

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

Artillery

Item number: 13/1/3

Title: General Officer Commanding, Royal
Artillery, 2nd Corps

June 1916



AWM4-13/1/3

2
HQ RA

II Corps
Div 3

304

C O N F I D E N T I A L .

W A R D I A R Y

of

R.A. II CORPS.

from 1st June, 1916 to 30th June, 1916.

(Volume 3)

R.A. II Corps
S/3.

Officer i/c
A.G's Office,
B A S E

305

Herewith War Diary of R.A. II Corps for
month of June, 1916.

Please acknowledge receipt.

2/7/16.

M. G. Robinson

Major, R.A.,
S.O.R.A. II Corps.

306

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
BAILLEUL	1.6.16		<p><u>weather</u> high clouds. fairly strong wind</p> <p><u>operations</u> at about 6.40 pm No 9 Kite Balloon attached 2nd Corps broke loose and drifted away over the GERMAN lines - Both observers escaped by parachute, unhurt</p>	R.H.J.
BAILLEUL	2.6.16		<p><u>weather</u> Cool + Windy</p> <p><u>operations</u> 6" Hows. fired a few rounds at a Hostile Balloon intersected at P 4 a 2.8 (sheet 36). - 6" Hows. also fired 40 rounds at a hostile battery position about C 18 b 2.8 (sheet 36)</p>	R.H.J.
BAILLEUL	3.6.16		<p><u>weather</u> Cool and bright.</p> <p><u>operations</u> during the night 127th Heavy Battery (60 pⁿ.) placed two guns in action at B 5 a 4.2 and 1 gun at T 29 a 4.3.</p>	R.H.J.
BAILLEUL	4.6.16		<p><u>weather</u> Cold and dull.</p> <p>Instructions issued for 12th Heavy Artillery Group H.A. to relieve 11th H.A. Group H.A.</p> <p><u>operations</u> during night 3/4 remaining gun of 127th P.A. was placed in position at T 29 a 4.3</p> <p>nothing of importance</p>	<p>Time / 1 2 2 1/2 hours 5/5/16 R.H.J.</p>

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BAILLEUL	5.6.16		<p><u>weather</u> high wind, cold, some showers. New table issued showing ordinary "night lines" of Heavies and concentration of Heavy Artillery fire on front of 4th Division. <u>operations</u> Nil.</p>	<p>June 2, Pt 2nd Col 5/31/3 + <u>RTJ</u></p>
BAILLEUL	6.6.16		<p><u>weather</u> wet and cold <u>operations</u> Nil</p>	<p><u>RTJ</u></p>
BAILLEUL	7.6.16		<p><u>weather</u> cold and unsettled <u>operations</u> Nil.</p>	<p><u>RTJ</u></p>
BAILLEUL	8.6.16		<p><u>weather</u> milder, dull and unsettled. <u>operations</u> At between 3pm and 3.45 pm the enemy parapet about U28a 4.6 was bombarded with trench mortars and 6" Howitzers the field guns and field howitzers cooperating. The enemy retaliated on ST YVES and our trenches opposite U28a 4.6</p>	<p><u>RTJ</u></p>
BAILLEUL	9.6.16		<p><u>weather</u> mild and fine <u>operations</u> nothing of importance</p>	<p><u>RTJ</u></p>

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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.

(Erased heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks referent Appeal
BAILLEUL	10.6.16		<p><u>weather</u> mild and unsettled</p> <p><u>operations</u> 7pm - 5pm 6 Hows and Field Hows bombarded "BIRD CAGE" U2169.7 to U2220.9 - Considerable damage appeared to be done</p> <p>Enemy retaliated on PLOEGSTEERT VILLAGE and WOOD.</p>	RTT
BAILLEUL	11.6.16		<p><u>weather</u> mild and unsettled</p> <p><u>operations</u> Nil.</p>	RTT
BAILLEUL	12.6.16		<p><u>weather</u> dull, wet and cold</p> <p><u>operations</u> Nothing of importance.</p>	RTT
BAILLEUL	13.6.16		<p><u>weather</u> dull, wet and cold</p> <p>Fresh table issued showing Heavy Artillery light lines and concentration of Heavy Artillery fire on front of the 41st Division</p> <p>Orders were issued from The 'G' office for the withdrawal of the remaining sections of the 121 Hy and 40 and 41 Siege Bty's. - These sections withdrew at night - 121 Hy Bty. to their wagon line and 40 + 41 (Guns only) to CAESTRE STN - Lorries + motor cars marched by night to VALHUON near ST-POL</p> <p><u>operations</u> Nil</p>	<p>June</p> <p>Raz. Co</p> <p>3/31/3</p> <p>RTT</p>

2449 W14957/M92 750,000 1/16 J.B.C. & A. Forms C.2118/12

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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

or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BAILLEUL	14/6/16		<u>weather</u> high wind, wet and unsettled. <u>operations</u> nil	<u>R.II</u>
BAILLEUL	15/6/16		<u>weather</u> dull and cold. <u>operations</u> nil	<u>R.II</u>
BAILLEUL	16/6/16		<u>weather</u> improved considerably, mild and fine evening. <u>operation</u> the day was quiet. During the night 16/17 there was a reported gas attack on the LEFT of the Corps. The attack did not materialise.	<u>R.II</u>
BAILLEUL	17/6/16		<u>weather</u> warmer, but strong wind from N.E. all day. <u>operations</u> nil Major R.H. Johnson, D.S.O., was transferred from R.A. II Corps to R.A. III Army.	<u>R.II</u>
BAILLEUL	18/6/16		<u>weather</u> strong wind from N.W. night. <u>operations</u> nil	<u>R.II</u>

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BAILLEUL	19/6/16		<p><u>Weather</u> - Bright but cold, strong NORTH wind.</p> <p><u>Operations</u>.</p> <p>41st Div became attached to II CORPS from 12. noon 19/6/16</p> <p>II CORPS Headquarters moved to DOULLENS.</p>	<p>II Corps 3.3.75 June/7</p>
BAILLEUL	20/6/16		<p><u>Weather</u> - Mostly dull, showers in afternoon.</p> <p>II CORPS R.A. Office closed at BAILLEUL at 6.A.M. and opened at DOULLENS at the same time. Major P. Q. Robinson joined R.A. HQ. 2nd Corps. vice Major Johnson.</p>	<p>2/8</p>
DOULLENS	21/6/16		<p><u>Weather</u> warmer</p> <p><u>Operations</u> nil</p>	<p>5/8</p>
DOULLENS	22/6/16		<p><u>Weather</u> Very warm.</p> <p><u>Operations</u> nil</p>	<p>14/8</p>
DOULLENS	23/6/16		<p><u>Weather</u> cooler with some showers.</p> <p><u>Operations</u> II CORPS R.A. HQ. closed at DOULLENS at 5 AM & opened at VILLERS BOCCAGE</p>	<p>15/8</p>

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

311
Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II and the Staff Manual respectively. Title Pages will be prepared in manuscript.

OR
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VILLERS BOCAGE	24/6/16		<u>Weather</u> - Showery <u>Operations</u> 4 th Army commenced bombardment of enemy's front opposite it.	15A
VILLERS BOCAGE	25/6/16		<u>Weather</u> Warm <u>Operations</u> Bombardment as above continued.	15A
VILLERS BOCAGE	26/6/16		<u>Weather</u> colder with some heavy showers. <u>Operations</u> Bombardment as above continued. 23 rd Division arrived from 17 th Corps area - D.W. Art. H.Q. being established at BELLOY.	15A
VILLERS BOCAGE	27/6/16		<u>Weather</u> Showery <u>Operations</u> Bombardment continued as above. 38 th Division came into 4 th Army Area - D.W. Art H.Q. being established at MONPLAISIR.	15A

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

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

312

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VILLERS BOCAGE	28/6/16	-	<p><u>Weather</u> very heavy showers at intervals during the day.</p> <p><u>Operations</u> Bombardment continued as above.</p>	MSR
VILLERS BOCAGE	29/6/16	-	<p><u>Weather</u> some showers but wind drying country rapidly.</p> <p><u>Operations</u> Bombardment continued as above.</p>	MSR
VILLERS BOCAGE	30/6/16	-	<p><u>Weather</u> warmer with strong breeze from the west.</p> <p><u>Operations</u> Bombardment continued as above.</p>	MSR

SECRET

R.A. II Corps
5/31/34.

Table showing concentration of Heavy Artillery fire on front of Division II Corps in the event of hostile attack limited to that front and not involving Artillery action on the fronts of Divisions on each flank.

Normal Night Lines

11th H.A.G.

1-12" How. 84th S.Bty-C 5 b 1.0
1-6" Gun 7th S.Bty-Road from
U 12 b 4.2-V 2 b 5.5.

Additional Assistance

11th H.A.G.

1-6" Gun 7th S.BTY - road from
U 17-b 8.4 -
U 12 b 4.2
1-6" Gun 7th S.Bty - Road from
U 30 c 1 1/2-7 1/2 -
D 1 c 1.5

II Corps Heavy Artillery

1-6" How 40th S.Bty - C 11 c 7.8
1-6" " " " " - C 11 b 3.9
1-60 pr Gun 101st H.Bty - U 29 b 4.3
1-60 " " " " - U 17 c 8.0
1-60 " " 127th " " - U 17 d 2 1/2-6 1/2
1-60 " " " " - U 23 c 6.4
1-60 " " " " - U 29 b 1.9
1-60 " " " " - U 29 b 2.7.

Vth Corps Heavy Artillery

1-9.2" How. 12th S.Bty-C 5 a 3.1
1-9.2" " " " " -U 10 central.
1-8" " 67th " " -U 17 c 0.2
2-6" Hows. 6th " " -U 18 b 8.8
2-60 pr Guns 142nd H.Bty-U 9 b 6.0
2-4.7" Guns Wessex H.Bty - Road
U 10 central -
U 10 d 4 1/2-1 1/2

A & N.Z.A.C. Heavy Artillery

Not settled.

Rate of fire - At first to be slow. Exact rate must vary according to nature of equipment. Subsequently according to information or orders received.

Ammunition - H.E. for Howitzers, Shrapnel for those guns able to employ it.

Order - Ordinary message asking for assistance. To be passed from H.Q.R.A. of Divisions to H.Q. of Brigades, Groups, or Batteries of Heavy Artillery as the case may be, or direct from Field Artillery Group or Brigade Commanders in those cases where direct communication is available.

R. Johnson
Major, R.A.,
S.O.R.A. II Corps.

5/6/16.

Copies to -
II Corps Heavy Artillery
18th H. A. G.
41st Division
41st Divisional Artillery

Vth Corps Artillery
A & N.Z.A.C.
II Corps "G"

Please substitute for Table issued under this Office number
5/31/34 or 26/4/16.

Copies to -

II Corps H.A.
11th H.A.G.
41st Division
" " R.A.

Vth Corps Artillery
A & N.Z.A.C.
II Corps "G"
R.A. Second Army.

SECRET

R.A. II Corps
S/31/34.

Table showing concentration of Heavy Artillery fire on front of Division II Corps in the event of hostile attack limited to that front and not involving Artillery action on front of Divisions on each flank.

Normal Night lines

11th H. A. G.

1-12" How. 64th S. Bty - C 5 b 1.0
1-6" Gun 7th " Bty - Road from
U 12 b 4.2 - V 2 b 5.5

II Corps Heavy Artillery

1-60 pr Gun 127th H. Bty - U 17 c 8.9
1-60 pr Gun 127th H. Bty - U 17 c 8.3
1-60 pr Gun 127th H. Bty - U 23 a 7.3
1-60 pr Gun 127th H. Bty - U 29 b 1.8

Additional Assistance

11th H. A. G.

1-6" Gun 7th S. Bty - road from
U 17 b 8.4 -
D 12 b 4.2
1-6" " 7th S. Bty - Road from
U 30 c 1.7 -
D 1 c 1.5

Vth Corps Heavy Artillery.

1-9.2" How. 12th S. Bty - C 5 a 3.5
2-8" Hows. 67th S. Bty - U 17 c 0.2
2-60 pr Guns 142nd H. Bty - U 9 b 8.0
2-4.7" Guns Wessex H. Bty - Road
U 10 central -
U 10 d 4.1

A & N.Z.A.C. Heavy Artillery

1-4.7" Gun Warwick H. Bty - C 5 b 2.0
1-4.7" Gun Warwick H. Bty - C 11 b 2.6

Rate of fire - At first to be slow. Exact rate must vary according to nature of equipment. Subsequently according to information or orders received.

Ammunition - H.E. for Howitzers, Shrapnel for those guns able to employ it.

Order - Ordinary message asking for assistance. To be passed from H.Q. R.A. of Divisions to H.Q. of Brigades, Groups, or Batteries of Heavy Artillery as the case may be, or direct from Field Artillery Group or Brigade Commanders in those cases where direct communication is available.

Heavy Artillery Assistance to A & N.Z.A.C. in case of attack on their LEFT Division front.

1-60 pr Gun 127th H. Bty - C 18 b 8.5 1-60 pr Gun 127th H. Bty. D 19 c 4.1

Heavy Artillery Assistance to Vth Corps in case of attack on their RIGHT Division front

1-60 pr Battery 127th H. Bty - on counter battery work on targets in Northern 'U' Squares as desired.

Also substitute for Table issued under this Office number S/31/34 of

5/6/16

R. Johnson

Major, R.A.

S.O.R.A. II Corps.