "A" Company fought in a manner beyond all praise.

The personnel of the bombing section on the right in the second counter-attack - which was really five separate attacks delivered at short intervals - had to be twice renewed in about 15 minutes owing to casualties. This company went over the top, 140 strong and in 24 hours lost 92 (including 1 Officer killed and 2 Officers wounded) but they remained victorious and saved the situation. This is undoubtedly due to the fighting qualities of their gallant Commander (Captain H.W. MURRAY, D.S.O.) whom I have recommended for the V.C..

At 5.10 a.m. MURRAY reported that he was suffering heavy losses from 4.2's.

But the dawn eventually arrived, the line was still held, and the enemy's fire slackened off. The morale of the men was wonderfully good, but "A" Company had suffered cruelly, their trench was a shambles, and it was arranged for them to be relieved on night 5th/6th, which was done with only three casualties.

The captures in the enemy trench, which is 600 yards in length, 8 feet deep, and contains many deep dug-outs, are as follows :-

- 2 Officers (one of whom died of wounds)
- 75 Other ranks.
- 1 Maxim gun
- 2 Granatenwerfer (pineapple bomb throwers)



(4)

also many rifles, bayonets, ammunition etc..

Our casualties are - up to noon on 7/2/17 - as follows :-

	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Other ranks</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Killed	2	41	43	-
Wounded	5	167	172	2 slightly.
Missing	-	18	18	None were captured.
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	
Total	7	226	233	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	

The names of the Officers killed are - Captain H. Mc DONALD and 2/Lieut. S.H. BENTLEY.

### PART 2.

- (1) Fighting strength of the Battalion in the assault :-

Coy. : etc. :	Rifles :	Lewis Gunners :	Bombers :	Total :
A	94	19	36	149
B	92	19	36	147
C	104	19	36	159
D	126	19	36	181
Bombers	-	-	35	35
Total	416	76	179	671

- (2) The devotion to duty, the keenness, fighting spirit and courage displayed by the Officers, N.C.O.'s and men is beyond all praise. Only two men (runners) have reported themselves shell-shocked, and not a single one in "A" Company which was so badly knocked about.
- (3) The bravery and devotion to duty of "C" Company, 14th Battalion, in support, was most commendable, and their carrying of bombs over to the front line largely contributed towards success.
- (4) The shooting of the Artillery was wonderfully good. The assaulting wave was actually able to get to 5 or 6 yards from the barrage, which previously I have often said was impossible. The prompt barrages when the S.O.S. Signal went up, reflects the greatest credit, and gives the Infantry the greatest of confidence in them. By the time my observers at Battalion Headquarters had called S.O.S. to the telephonist, and the latter had telephoned to the first Battery, it was already firing.
- My greatest gratitude is tendered to Lieut.-Col. WAITE, M.C. (the O.C. No. 1 Group Artillery) for the excellent spirit in which he controlled his fire for me. There could not have been closer and better co-operation between Artillery and Infantry.



(5)

I would suggest that in all operations of this kind the O.C. Artillery and O.C. Infantry should work from the one Headquarters as on this occasion.

The 18-prs. put the enemy trench mortars out of action as soon as their first barrage opened.

The counter-battery work was observed to be distinctly good, excellent results being obtained, despite the fact that I was not able to give the Heavy Artillery enough information to stop all the shelling on my right flank.

- (5) The lesson learnt from the 15th Battalion attack was to have an ample supply of Mills bombs. The plan of placing so many of these close in the "jumping off" trench, to prevent the necessity for carrying parties having to carry them up through heavily shelled communication trenches, worked excellently.

- (6) Every man carried 6 grenades in his pockets. "A" Company, 140 men, carried more than 2,000 bombs over to the captured trench in the two waves, made up as follows :-

(a)	On the man,	6 x 140	=	840
(b)	56 Company bombers, 20 to 24 each in addition		=	720
(c)	20 carriers with 24 each		=	480
				----
		Total	=	2040
				=====

- (7) The heavy losses suffered by bombing sections proves that every man should be well trained in bombing, commencing in the recruit course. I would suggest also that in each Company there should be a Corporal-Instructor in bombing, in addition to the S.O.O's in the bombing platoon.

- (8) The Mills bomb proved to be very effective, far superior to the German stick bomb, especially on the hard frozen ground.

- (9) The position gained is 600 yards in length, and is an excellent trench, 8 feet deep. It affords excellent observation for more than a mile in rear of the German line. It contained 16 dug-outs, with accommodation for men as follows:-

No. 1	-	5 men.	
2	-	5 "	
3	-	5 "	
4	-	10 "	
5	-	15 "	
6	-	20 "	
7	-	15 "	
8	-	10 "	
9	-	6 "	
10	-	10 "	
11	-	6 "	
12	-	5 "	
13	-	6 "	
14	-	10 "	
15	-	6 "	
16	-	10 "	Total - 150 men.

- (10) The green flare signal - objective gained - worked well. The S.O.S. signals were not good, since 2 out of 3 failed to work.



(8)

I would suggest that the manufacture be improved. I also suggest that we should have a signal to stop our Artillery fire. If the S.O.S. is fired by mistake, such a signal would prevent great waste of ammunition; also if our guns are firing short, this signal would save lives and prevent much damage to our trenches.

- (11) The Mills rifle grenade proved wonderfully successful. It beat the Germans every time, always demoralising them. Their ess-bomb throwers have no chance against this grenade. I calculated on our bombers dispelling such bombing attacks by this means and events amply justified that belief.
- (12) The steel helmet with the chain "burnisher" over the face was tried by some of our men in this fight, and I can report most favourably on it. It did not prevent the men doing their work, and undoubtedly saved one man's eyesight from a splinter.
- (13) The bayonet was too much for the Germans in this fight, he wither surrendered or fled when called on to face it.
- (14) In this minor operation the enemy made every use of the advantage he possessed of being able to concentrate a great number of guns on a comparatively small sector.
- (15) The Lewis guns did excellent work. I had 12 in the attack, 3 per Company. During daylight on the 4th, the gunners removed all oil and grease from the working parts and put kerosene on the metal; thus there was no thick oil to freeze and the guns fired excellently. But the very cold weather reduces the efficiency of the Lewis Gun by approximately 30% owing to the extra number of stoppages that occur.
- (16) I would draw attention to the fact that the Germans had a Maxim Gun in No-Man's-Land.
- (17) The German prisoners thought the Battalion was a specially selected and trained party of raiders. Another prisoner, a Corporal, said he knew we were Australians because we got in the trench so quickly after the barrage lifted.
- (18) The work of consolidation is very difficult in this frosty weather. Pick handles break, the axes get blunted and the work is painfully slow. Ground that is broken by shell fire freezes solid to a depth of 3 feet.
- (19) The early identification of the Unit opposed to us was made a special feature.
- (20) In order to get silently to their places and avoid suspicious noises before the attack, the men were ordered to tie sandbags over their feet, and the movement thus made no noise on the duckboards. This plan worked well. The bags were taken off for the "Hop over" to avoid getting caught in the wire.
- (21) Although we only had 26 hours notice of the attack, the men have never been so prepared for one, and knew more of the details of what they had to do than ever they have done before. The reconnaissance of the ground by all Officers and S.O.S.'s proved invaluable.



(7)

- (22) Two telephones were run over to company commanders as soon as possible after the capture of the position. This saved runners and the quicker communication of information was of great service.
- (23) Every man in the Battalion carried one days iron rations, a full water bottle and wore his greatcoat, the pockets of the latter hold a lot of grenades. The greatcoats saved the men from the severe cold.
- (24) Covering the consolidation by a screen of Lewis Gunners, with bombers as escort, worked well.
- (25) The first wave carried a number of picks and shovels, but sufficient for requirements were found in the captured trench.
- (26) During the consolidation an overhead traverse was constructed on the left flank which has proved most useful in stopping the enemy's observation of a long straight part of the trench.
- (27) The fire of the 4th A.L.T.M.B. and the 4th A.M.G. Coy. and 15th A.M.G. Coy. was most useful.
- (28) The unsatisfactory burning of the cartridges for the 2" mortars nearly resulted in the wire on our left not being cut. This is a vital matter. Some of the bombs failed to travel half way to their objective, and were a frightful danger to the mortar crews. They were very brave to stick it the way they did in order to cut the wire for us.
- (29) After the position was captured, the O.C. 4th A.M.G. Coy. reconnoitred the line, selected 2 Vickers gun positions, and the guns and crews were sent across and put under cover in the dug-outs.
- (30) The bombing stops were made of barbed wire and French wire which the bombers carried for the purpose. Such stops are quickly made and give no cover to the enemy from view or fire.
- (31) The enemy wire was cut and easily passable except for about 75 yards on the Right Flank.
- (32) I have recommended the following for the Victoria Cross :-

Captain H.W. MURRAY, D.S.O.	"A" Company
3136 Cpl. R.B. WITHERS	"
2435 Pte. M. ROBERTSON	"

7th February 1917.

Sgd/ J.M.A. DURRANT, Lieut. Col.,  
C.O., 13th Battalion, A.I.F..



"B" GROUP FIRST ANZAC. ARTILLERY

CONFIDENTIAL

DAILY OPERATION REPORT

for period

6 p.m., 3rd - 6 p.m., 4th February 1917.

OBSERVATION :- Fair.

OUR ACTION :- REPORT ON FEINT RAID, NIGHT 3rd/4th

At 9.55 p.m. the operation was carried out by our No. 2 Group.  
During the "fire" nothing of interest occurred worthy of report. Flares were conspicuous by their absence, and no retaliation was given until some considerable time after the cessation of operations.  
At 10.3 p.m. the enemy bombarded N 20 d heavily, afterwards extending this retaliation along our front on to N 20 a.  
At 10.13 p.m. a Rocket was fired which burst with three stars (White) which appeared to hang vertically. Fire was slackened immediately.  
At 10.15 p.m. the front was again normal.  
Once during our bombardment a rocket bursting into orange colored clusters was fired several times, apparently another Artillery signal and, being fired off our Sector, perhaps indicated that things were quiet there.

At 10.30 p.m. all Batteries fired on N 21 b 0 3 to N 22 d 2 8 to stop working parties, and the 110th Howitzer Battery on BACON, PORK and HAM Trenches.

ENEMY ACTION :- At 10.4 p.m. ~~all batteries fired on N 21 b 0 3~~ the enemy started shelling our trenches in N 21 d and to the Left heavily with 4.2's and 5.9's.  
At 10.15 No. 1 Group was ordered to carry out "Counter preparation", and Counter Batteries, H.A. Group, R.A. 1st ANZAC. informed.  
Enemy went on for about 15 minutes and then stopped. There may be some connection between this and our imitation raid on SCABBARD TRENCH at 9.35 p.m..  
At this time the enemy made no response whatever and no flares went up.  
His night lines are evidently in N 21d.  
At 3.30 p.m. the enemy put up a heavy barrage on N 21 d lasting for about 7 minutes.

AERIAL ACTIVITY :- Enemy 'planes were active between 3 and 4 p.m. flying unusually low.  
One enemy 'plane was brought down by our anti-aircraft guns.  
At 2.40 p.m. a hostile balloon went up on a T.B. of 34° from T 8 a 1 8.

*C. M. [Signature]*  
Staff Lieutenant,  
for Brigade-Major,  
Group, 1st ANZAC. Artillery.



"B" GROUP FIRST ANZAC. ARTILLERY

CONFIDENTIAL DAILY INTELLIGENCE REPORT

for period

6 p.m., 4th Feb. - 6 p.m. 5th Feb. 1917.  
----- \* -----

OBSERVATION :- ~~xxxx~~. Bad.

GENERAL :- New work at N 19 b 8025 is reported by patrols. Working parties are frequently seen. The enemy appears to be extending SCABBARD TRENCH towards SUNKEN ROAD.

RE LIGHTS DURING LAST NIGHT'S ATTACK :-

An observer reports as follows :-

" There were very few flares probably on account of good visibility, owing to the moon and snow.  
A green light on the right appeared to indicate to his Artillery the boundary of our attack. Golden cluster light seems to indicate " all well here".  
A rocket breaking into 3 vertical stars means " Artillery fire wanted here".  
From N 13 d 5 2 there are always a large number of lights when we are active.

OUR ACTIVITY :- Slight. Remaining in observation for any movement. Our Right Group shelled approaches to new front line in bursts of fire.

ENEMY ACTIVITY :- Enemy shelled N 21 d with .77's and 5.9's. Also intermittently shelled captured position.

AERIAL ACTIVITY :- Slight on both sides.

OPERATION :- Special report attached.

*C. M. M. M.*  
Staff Lieutenant,  
for Brigade-Major,  
"B" Group 1st ANZAC. Artillery.



FOURTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY

CONFIDENTIAL

DAILY INTELLIGENCE REPORT

for period

6 p.m., 5th - 6 p.m., 6th February 1917.

OBSERVATION :- Poor owing to haze.

OUR ACTION :- During the night our Hows. shelled strong points on STORMY TRENCH and MILKY WAY and our 18-prs. swept back from barrage line in gully in N 15 d and N 16 c, also N 22 a with bursts of fire at irregular intervals.

During the night 14th Heavy Artillery Group bombarded ATOM TRENCH and a 60-pr. Battery of Counter-Battery Group searched approaches from BEAULENCOURT.

An 18-pr. Battery also enfiladed these approaches. The 5th Aus. Div. Arty. undertook approaches further East.

No. 1 Group fired about 900 18-pr. rounds.

During the day registration of 6th A.F.A. Brigade proceeded, S.O.S. lines being accurately dealt with.

A working party at N 21 b 5 3 was dispersed at 10 a.m..

Our Hows. shelled strong point at N 21 a 8 7.

ENEMY ACTIVITY

:- The enemy's Artillery has been (all things considered) quiet. During the night, various reports and sound bearings of 4.2's firing on our new F.L.T. in N 21 d and b were received between 2 a.m. and 5 a.m., and our counter-Batteries were applied to and dealt with the situation satisfactorily, several times.

During the day, little seems to have been done by the enemy's Artillery, although our new trenches in N 21 d and b were shelled at times with 4.2's and 5.2's.

At 12.30 p.m. a few 5.9's were fired at LONGUEVAL.

GENERAL

:- A certain amount of aeroplane activity took place. Enemy planes were over our lines a few times.

An enemy machine gun was reported firing from N 20 b 8 2.

*CM*

Major, R.A.,  
Brigade-Major,  
"B" group, 1st ANZAC. Artillery.



"B" GROUP FIRST ARZAC. ARTILLERYCONFIDENTIALDaily OPERATION REPORT

for period

6 p.m., 6th - 6 p.m., 7th February 1917.  
-----OBSERVATION :- Good.

OUR ACTION :- We fired on working parties at N 20 b 2 8 and N 15 c 7 9.  
We also fired on LUISENHOF FARM, PORK TRENCH, HAM TRENCH, N 21 b, N 15 d and N 15 b.

At 10.30 p.m. we received a false S.O.S. Signal. Batteries fired for 5 minutes before they were informed that the fire was not required.

We engaged an alleged T.M. at N 21 b 6 1 1.

ENEMY  
ACTIVITY

:- FLERS was shelled with .77's and 4.2's during the morning.  
Enemy shelled N 34 with .77's.

At 10 p.m. enemy threw a number of "Pineapple" bombs in vicinity of FUGITIVE ALLEY. These appeared to be from the direction of N 21 b 6 1 1.

The enemy bombed our line from vicinity of N 21 a 5 5 to 9 5, but was silenced by our Howitzers.

AERIAL  
ACTIVITY

:- Five enemy 'planes were reported to be flying low over FLERS at 12.50 a.m..

*G. Halford*

Staff Lieutenant,  
for/Brigade-Major,  
"B" Group, 1st ARZAC. Artillery.



# APPENDIX

47

"B" GROUP FIRST ANZAC. ARTILLERY

CONFIDENTIAL

## DAILY INTELLIGENCE REPORT

for period

6 p.m., 7th - 6 p.m., 8th February 1917.

OBSERVATION :- Fair.

OUR ACTION :- S.O.S. Signal went up from direction of H 21 d at 11.24<sup>1</sup> p.m.. All Batteries of No. 1 Group in action in 30 seconds, 5th Australian Divisional Artillery assisting on Right. Between 11.31 p.m. and 11.40, this was passed to 14th H.A.G., Counter Battery Group and 1st Aus. Divisional Artillery, who were asked to watch our Left front, while at 11.40 p.m. all No. 2 Group were switched on to No. 1 Group's zone and ordered to shoot for 5 minutes.

At 11.45 p.m., 5th Aus. Divisional Artillery reported that their Left Battalion was all quiet. At 11.46 p.m. Left Battalion of 4th Australian Infantry Brigade reported all quiet. No. 3 Group was then ordered to get back on own zone. No information from Right Battalion 4th Australian Infantry Brigade (the Battalion interested).

At 11.45 p.m., No. 1 Group slowed down. At 11.54 p.m. Counter Battery Group and 14th H.A. Group were asked to stop. At 11.58 p.m. the Division "C" was consulted with and all Batteries ordered to stop.

5th Australian Divisional Artillery and 1st Aus. Div. Artillery informed.

At 12.10 a.m.. Report sent to R.A., 1st ANZAC..

Rounds fired by 4th Australian Divisional Artillery:-

1201 18-pr. 221 4.5" How.

Expenditure by 5th Aus. Div. Artillery not known.

HOSTILE ACTION

:- The usual intermittent shelling of FLERS.

AERIAL ACTIVITY

:- Enemy 'planes were quiet during the day.

*G. Halford* Lieut.,  
Staff Lieut.,  
for Brigade-Major,  
"B" Group, 1st ANZAC. Artillery.



SECRET

ORDER NO. 61

HEADQUARTERS,  
6th February 1917.

1. The relief provisions of 4th Australian Divisional Artillery Order No. 30, with necessary alterations in dates, so far as the 10th and 6th A.F.A. Brigades are concerned, will be completed by 10 a.m. on the 9th instant.
2. The 6th A.F.A. Brigade will withdraw their guns from their present position to their Wagon Lines, on the night 7th/8th.
3. The relief will therefore be as follows:-  
 1 Section 6th A.F.A. Brigade 18-in. Batteries relieve  
 1 Section 10th A.F.A. Brigade 18-in. Batteries on 7th  
 and night 7th/8th.  
  
 Remaining sections 6th A.F.A. Brigade Batteries relieve  
 remainder 10th A.F.A. Brigade 18-in. Batteries on  
 8th and night 8th/9th.
4. Guides asked for in para. 7 of above quote order will not be required.
5. Reference para. 3 :-  
 1 gun of 6th A.F.A. Brigade - with sights but less stores -  
 will be handed over to 18th Battery, to replace one out  
 of action.  
  
 7 guns of 6th A.F.A. Brigade, and gun no. 3574 of 4th  
 Battery - all now in workshops - will be taken over by  
 10th A.F.A. Brigade, as also will the remaining guns  
 of 6th Brigade now in the line.
6. 6th A.F.A. Brigade will cease to be at disposal of Co. 1  
 Group at 10 a.m. on the 7th instant.
7. MARCH TABLE :- 10th A.F.A. Brigade:-  
 10th February - Wagon Lines to BUIR Staging Area.  
 11th February - BUIR Staging Area to BULLOCKS.
8. The 6th A.F.A. Brigade will replace all ammunition at their  
 forward positions in dug-outs, before final withdrawal.
9. ACKNOWLEDGMENT

*Emmatt*  
Major, R.A.,  
BRIGADE MAJOR,  
4th Aus. Div. Artillery.

Issued to :-

- |         |                         |
|---------|-------------------------|
| 1       | File.                   |
| 2 to 6  | 10th A.F.A. Brigade.    |
| 7 to 12 | 6th A.F.A. Brigade.     |
| 13      | 11th A.F.A. Brigade.    |
| 14      | 4th Aus. D.A.C.         |
| 17      | R.A. 1st ANZAC )        |
| 18      | 4th Aus. Division )     |
| 19      | 5th Aus. Div. Artillery |



"B" GROUP FIRST ANZAC. ARTILLERYCONFIDENTIALDAILY OPERATION REPORT

for period

6 p.m., 8th - 6 p.m., 9th February 1917.  
-----OBSERVATION :- Good.OUR  
ACTION

:- Valleys in N 22 a were barraged by our 18-prs..

Our Howitzers fired on strong points at N 21 a 8 $\frac{1}{2}$  6 $\frac{1}{2}$  and N 22 a 5 $\frac{1}{2}$  5 $\frac{1}{2}$  throughout the night.At 10.20 p.m. and 4 a.m. the 43rd Battery enfiladed the trench which runs from N 22 c 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  8 $\frac{1}{2}$  to N 22 c 2 8 starting at the top and creeping back.

We fired on tracks and approaches in N 14 c and N 13 d also on T.M. position at N 20 a 2 8 and on LUISSENHOF FARM and the junction of PORK and BACON trenches.

We registered N 21 b 8820 to N 22 c 2085.  
Cross Roads at N 9 d 8 3 were fired on between 4 and 6 p.m..HOSTILE  
ACTION

:- Normal.

Enemy shelled T 8 a with .77's at 9.25 p.m..

At 11.20 p.m., enemy shelled in rear of our trenches at N 20 d 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  7 $\frac{1}{2}$  from the direction of THILLOY with 4.2's. Infantry took bearing and report that this is the same gun as was reported falling short at 10.58 p.m.. They evidently made a mistake in the direction.GENERAL:- A T.M. is reported at N 21 a 5 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Dug-outs are evidently being built at N 8 c 8420. Twenty men went from here to LIGHT THILLOY. Arrangements are being made to snipe these places with observed fire.

AERIAL  
ACTIVITY

:- Slight.

*G. Halford*2/Lieut.,  
for/Brigade-Major,  
"B" Group, 1st ANZAC. Artillery.



SECRETCopy No 84th AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ORDER No. 44.

Headquarters,

4th February 1917.

Reference Map 1/10,000.

1. The 12th Aus. Infantry Brigade will relieve the 4th Aus. Infantry Brigade in the Right Sector of the Divisional Front on the nights of the 8/9th and 9/10th February 1917.
2. All arrangements will be made by the Brigadiers concerned.
3. The G.O.C. 12th Aus. Infantry Brigade will assume command of the Right Sector on the completion of the relief, which will be notified to Divisional Headquarters.
4. The 18th Battalion, at ALBURY Camp, will be relieved by the 16th Battalion on Corps work on the 7th February, furnishing -
  - (a) 2 Companies at QUARRY for work under Lieut-Colonel Waters, A.I.F.
  - (b) 1 Company and 1 Platoon for road work under Copps Roads Officer (Capt. Forbes, R.E.) at SWANSEA CIRCUS and LONGUEVAL, and 1 Company less 1 Platoon at the QUARRY under the same Officer.
5. Acknowledge.

*J.H. McKenna*  
 for

Lieut-Colonel.

G.S. 4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Issued at 7.30 P.M.

Extra Copies to :-

No. 16	ANZAC H.A.
22 )	
23 )	1st A.N.Z.A.C.
24 )	
25	1st Aus. Division
26	5th Aus. Division
27	3rd Squadron, R.F.C.
28	14th H.A. Group.



"B" DIVISIONAL ARTILLERYCONFIDENTIALDAILY INTELLIGENCE REPORT

for period

6 p.m., 9th - 6 p.m., 10th February 1917.

----- \* -----

OBSERVATION

:- Poor.

GENERAL

:- An enemy Light T.M. is suspected at N 19 b 9 9 and a strong point at N 20 a 1875.

OUR ACTION:- We fired 40 rounds on a working party at N 14 c 8  $\frac{1}{2}$  reported by Liaison Officer. We also fired on targets in N 14 a, b, c and d, N 13 b and d, N 20 a and b, N 21 a and c, N 7 d, N 15 d, b, and c and N 22 a.

Our 18-prs. searched trench running from N 22 c 2 8 to N 22 c 2 8 to N 22 c 1 7 also tram line in N 15.

At 3.55 a.m. and 5 a.m. we barraged valleys in N 21 b and N 22 a.

During the afternoon our No. 1 Group verified the registration of S.O.S. lines.

ENEMY ACTIVITY

:- Enemy shelled front line trench with 4.2's.

AIRIAL ACTIVITY

:- Hostile 'planes very active during the morning.

*G. Halford* - Staff Lieut.,  
for A/Brigade-Major,  
"B" Group Divisional Artillery.



"B" DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY

CONFIDENTIAL

DAILY INTELLIGENCE REPORT

for period

6 p.m., 10th - 6 p.m., 11th February 1917.

OBSERVATION :- Poor

OUR ACTION

- :- Our Howitzers shelled strong points at N 21 a 8565 and N 21 b 85 70, also MILKY WAY and roads in N 15 d and a.  
The hollow ground in N 22 a was shelled by our 18-prs. during the night.  
Operation in co-operation with 1st Aus. Div. in accordance with Order No. 21. Retaliation slight.  
  
We shelled roads and approaches in N 9 d, N 15 d, N 15 a, N 14 d and registered on N 22 c 2 8.  
  
At 11.40 a.m. we dispersed working party at N 14 c 55 38, to N 14 c 00 88. Infantry reported two direct hits in the first burst.

HOSTILE ACTIVITY

- :- Enemy shelled the F.L.T. in our Right Zone with .77's at 12.45 p.m..

Three enemy shells are reported to have fallen short in their own trenches from which immediately appeared one white, one yellow and one red flares. This signal was answered by a silver flare from the rear.

AIRIAL ACTIVITY

- :- A hostile 'plane flew low over LONGUEVAL early this morning.  
Also three enemy 'planes flew over QUEDECOURT.

*signed*  
Staff Lieut.,  
for A/Brigade-Major,  
"B" Divisional Artillery.



"B" DIVISIONAL ARTILLERYDAILY INTELLIGENCECONFIDENTIAL

for period

6 p.m., 11th - 6 p.m., 12th Feb. 1917.  
-----HEADQUARTERS,  
12th February 1917.OBSERVATION :- Poor.OUR ACTION :- At 8.35 p.m., 40 rounds were fired on a working party at B 14 c 8005 to B 20 b 9080.

Our 18-prs. shelled valleys in B 21 b and B 21 a at 10 p.m. and 4.35 a.m., and sunken roads in B 2 c and B 15 a.

We also shelled targets in B 21 a, B 15 a and c, B 14 b, B 9 d and B 20 a.

Our Right liaison registration was checked during the afternoon.

HOSTILE ACTION

:- Enemy intermittently shelled the front of FLERS with .77's and 4.2's during the afternoon.

AERIAL ACTIVITY

:- Aeroplanes inactive.

*G. Halford*Staff Lieut.,  
for A/Brigade-Major,  
"B" Divisional Artillery.



"B" DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY

CONFIDENTIAL

DAILY INTELLIGENCE REPORT

for period

6 p.m., 12th - 6 a.m., 13th February 1917  
----- 8 -----

OBSERVATION :- Fair.

OUR ACTION :- At the request of the Infantry we fired in retaliation 20 rounds of 4.5" How. on N 13 d 55 30 and our 18-prs. 20 rounds on N 20 a 2 9. Observing Officers reported good effect.

We shelled valleys in N 22 a and N 21 b during the night.

At 4.30 a.m. we fired on BARLEY TRENCH and strong points at N 9 d 7 3 and N 9 d 9 1. Also on targets in N 13 d and N 20 a, and roads at N 9 d 7 3 and in N 15 d.

A relief party coming down a road in N 9 a was dispersed by our fire.

ENEMY  
ACTIVITY :- Enemy put 15 rounds of 4.2's in N 32 d and shelled F.L.T. N 19 c 80 40 to 9505 and HAY RESERVE with 5.9's.

The usual intermittent shelling of FLERS.

AERIAL  
ACTIVITY :- At 3.45 p.m. one of our monoplanes was shot down by a hostile 'plane at N 30 c 4 6.  
  
An enemy 'plane was ranging for Artillery this morning.

*G. Halford*

Staff Lieut.,  
for A/Brigade-Major,  
"B" Divisional Artillery.

*(J.S.F.)*



"B" DIVISIONAL ARTILLERYCONFIDENTIALDAILY INTELLIGENCE REPORT

for period

6 p.m., 13th - 6 p.m., 14th February 1917.  
----- \* -----OBSERVATION :- Fair.OUR ACTION :- At 4.15 a.m. and 5.30 a.m. we shelled with 18-prs. valleys in N 22 a and N 21 b.

During the night we enfiladed trench between N 22 c 05 65 and N 22 c 2080.

We also shelled tram line in N 15 b and roads N 21 a 6575 to N 15 b 6040.

Strong points in N 9 c, N 15 c and d, N 14 b, also sunken roads in N 9 a 1 4 to N 9 a 4 9 were fired on by our Howitzers.

We registered on targets in N 9 d, N 14 c and d N 20 a and b, N 21 b and c, and N 15 d.

ENEMY  
ACTIVITY

:- Enemy shelled STORMY TRENCH, GUEDECOURT and the vicinity of CHALK CLIFFS.

AIRIAL  
ACTIVITY

:- One of our monoplanes was brought down between CHEESE ROAD and our front line, at 10 a.m.. A German 'plane was forced by our anti-aircraft guns to land in rear of the German lines.

*G. Halford*Staff Lieut.,  
for A/Brigade-Major,  
"B" Divisional Artillery.



SECRETORDER NO. 22HEADQUARTERS,  
13th February 1917.REFERENCE MAP - GUEDECOURT 1/10,000 Edition 3 A.

1. On the night 14th/15th February 1917 the 5th Australian Division is to carry out a Raid on enemy trenches from N 22 c 65 65 to N 22 c 25 90.
2. The 4th Australian Division is co-operating by carrying out a Diversion on enemy front line at Junction of SCALLARD and BAYONET Trenches under cover of Divisional Artillery, and will also assist 5th Australian Divisional Artillery by searching the SUMMER ROAD from N 21 b 60 40 to N 15 d 65 90, and the road N 22 b 00 80 to N 17 c 80 65.
3. The 41st Battery will be attached to No. 2 Group for the operation.
4. Task and Barrage Table for the Divisional Artillery is attached.
5. Task for No. 2 Group will occupy 10 minutes, commencing 5 minutes before Zero. No. 1 Group will continue firing on its allotted objective, till a blue Signal rocket is fired from 5th Australian Division front line, indicating that Artillery fire is no longer required.
6. Zero hour will be notified later.
7. Watches will be synchronised from this Office at 5 p.m..
8. ACKNOWLEDGE.  
=====

COPIESIssued to :-

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9 - 14 No. 2 Group.

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17 14th H.A. Group.  
18 4th Aus. Division.  
19 - 20 5th Aus. Division.  
21 5th Aus. Div. Arty.  
22 1st Aus. Div. Arty.  
23 12th Aus. Inf. Ide.  
24 13th Aus. Inf. Ide.  
25 War Diary.  
26 - 27 Spare.

*W. J. R. S.*  
Captain,  
A/Brigade-Major,  
"B" Divisional Artillery.



SECRET

BARRAGE AND TASK TABLE

(To accompany Order 22)

	Time	Batteries	Task	Rate of fire	Ammunition
PHASE I.	Zero minus 5 minutes to zero minus 3 minutes.	<u>NO.2 GROUP</u> 16th 17th 18th	BAYONET TRENCH from N 14 c 15 05 to N 20 a 50 70	5 rounds per gun per min.	A X
		41st	SCABLARD TRENCH from N 19 b 80 95 to junction with BAYONET Trench.		
		110th	Trench junctions at N 14 c 35 35 and N 14 c 80 05	2 rounds per gun per min.	B X
PHASE II	Zero minus 3 minutes to zero plus 2 minutes.	<u>NO.2 GROUP</u> 16th ) 17th ) 18th ) 41st )	SCABLARD TRENCH from N 19 b 80 95 to junction with BAYONET TRENCH, thence to N 14 c 27 10, thence to N 20 a 45 95, thence to N 20 a 35 85 thence to N 20 a 50 70	5 rounds per gun per min.	25% A 75% A X
		110th How.	As in TASK I		
PHASE III	Zero plus 2 minutes to zero plus 5 minutes.	<u>NO.2 GROUP</u> 16th ) 17th ) 18th ) 41st ) 110th )	As in TASK I	As in TASK I	25% A 75% AX
	Zero till a blue signal rocket is fired from 5th Aus. Div. front lines.	<u>NO.1 GROUP</u> 42nd 43rd	SUNKEN ROAD from N 21 b 60 40 to N 15 d 65 90 and the Road N 22 b 00 80 to N 17 c 80 65.	2 rounds per gun per min.	25% A 75% AX

APPENDIX

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"B" DIVISIONAL ARTILLERYCONFIDENTIAL.DAILY INTELLIGENCE

for period

HEADQUARTERS,  
15th February 1917.6 p.m., 14th - 6 p.m., 15th Feb.  
----- 6 -----OBSERVATION :- Good.OUR ACTION :- During the night whilst 5th Australian Division were raiding trenches from N 22 c 65 65 to N 22 c 25 90, the 4th Australian Division carried out a diversion in the front of the junction of BAYONET and SCARBARD trenches.

As well as covering our own operation, the Artillery assisted the 5th Division by searching the SUNKEN ROAD from N 21 b 60 40 to N 15 d 65 90 and the road N 23 b 00 80 to N 17 c 80 65.

Our F.O.O. reported the barrages satisfactory and well placed.

Enemy reply was slight on our Right, but heavier on our left.

Our Hows. also shelled SUNKEN ROADS in N 17 c and N 15 d.

We fired on enemy movements at N 8 d 7 5, N 8 d 3 6, N 8 d 1 7.

By arrangement with the Infantry, at 9 p.m. and 5 a.m. we fired on N 20 a 2 9 to catch working party.

Roads and approaches in N 15 d and b, N 9 d, N 17 c, N 21 a were shelled by us.

ENEMY ACTION :- FACTORY CORNER, HAY RESERVE and FLERS were shelled during the day.

*G. Halford* Staff Lieut.,  
for A/Brigade-Major,  
"B" Divisional Artillery.



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## APPENDIX

FOURTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY.

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CONFIDENTIAL.

DAILY INTELLIGENCE REPORT.

Headquarters  
16th Feb, 1917.

for period  
6 p.m. 15th - 6 p.m., 16th Feb.

OBSERVATION :- Good.

GENERAL :- Gas shells were reported from our right at 6.20., 6.33., and 7.12 p.m.  
Gas Hooters were heard on our right at 7.10 p.m.  
Trench Mortars are reported at N 21 a 58., and 50 yards behind N 21 a 89.  
Machine Gun reported at N 20 b 99 and N 21 a 89.

OUR ACTION :- We shelled junction of SCABBARD and BAYONET trenches and their vicinity, also valleys in N 22 a and N 21 b.  
We enfiladed trench N 22 c 9265 to N 22 c 2090 and also tram line in N 15 b.  
Our howitzers shelled road N 21 a 6575 to N 15 b 6040.  
Strong points in N 21 a and N 15 a, b, and d, were shelled by us.

ENEMY ACTIVITY:- Enemy put nine 4.2's on road junction at S 6 b 8515 between 6.40 and 7.40 p.m.

FLERS was shelled with 4.2's at 11.30 a.m.

Enemy used shrapnel on N 19 d and N 20 b.

Our front line at N 20 b was registered with .77 by the enemy.

AERIAL ACTIVITY:- A hostile plane was brought down at 11.15 a.m., by one of our planes. The enemy plane fell somewhere between our lines and BAPAUME.

*J. E. Forrest*  
Captain,  
A/Brigade Major,  
4th Aus. Div. Artillery.



FOURTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY.

HEADQUARTERS,

17th February, 1917.DAILY INTELLIGENCE REPORT.For period 8 p.m., 16th - 8 p.m., 17th instant.OBSERVATION :- Very bad owing to mist.

OUR ACTIVITY:- We fired on H.C. at H 20 b 9 9, on T.H. at H 21 a 5 8. At intervals during the night we put 150 rounds on PORK trench, and during the day we maintained bursts of fire on BARLEY and PORK trenches, and on H 14 d, H 20 b, and H 21 a.

Our howitzers shelled targets in H 9 c, H 13 d, H 14 a and b, and a loaded timber dump at H 15 d 23.

A working party at H 15 c 3085 was fired on by us.

At 9.5 p.m. we shelled strong points at H 21 b 9 8 to H 15 d 7 0, MILKY WAY, BREAD TRENCH, and Roads at H 15 d 3 9.

At 9.45 p.m. the roads in H 21 a, H 15 b and c, H 9 c, and H 9 a, c, d, were fired on by us.

We shelled road junctions at H 15 a 3 8 and strong point at H 21 a 78 70.

HOSTILE ACTION:- Below normal. Enemy put twenty .77 on H 5 c 26 at 10.30 a.m., and at 5.40 BELVILLE WOOD was shelled from the direction of THILLOX.

*H. J. Smith*  
 Captain,  
 A /Brigade Major,  
4th Aus. Div. Artillery.



FOURTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY.

HEADQUARTERS,  
18th February, 1917.

DAILY INTELLIGENCE REPORT.

For period 8 a.m., 17th - 8 p.m., 18th February, 1917.

OBSERVATION :- Very poor.

OUR ACTION :- We shelled MILKY WAY, LUISAN, DANLEY, BREAD, and PORK Trenches, and barraged valleys in N 22 a and N 21 b.

Our howitzers fired on N 7 d, N 8 b, N 14 a and b, and road junction at N 9 d 7 S.

We also shelled targets in N 9 a, c, and d, ~~N 10 a~~ N 10 b and c, N 14 b, N 15 a, b, c, and d, and N 21 a, b, and c, including roads and approaches, and Battalion headquarters at N 14 d 70 S.

ENEMY ACTION :- Enemy put four .77's in S 11 b at 9.50 p.m., and several 4.2's in gully in N 21 d and T 1 a.

On the duckboards in N 13 d, enemy put six .77 shrapnel.

*J.E. Gosses*  
Captain,  
A/Brigade Major,  
4th Aus. Div. Artillery.



FOURTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY

CONFIDENTIAL

DAILY INTELLIGENCE REPORT

for period

6 p.m., 18th - 6 p.m., 19th February 1917.

----- \* -----

OBSERVATION

:- Poor owing to mist.

GENERAL

:- A sniper has been located at N 20 b 1 5.  
At 1.30 p.m., 2 enemy shells were observed to throw up red stars on impact.

OUR ACTION

:- During the night a French Mortar at N 22 a 1 1, which was worrying the Infantry was silenced by our Howitzers.

We shelled LUISEN and PORK Trenches and put 50 Howitzer rounds on tracks and trenches in N 8 c, N 14 b and N 7 d.

We fired on targets N 15 d 7 3 to N 15 b 5 1, N 21 a 5065 to N 15 b 5 1.

At 7.35 p.m. our 18-prs. barraged valleys in N 22a and N 21 b.

We shelled BARLEY, and BREAD Trenches, MILKY WAY, and roads N 15 d 3 580 - N 15 b 5010 and strong points at N 9 d 7 3, N 9 d 9 1 and N 21 b 9 8 to N 15 d 7 0.

Our Howitzers engaged Battalion Headquarters at N 15 d 7035.

Suspected shaft at N 15 d 8 2 was shelled.

The 112th, 17th and 18th Batteries registered during the day.

ENEMY ACTIVITY

:-

At 8.45 p.m., O.P. reported enemy shelling NEEDLE DUMP (N 22 a 4035) with 4.2's.

Two .77's fell on FLERS.

N 19 b 9 2 was shelled with 4.2's at. About 60 rounds were fired.

*G. Halford*

Staff Lieut.,  
for A/Brigade-Major,  
"B" Divisional Artillery.



# APPENDIX

"B" DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY

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CONFIDENTIAL

## DAILY INTELLIGENCE REPORT

for period

6 p.m., 19th - 6 p.m., 20th February 1917.

----- \* -----

OBSERVATION :- Bad.

GENERAL :- Machine guns have been located at N 20 a 5095 and N 14 a 8 0.  
One of our F.O.O's., whilst engaged in registering noticed movement in LUISER Trench and smoke rising from N 13 d 3 3 in BAYONET Trench.

OUR ACTION :- Our Hows. shelled Battalion Headquarters at N 15 d 7035 and also N 9 d 7 3 and N 9 d 7 1.  
We fired 100 rounds of 18-pr. on LUISER Trench N 13 d and N 14 c.  
We engaged sunken roads in N 9 a, c and d, N 15 a and b, N 21 b 9 8 to N 21 b 8520 and N 15 d 7 3 to N 15 d 5 1 were shelled by us.  
We fired on Timber Dump at N 15 d 2 3 and on MILKY WAY.  
Our 18-prs. have been registering new LIAISON and S.O.S. LINES with observation from road in N 19 b.

ENEMY ACTIVITY :- At 7.55 p.m. the enemy put 15 4.2's on N 13 d.  
Six .77 shrapnel burst over FLERS Road.  
Enemy shelled LES BOUEFS from the direction of TRANSELOY at 10.58 a.m., and FLERS with 4.2's. at 5.20 p.m..

Our F.L.T. at N 20 c 3 8 was shelled with 4.2's at 7.45 a.m..  
A hostile 4.2 Battery was ranged from our Left flank by means of smoke puffs and red flares, at about mid-day.

*G. Halford* Staff Lieut.,  
for A/Brigade-Major,  
"B" Divisional Artillery.



"B" DIVISIONAL ARTILLERYSECRETORDER NO. 23HEADQUARTERS,  
18th February 1965REFERENCE MAP - GUEDECOURT 1/10,000 Edition 3 A.

1. The 12th Australian Infantry Brigade is to capture STORMY TRENCH from N 21 b 20 20 to approximately N 21 a 25 65, early on the morning of 20th February, by means of a bombing attack.
2. No. 1 Group, 4th Australian Divisional Artillery, will assist in accordance with Barrage and Task Table attached.
3. The D.T.M.O. will arrange for a Medium Trench Mortar Battery to co-operate.  
The Battery Commander will report to and work under the orders of O.C. No. 1 Group, for the operation.
4. Zero hour and code of signals will be notified later.
5. Watches will be synchronised from Divisional Artillery Headquarters at 8 p.m. on the 19th instant.
6. ACKNOWLEDGE.

*G. H. Hovell*  
Captain,  
A/Brigade-Major,  
"B" Divisional Artillery.

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12	Counter Battery Group.
13	14th H.A. Group.
14	4th Aus. Div.
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16	5th Aus. Div. Art.
17	1st Aus. Div.
18	1st Aus. Div. Art.
19	12th Aus. Inf. Bde.
20	13th Aus. Inf. Bde.
21	War Diary.
22 }	
23 }	Spare.



SECRET

BARRAGE AND TASK TABLE

(To accompany Order 23)

Time	Batteries	Task	Rate of fire	Ammunition
From zero till signal is given to cease fire.	41st	Enemy front line trench from N 21 a 30 65 to N 20 b 80 85	3 rounds per gun per minute.	A X
	Medium T.M. Battery.	Enemy front line trench from N 21 a 30 65 to N 21 a 70 75.	2 rounds per mortar per minute.	
	42nd )	Barrage to be ready on line N 15 c 50 30 to N 15 d 35 10, but not to be employed unless called for by Infantry.	5 rounds per gun per minute.	25% A
	43rd )			75% A X
From zero plus 30 minutes till signal is given to cease fire.	110th How. 111th How.	Intermittent barrage from N 15 d 25 60 to N 15 d 40 90, and from N 15 d 70 10 to N 15 d 60 90.	2 rounds per Howitzer per minute	B X

APPENDIX

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FOURTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERYCONFIDENTIAL.DAILY INTELLIGENCE REPORT.

for period

8 p.m., 20th - 8 p.m., 21st February, 1917.OBSERVATION :- Fair.

GENERAL :- Officers patrol last night found BAYONET trench, from N 20 a 6025 to N 20 a 4870 well wired. Movement was noticed this afternoon at N 14 d 99.

OUR ACTION :- We fired 180 rounds of 18-pr on LUISEN trench. 100 rounds on Dump at N 8 a 5 4. Saw earthworks at N 8 a 5 2 and dug-outs at N 9 a 8420 and LUISENHOF FARM were shelled by us.

Covered minor operation carried out by our Right Battalion on STORMY trench. At 4.28 a.m., enemy started a light .77 barrage.

At 4.30 a.m. Battalion Commander called for a barrage to cover our attacking party. All batteries were in action within 30 seconds. Liaison officer reports barrage satisfactory and well placed.

At 4.58 a.m., our batteries opened a slow intermittent fire on barrage line.

At 5.7 a.m. trench mortar reported troublecase at N 22 a 5 6 (N 22 a 5 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ ), this was engaged and quietened by our how. batteries.

Enemy retaliation was slight.

We registered our right S.O.S., lines, and shelled SCABBARD and BAYONET trenches.

Our howitzers fired on N 20 b and N 14 c.

This afternoon we shelled sunken roads in N 14 b, N 15 a, b, c, and d, N 9 a and d, also N 15 c and b, N 21 a and b, and N 22 d.

A suspected Dump at N 15 a 60 and suspected headquarters at N 9 a 2870.

ENEMY ACTIVITY:- At 10.15 p.m., enemy shelled P.L.T., of Division on our left

Between 9 p.m., and 10 p.m., several 4.2's fell in S 11 a from the direction of BEAULENCOURT.

QUEDECOURT was heavily shelled, principally with 5.9's.

FLERS was shelled with 4.2's and .77's.

During the day our the enemy's activity artillery was very active on our P.L.T., and support lines trenches.

Captain,  
A/Brigade Major,  
4th Aus. Div. Artillery.



"B" DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY

CONFIDENTIAL

DAILY INTELLIGENCE REPORT

for period

6 p.m., 21st - 6 p.m., 22nd February 1917.  
----- \* -----

OBSERVATION :- Poor; slight improvement during the day.

GENERAL :- Five puffs of white smoke (similar to that from a railway engine) were seen about N 8 Central. The track from N 14 a 7040 to N 14 a 8595 appears to be used.

OUR  
ACTIVITY :- We shelled LUISEN and PORK trenches, LIGNY-THILLOY and THILLOY during the night.

BARLEY Trench in N 14 b was searched with 50 rounds.

Trench systems N 16 a 5530, N 15 c 9 9 to N 15 d 8 8, N 9 d 2 7 to N 9 d 3 9 were shelled by us. Also timber dump at N 15 d 2 5 and strong points at N 15 d 7 6.

We shelled communication trench N 10 c 7 2 to N 10 c 9 5.

Our Artillery dispersed parties at N 8 c 5015, N 8 c 5010 and N 8 c 6505.

At the request of the Infantry we barraged N 15 c 5 2, N 15 d 4 2, N 22 b 1085 and N 22 b 6 3. We shelled sunken roads in N 14 b, N 15 c and d, and N 9 c and d and registered our S.O.S. Lines.

Suspected Headquarters at N 8 d 4 9 were fired on.

ENEMY  
ACTIVITY :- Five 4.2's fell in S 11 d; four of them were "duds".

At intervals during the night 4.2's and 5.9's fell on GUEUDECOURT.

At 5 p.m., two salvos of 4.2's were fired on FLERS.

*G. Halford* Staff Lieut.,  
for A/Brigade-Major,  
"B" Divisional Artillery.



"B" DIVISIONAL ARTILLERYDAILY INTELLIGENCE REPORTCONFIDENTIAL

for period

6 p.m., 22nd - 6 p.m., 23rd February 1917.  
----- 0 -----OBSERVATION :- Poor.OUR ACTION :- Report on minor operation on night 22nd/23rd instant :-The 12th Infantry Brigade attacked enemy trenches  
N 21 a 2260 to N 21 a 2565.Before zero time the Stokes' mortars were reported  
out of action, so the 41st Battery was ordered to  
take their place by barraging hostile trench in  
N 21 b.The party on our left were unable to join up, but  
the Right Section established a block at N 21 a 2875.At 5.45 a.m., enemy were reported to be barraging  
along new front.

We captured 32 prisoners.

Our Left Group stood by for some hours in case they  
were required.We also fired on BARLEY and LUISSE Trenches, N 8 b,  
N 14 b, N 13 d, N 21 b, N 15 c and d, and on  
THILLOY.ENEMY  
ACTIVITY:- HAY Reserve, FACTORY CORNER and FORAGE TRENCH were  
shelled.At 5.30 p.m. enemy put a barrage of .77 mm shrapnel  
from N 26 a 0 7 to N 26 b 5 5.

T 8 c was shelled with 4.2's..

*G Halford*Staff Lieut.,  
for Brigade-Major,  
"B" Divisional Artillery.



FOURTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY

SECRET

ORDER NO. 62

HEADQUARTERS,  
23rd February 1917.

REFERENCE MAP - ALBERT 1/40,000 + Amiens 1/100,000

1. The 4th Australian Division will be relieved by the 1st and 5th Australian Divisions on the 25th February.
2. The 1st Australian Division will take over the Left Brigade Sector and the 5th Australian Division will take over the Right Brigade Sector of the 4th Australian Divisional Front.
3. No. 1 Group 4th Australian Divisional Artillery (11th A.F.A. Brigade) will be transferred to the 5th Australian Divisional Artillery, and No. 2 Group (6th - Army - A.F.A. Brigade) and 112th Howitzer Battery, will be transferred to 1st Australian Divisional Artillery at 12.30 p.m. on the 24th instant.
4. Headquarters 4th Australian Division will be established at BAIZIEUX at 12 noon on the 25th instant.
5. Headquarters 4th Australian Divisional Artillery will open at EAVELINCOURT CHATEAU at 2 p.m. on the 25th instant.
6. 4th Australian Divisional Artillery will move to Corps Training Area as under :-

and 110th How Bty

Headquarters	on 25th February.
Divisional T. Mortars	" 26th "
10th A.F.A. Brigade )	on completion of relief from line.
11th A.F.A. Brigade )	
4th Aus. D.A.C. (	On completion of move of 10th and 11th Brigades.
(	

7. Administrative Order attached.

8. ACKNOWLEDGE.

*J. L. Forster* Captain,  
A/Brigade-Major,  
4th Australian Div. Artillery.

No. 1 to	File.
2 - 6	10th A.F.A. Bde.
7 - 15	11th " "
16 - 22	6th (Army) "
23 - 27	4th A.D.A.C.
28	4th A.D.T.M.O.
29	1st Aus. Div. Arty.
30	5th " " "
31	4th Aus. Div.
32	Supply Officer
33	D.A.D.O.S.
34	A.D.V.S. 4th A.D.
35	R.A., 1st ANZAC.
36	Spare.
37	War Diary.



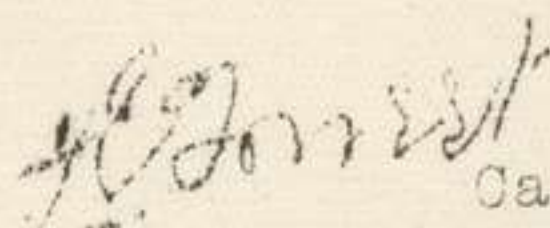
FOURTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERYADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

(To accompany Order No. 62)

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REFERENCE MAP - ALBERT 1/40,000 & AMIENS 1/100,000.

1. Ammunition held on charge by No. 1 Group will be transferred to 5th Australian Divisional Artillery, and similarly, ammunition held on charge by No. 2 Group will be transferred to 1st Australian Divisional Artillery.
2. The D.T.M.O. 4th Australian Division will hand over to the D.T.M.O. 1st Australian Division, all trench mortar ammunition now in No. 2 Group Area, and to the D.T.M.O., 5th Australian Division, all trench mortar ammunition dumped in No. 1 Group Area. Receipt for all T.M. ammunition handed over will be obtained in duplicate and forwarded to D.A.H.Q..
3. All ammunition will be transferred immediately after 12 noon on the 24th February.
4. O.C., D.A.C. will withdraw ammunition party at EAZENTIN STATION after 12 noon on the 24th February.
5. Units moving to Corps Training Area will arrange with O.C. 4th D.A.C. for any additional transport that may be required. All transport so obtained must be returned to D.A.C. on the day following completion of move.
6. On arrival in Corps Training Area, Units will be billeted in VILLAGES OF BEAUCOURT, BAVELINCOURT, BEHENCOURT and MONTIGNY. On receipt of orders to move to Billot ing Area, Units will immediately inform Headquarters, 4th Australian Divisional Train, by wire, and will detail Billetting parties to report to Divisional Artillery Headquarters at 10 a.m. on the day of arrival of Unit in Billoting Area.
7. All administrative returns etc. will be forwarded to D.A.H.Q..
8. Arrangements will be made for a motor-dispatch rider to call at Headquarters D.A.C. (X 29 d) daily. All dispatches for D.A.H.Q. must be delivered to Headquarters D.A.C. by 2 p.m. daily.
9. Arrangements will be made for telephonic communication to be established between Artillery Headquarters and Headquarters 4th Aus. D.A.C..



Captain,  
Staff Captain,

4th Australian Divisional Artillery.