

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

Artillery

Item number: 13/2/3

Title: General Officer Commanding, Royal
Artillery, 3rd Corps

December 1916



AWM4-13/2/3

CONFIDENTIAL.

334
S.B.

WAR DIARY.

DECEMBER, 1916.

HEADQUARTERS, ROYAL ARTILLERY, THIRD CORPS.

2:1:17

Ch. Lewis
Major,
Staff Officer to G.O.C., R.A.,
III Corps.

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
				335
Butterfield	1 st Dec	7.30 pm	Arty Instructions No 108 issued to all concerned	I (a)
	2 nd		Arty Intelligence Reports from Groups. Heavy Arty + Counter batteries. one copy only	II (a)
	3 rd		Artilery Intelligence Reports from Groups. Heavy Arty + Counter batteries one copy only	III (a)
	4 th		ditto	IV (a)
	5 th		ditto	V (a)
	6 th		ditto	VI (a)
	7 th	8.10 pm	Addendum No 1 to Arty Instructions No 108 issued to all concerned	VII (a)
	8 th	10.35 am	Addendum No 2 to Arty Instructions No 108 issued to all concerned.	I (b)
	9 th		Artilery Intelligence Reports from Groups. Heavy Arty + Counter batteries one copy only	IX (a)
	10 th			X (a)
	11 th			XI (a)
	12 th			XII (a)

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
The Field	14 Dec		Artillery Intelligence Reports from Groups. Heavy Artillery, & Counter Batteries. One copy only	XIV <i>log</i>
	15 th			XV <i>log</i>
	16 th			XVI <i>log</i>
	17 th			XVII <i>log</i>
	18 th			XVIII <i>log</i>
	19 th			XIX <i>log</i>
	20 th			XX <i>log</i>
	21 st			XXI <i>log</i>
	22 nd			XXII <i>log</i>
	23 rd			XXIII <i>log</i>
	24 th			XXIV <i>log</i>
	25 th		Artillery Instructions Memo issued to all commands	XXV <i>log</i>
			Artillery Intelligence Reports from Groups. Heavy Artillery, & Counter Batteries. One copy only	XXVI <i>log</i>
				XXVII <i>log</i>
				XXVIII <i>log</i>
				XXIX <i>log</i>
				XXX <i>log</i>
				XXXI <i>log</i>
				XXXII <i>log</i>
				XXXIII <i>log</i>
				XXXIV <i>log</i>
				XXXV <i>log</i>
				XXXVI <i>log</i>
				XXXVII <i>log</i>
				XXXVIII <i>log</i>
				XXXIX <i>log</i>
				XXXX <i>log</i>

336

337

ARTILLERY INSTRUCTIONS NO. 108
BY
THE A.D.C., F.M., III CORPS.

H.Q., F.M., III Corps.
1st December, 1913

1. In accordance III Corps Operation Order No. 134, there will be a preliminary bombardment of enemy trenches etc. on III Corps front commencing at 5 a.m. on X Day, and will be continued day and night till Zero on Z Day.
2. For this operation day will be taken as being from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. During the night period fire will be in bursts.
3. Heavy Artillery will bombard the following:-

X Day and Night

- (a) A.9.d.4.2 - A.10.a.4.5 (numerous dug-outs especially in LITBLE OOD)
- (b) A.34.c.6.2 - d.1.7 (Trench and dug-outs in LOUPART OOD)
- (c) A.11.4.8.4 - M.12.c.1.6 (dug-outs).
- (d) LE BARQUE SWITCH in A.12.d. and N.7.c.
- (e) Bunker Road in N.13.d. from LUISCHOF FARM to BAYONET TRENCH (Dugouts)

Y Day and Night.

- (a) BAYONET TRENCH (where it is not necessary for our Infantry to clear)
- (b) GIRD LINE as situation permits.
- (c) LE BARQUE SWITCH in A.12.d. and N.7.c.
- (d) A.9.d.4.2 - A.10.a.4.5.

Z Day up to Zero - 5 minutes.

Same as for Y Day.

4. Divisional Artillery.

4.5-inch Howitzers.

Objectives to be selected by Divisions on own front.

18-pounders.

Occasional bursts during the day; at night usual night firing.

5. The targets at Zero for all Howitzers and half the 18-pounders will be the nearest hostile trench which can be bombarded with safety to our Infantry. 18-pounders to fire H.E..

6. The fire of Heavy Artillery and 4.5" Howitzers will become intense at Zero - 5 minutes on Zero targets.

7. Programme from Zero onwards. (Chinese Attack)

(a) Divisional Artillery. 18-pounders.

Two types of barrage. Creeping and stationary.

Creeping barrage.

Zero to +0.4.

Half the 18-pounders of each group will place a creeping barrage 200 yards in front of our own front line.

+0.4 to +0.14

The barrage will creep back 50 yards per minute until it joins the stationary barrage, then all the 18-pounders will creep back 50 yards per minute for 300 yards.

Stationary barrage.

As detailed for the 18-pounders in para. 5.

(b) At +0.15 all 18-pounders and 4.5" Howitzers will come back to original stationary barrage line and fire two salvoes.

+0.15 to +0.30 Frequent bursts of fire on selected objective.

(c) Howitzers (Both 4.5" and Heavy).

Zero to +0.4 On objectives as detailed in para. 5.

+0.4 to +0.14 Lift on to the line LUISENBOF FARM - CAT LAKE - LE BARQUE STATION - GALLITZ SUPPORT - LITTLE TOWN.

Heavy Howitzers will cease fire at +0.14, recommencing at +0.15 and continuing at a gradually decreasing rate till 4 p.m.

8. Rates of fire.

Rates of fire for Heavy Artillery and 4.5" Howitzers will be detailed later.

Rates of fire for 18-pounders from Zero to +0.30 will be as follows:-

Zero to +0.5 3 rounds per gun per minute.

+0.5 to +0.30 12 rounds per gun per minute.

9. Counter batteries will be very active from Zero on selected active hostile batteries.

10. If Divisions require any other objectives, than those detailed,

bombarded by Heavy Hows. they will please forward their requirements to this office tomorrow (2nd Inst).

639
336

11. In the event of the operations detailed in para. 2 of III Corps
Operation Order No. 164 not taking place, the objectives for the
Heavy No 10th may be slightly altered or added to.

12. ACTION LOGS.

Issued at 7.55 p.m.

Sir Lewis
Major,
Staff Officer to G.O.C., R.A.,
III Corps.

- Copy No. 1 1st Division
2 48th Division
3 Right Divl. Arty. Group.
4 Left Divl. Arty. Group
5 Heavy Artillery.
6 34th Squadron, R.F.C.
7 No. 14 Kite Balloon Section
8 Arty. 1st Anzac Corps
9 Arty. IV Corps.
10 III Corps "G.S."
11 R.A. Fourth Army.
12-14 Filed.

ADDENDUM NO. 1

ARTILLERY INSTRUCTIONS NO. 100

BY

THE S.O.C., A.A., THIRD CORPS.

340
1/13
(a)
H. G. R. S. 111 Down
5th December, 1918

1. Para. 1 Artillery Instructions No. 100 for 9 a.m. read 3 a.m.
2. Para. 2 of Instructions for 4 p.m. read 3.45 p.m.
3. Para. 7 (c) of Instructions the Heavy Howitzers will cease fire at one hour after zero instead of at 4 p.m.
4. Para. 6 of Instructions

Rates of fire.

X Day. Heavy Artillery (Howitzers)

9.2" Hows. 30 rounds per hour.

8" Hows. - do -

6" Hows. - do -

Y Day.

9.2" Hows. 30 rounds per hour

8" Hows. - do -

6" Hows. - do -

Z Day.

9.2" Hows. 120 rounds per hour

8" Hows. - do -

6" Hows. - do -

Night work.

X Night.

8" Howitzers. 200 rounds

Y Night.

8" Howitzers. 500 rounds

Counter batteries ammunition as required, if not aeroplane weather more frequent concentrations will be carried out, the usual programme will be made for zero hour.

Heavy Artillery will send in programme for proposed firing of 6" guns, ammunition allotted for X, Y and Z days 300 Ck.

34
- 3 -
Divisional Artillery.

Ammunition allotted for X, Y and Z days in addition to daily allotment:-

Right Divl. Artillery Group.

18,000 AX.

1,500 BX.

Left Divl. Artillery Group.

14,000 AX.

1,500 BX.

Commencing on X day the fire of the Divisional Artillery will gradually be increased up to Zero on Z day, being particularly active on Y night.

7.15 Acknowledge.

Issued at 0.10 p.m.

L. W. Lewer

Major,
Staff Officer to G.O.C., R.A.,
III Corps.

Addressed all recipients to Army Estimate 108

342

Copy No. 13

119

APPENDIX NO. 2 to
ARTILLERY INSTRUCTIONS NO. 100
BY
THE G.O.C., R.A., III Corps.

G.O.C., R.A., III Corps.
5th December, 1918

1. No 18-pounder shrapnel will now be used for barrages from
Zero to + 0.30.
2. Acknowledge.

Issued at 10-25 a.m.

Ch. Lewis
Major,
Staff Officer to G.O.C., R.A.,
III Corps.

Addressed all recipients Artillery Instructions No. 100.

RIGHT GROUP DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY

DAILY GENERAL REPORT.

No. 47.

From 8. P.M. 30th: November TO 8.P.M. 1st: December 16

OUR. ARTILLERY.

Owing to the mist night firing was continued through the day on the night barrages.

The 26th: Brigade at the request of the Infantry fired (1) 40 rounds 18-pdrs: and 20 rounds 4.5" Hows: on the GIRD LINE and support at 11.30 P.M. (2) 40 rounds 18-pdrs on M. 18. c. 2. 3. at 11. A.M.

HOSTILE ARTILLERY.

The HIGH WOOD - LONGUEVAL road was shelled intermittently with 4.2"s. - The shells appeared to come from a long way off and only one at a time.

A 77 mm battery of 3 guns was very active firing from direction of GREVILLERS. - It fired time shrapnel on STAR FISH trench and between HIGH WOOD and MARTINPUICH.

Left Battalion H.Qtrs: was shelled at 11.P.M. - Intermittent shelling of FLERS S.6 and T.1 all day.

GENERAL.

Too misty for observation.

H. Qtrs: 1st: D.A.
1st: December 16.

Captain
Brigade Major R.A., 1st: Divn:

Three Copies 3rd: Corps R.A.
One copy 'G' 1st: Division.
" " Counter Battery Office.
" " 27th: H. A. Group.

444
80

LEFT GROUP DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY.

From 6 P.M. 30th November, to 8 P. M. 1st December.

1. ACTION OF OUR ARTILLERY.

No observed shooting was possible .- Roads and tracks were subjected to short bursts of fire at irregular intervals.

2. ACTION OF HOSTILE ARTILLERY.

Enemy shelled MARTINPUICH on evening of 30th with 5.9, but was soon stopped by the Counter-Battery Group. Generally speaking enemy's guns have been active, shooting on MARTINPUICH, LE SARS, roads and the light railways.

3. MATTERS OF GENERAL INTEREST.

N I L.

W. H. H.
Major.

1. 12. 1916.

Brigade Major R.A. 23rd Division.

III CORPS HEAVY ARTILLERY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

8pm. 30th Novr. to 8pm. 1st. December, 1916.

945
343

The weather was again very misty rendering observation impossible, it cleared slightly in the afternoon.

Three concentrated bursts of fire were given to LOUPART WOOD and a burst was also directed on the dug-outs in M.II.d. at dusk.

Roads and tracks were searched partly by day and at night, particular attention was paid to the main BAPAUME ROAD, the Railway at ACHIET LE GRAND, the Cross Roads in G.22.c. and the Tracks in M.8.a.

A. B. Street
for

8/12/16.

Captain.
Brigade Major, Hy. Arty. III Corps.

346

IIIrd. Corps Counter Battery Report
for Period ending 6-0pm. 1/12/16.

Enemy artillery activity has been normal; MARTINPUICH received considerable attention at intervals throughout the twenty-four hours.

LEMOURE L'ABBAYE was shelled between 1-0pm. & 1-30pm. 30 rds. fell.

The cross roads in M 28 d were shelled for an hour and a half during which time 50 rounds of 4.2" fell.

The weather has again been too misty for observation.

At 7-0pm. on the 30th. ult. an organized shoot was carried out on LOUPART WOOD. Mist prevented observation of effect.

This morning the 5.9" Batteries in the LOUPART GROUP were engaged for the shelling of MARTINPUICH.

11 batteries in all were engaged by 60 Pdrs.

Hostile batteries reported active Nil.

1/12/16.

Lieut Col. M.S.A.
Counter Battery Staff Officer III Corps M.S.A.

RIGHT GROUP DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY

DAILY GENERAL REPORT

No. 48.

From 6. P.M. 1st: December 16 TO 6. P.M. 2nd: December
.....

OUR ARTILLERY.

The Howitzers of 26th: and 39th: Brigades R.F.A.
co-operated in a shoot on Trench Mortars in HOOK SAP from
1.40 P.M to 1.50 P.M. -

The Howitzers of 252 Brigade R.F.A. registered on LUISENHOF
FARM obtaining 12 direct hits.

HOSTILE ARTILLERY.

MARTINPUICH was shelled with 8.2", A.P. 5.9",
4.2", 77mm and gas shells from 6. P.M. to 10. P.M. of 1st:
December 1916, in retaliation to our bombardment at 1.40
In retaliation to our bombardment at 1.40 P.M. the Left Kasse
Sector and LE SANS was shelled with 4.2"'s

GENERAL.

Minenwerfers were active throughout the day.
Observation was too poor to see enemy movements.

W. J. G. H. - Green
for

H. Qtrs: 1st: D.A.
2nd: December 16

Captain.
Brigade Major R.A., 1st: Division

348

LEFT GROUP DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY.

From 6 P.M. 1st December to 6 P.M. 2nd December 1916.

1. ACTION OF OUR ARTILLERY.

The enemy having been reported at about 11.45 a.m. to have captured a post at M 16 A 5 9, batteries on that zone opened on S.O.S. lines, until about 1 p.m. when the enemy were reported to have been driven out again.

Various registrations carried out.

2. ACTION OF HOSTILE ARTILLERY.

Enemy bombarded MARTINPUICH heavily on evening of 1st with 5.9, 77 m/m and gas shell, from about 8 to 9.30 p.m. for which our Artillery retaliated in conjunction with Heavies. Intermittent shelling today of RUTHERFORD ALLEY and BAUCOURT L'ABBAYE road, otherwise fairly quiet.

3. MATTERS OF GENERAL INTEREST.

Light very bad all day.

V. Lavallant
for Major.

2. 12. 1916.

Brigade Major R.A. 23rd Division.

111 CORPS HEAVY ARTILLERY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

6.0 pm 1/12/18 to 6.0 pm 2/12/18.

Observation was had all day.

Between 9.30 and 11 pm all nature's bombardment the Battalion Headquarters in LOUPART WOOD, LITTLE WOOD, GALLWITZ LINE and Dugout in L.I.I.d. and LITTLE WOOD was again bombarded at 12 noon.

Gas shells were fired at the dugouts - N.I.a. at dusk.

BIENVILLERS and ACHET - LE - GRAND were shelled during the day.

At night particular attention was paid to the roads between ACHET - LE - PETIT, LE GRAND and BIENVILLERS; main roads leading N.W. and S.W. from GRIVILLERS and the crossroads at G.22.6.3.1 and G.33.6.8.7.

1/12/18.

Captain,

Brigade Major Heavy Artillery, 111 Corps.

0293

III Corps Counter Battery report.
for 24 hours ending 6 pm. Dec. 2nd 1918.

HOSTILE FIRE. Hostile fire was not heavy except on MARTINPUICH which was very heavily shelled from 6 pm. to 11 pm. with all calibres from 21 cm. to 77 mm.; gas shell were also used by the enemy.

The fire came from GREVILLERS, LOUPART & PYS directions.

23 Hostile batteries were neutralized and the 15 cm. and 21 cm. fire slackened almost immediately .

The IV CORPS assisted by neutralising batteries in the neighbourhood of PYS.

LE SARS & EAUCOURT L'ABBAYE were lightly shelled and forward communications were shelled intermittently with 77 mm.

S 3 was shelled intermittently by a 15 cm. Howitzer from GREVILLERS direction and there was a five minutes hurricane bombardment of S 2 a with 10.5 cm.

The neighbourhood of FRICOURT WOOD was shelled by a 15 cm. LONG GUN about 2 pm.; about 12 rounds fell. These were distributed over a large area; the 6 inch Mk.VII's retaliated on ACHIET-LE-GRAND.

The IV Corps reported a 15 cm. LONG GUN shelling AVELUX STATION AT about the same time.

OUR OWN FIRE. 25 batteries were engaged by 60 pdrs.

A five minutes shoot was carried out on the Southern apex of LOUPART WOOD by C.B.guns and howitzers at 6.45 pm.

No destructive shoots were carried out as the weather rendered observation impossible.

Hostile batteries reported active - Nil.

Lt.Colonel.R.G.A.

Counter Battery Staff Officer III Corps H.A.

15
11/12/18
RIGHT GROUP DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY.

DAILY GENERAL REPORT

No. 49.

From 6. P.M. 2nd: December TO 6. P.M. 3rd: December 18

OUR ARTILLERY.

Fire was kept up on the usual night barrages during the whole day owing to the mist. At 11.P.M. at the request of the Infantry 30th: Battery fired on a Minenwerfer at Junction of HOOK SAP and the GIRD LINE and effectually silenced it. From the front line O.P. registration of the Howitzers of 252 Brigade R.F.A. was checked on LUISENHOF FARM - SUNKEN ROAD in N. 13. d. 26.5 and BAYONET TRENCH in N.13.d.0.3 were also registered.

HOSTILE ARTILLERY.

Area M. 17. c and d - M. 23. a. and b and M.24.a.&.c were subjected to 3 minute severe bombardments about every $\frac{1}{2}$ hour lasting from 11.A.M. till dusk - 77mm and 4.2" only were used.

GENERAL.

Visibility was poor.

H. Qtrs: 1st: D.A.
3rd: December 18.

W. J. Jones
Captain.
Brigade Major R.A., 1st: Division.

LEFT GROUP DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY.

From 3 P.M. 30th December to 3 P.M. 31st December 1914.

1. ACTION OF OUR ARTILLERY.

Howitzers bombarded CAMP THURCH.

Various tracks, roads, and strong points were hit under fire intermittently all day. A wire party at 2.0.0.0. was dispersed.

2. ACTION OF HOSTILE ARTILLERY.

MARTINPITCH was shelled during night of 30th with two heavy shells.

Hostile artillery was active against 15th Bde.

At 3 P.M. there was an intense 3 minute bombardment by field guns of our trench line round SANDHURST. This was repeated at 4 P.M.

3. MATTERS OF GENERAL INTEREST.

Observation very bad all day.

A. K. Hayter

3 - 13 - 1914.

Brigade Major 1st Division.

III Corps Counter Battery Report.
for period ending 6 pm. 3/12/1918.

HOSTILE FIRE. This was rather more than has been the case during the last few days. MARTINPUICH was shelled with gas shell between 7 pm and 9 pm. and with 5.9's between 6 am. and 7.30 am. The Area west of HIGH WOOD was also shelled with 4.2's and 77 mm. LACHRYMATORY shells between 8.30 pm. and 9.15 pm. Our trenches in M 17 a & b were barraged at intervals between 11 am. and 1 pm.

OUR OWN FIRE. No destructive shoots were carried out as mist made observation impossible.

An organised shoot was carried out on the Group of hostile batteries in G 29 d.

Neutralising fire was successfully carried out to stop hostile fire.

14 Batteries were engaged by 60 pdre.

8 " " " " " Hows.

Batteries observed active - Nil.

3/12/1918.

Lt. Colonel R. G. A.
LT. Colonel R. G. A.
Counter Battery Staff Officer III Corps M.A.

3574
III CORPS H.A. INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

6.p.m, 2nd to 6.p.m, 3rd Dec '16.

No observation was possible owing to the mist. A few
Salvoes were fired on the sunken roads in H.11.a.
During the day roads and tracks between GREVILLERS and
LOUPART WOOD were searched and at night the exits S.W.
from SAPAULS also the road from G.22, through LOUPART WOOD
to H.5, the WARLENCOURT - LEBARQUE ROAD and the main road
N.W. of COUPE GUEULE.

4/12/1916.

P. Wood
Lt. Colonel, Captain,
Brigade Major, Heavy Artillery,
III Corps.

INTELLIGENCE REPORT.

LEFT GROUP - DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY.

6 p.m. 30-12-16 to 6 p.m. 31-12-16.

1. ACTION OF OUR ARTILLERY.

DAY & NIGHT. As yesterday, 18-pounders fired battery salvoes every 15 minutes, howitzers section salvoes every 30 minutes on German front and support lines throughout the 24 hours. A barrage creeping back for 500 yards from S.O.S. lines was effected. Enemy movement was also engaged, and the chief tracks were searched at odd intervals.

2. INTELLIGENCE.

Between 8 and 9 a.m., single men were observed leaving post in M.9.d.7.1., and filing over crest towards WARLENCOURT. These were fired on. A party of men moving from G.33.c.1.4. to G.34.c.2.8. was engaged, and a party of 12 was dispersed and driven into trench at M.8.d.8.6. A party of 6, 4 of whom were carrying timber left trench M.4.a.90.45., and disappeared in trench junction M.3.d.8.8. They were engaged, and the trench junction bombarded. A working party at M.4.a.45.45. was fired upon with some success.

3. MISCELLANEOUS.

No hostile aircraft was seen. Light fairly good for observation at intervals during the day.

C. R. M. J. Williams

2nd/Lieut. RFA.,

1-1-17.

Intelligence Officer, 18th Divisional Artillery

IIIrd. Corps Counter Battery Report
for Period ending 6-3pm. 31/12/16.

HOSTILE FIRE.

FORWARD AREA

Villages LE SARRS, EADYCOURT, COURCELETTE, FLENS & MARTINPUICH were shelled during the day. 400 rounds of 77mm., 10.5cm. & 15cm. fell in MARTINPUICH between 11-0am. & 4-30pm.

Battery positions

A/71 Battery position was shelled by a 15cm. How. from LE SARRS direction, and by 10.5cm. Hows. from LOUPART WOOD & IRLES. ANZAC CORPS successfully dealt with the first and the IVth. Corps with the last. *The shell fired into this battery yesterday have been definitely identified as 21cm.*

Trenches

M 28 b, M 23 b, M 19 & M 24 a were shelled with 15cm. & 77mm. The trenches in M 16 a were shelled with 77mm. GOOSE ALLEY was shelled intermittently with 10.5cm. & 15cm. & MAXWELL Trench with 77mm. & 10.5cm.

Roads and Tramways

8-0 to 9-0am.	Road in S 12 a & b	10.5cm.
9-0am. to 3-0pm.	Sunken Road M 30 b	15cm.
10-0am. to 12-30pm.	MARTINPUICH-BAZENIN Road	15cm. Occasional
1-10 to 1-20pm.	Switch Dump Tramway	10.5cm. (12 rounds)
1-30 to 1-40pm.	----- do -----	do do
During day	BAPAUME Road in M 26	10.5 & 15cm.

Other Localities.

A 21cm. howitzer believed to be in M 21 c fired about 20 rounds into S 11 b during the morning. S 7 b was shelled by a 10 cm. H.V. Gun at 11-30am. 20 rounds fell. Five more rounds fell at 1-55pm. 40 rounds of 15cm. were fired into S 11 a during the day from a Northerly direction. 100 rounds of 10-5cm. fell in M 20 c between 3-15 and 4-30pm. HIGH WOOD, S 2, S 3 & S 6 d were shelled during the day.

BACK AREA

No shelling of the back area was reported.

GENERAL INFORMATION

A Battery Commander has made the following observations. That the heavy fire of all natures on MARTINPUICH & M 27 c. during last few days was not pre-arranged but has been due, probably, to the fact that a large number of German batteries, taking advantage of the clear weather, have used that village for registration purposes, as fire on MARTINPUICH during the last few days has come from all directions between FYS & LE TRANSLOY.

OUR OWN FIRE

A concentrated shoot was carried out on battery positions in the orchards S.W. of GREVILLERS from 8-40 to 8-43am. & on the Southern apex of LOUPART WOOD from 9-0 to 9-3am. A 15cm. battery at H 31 d 9.8 was seen active, engaged & silenced, by a 60 Pdr. battery during the morning. A Field Battery at M 8 c 3.3 was seen active & engaged by a Battery of the 15th.D.A. An explosion of ammunition was observed in the hostile battery. No aeroplane work was possible but the Counter Battery Howitzers co-operated in the concentrated shoots. Hostile batteries were engaged by 60 Pdrs. on 55 occasions & 5 by Howitzers.

Batteries seen active by:-
F.O.O's. 4

Other Sources Nil.

358

III Corps, Hy: Arty: INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

6 p.m. 30th - 6 p.m. 31st Dec '18.

VISIBILITY.

Good. Best during afternoon.

MOVEMENT.

Smoke of engine seen about 1.30. on Railway running East from BAPAUME about 5.30 p.m.

6 Wagons were seen at 3.22.c.3.2. They were fired on and disappeared into the sunken road to the West.

A large explosion was seen in BAPAUME at 3.30 p.m.

The new trench a.10.d.4.0. to a.16.d.9.9. and BUTTE trench between the BUTTE and BAPAUME road were successfully occupied by 8" and 9.2" Hows. Many rounds were observed to fall in trench.

LOUPART WOOD and the road between ACHET LE PIZET and ACHET LE GRAND were shelled by 8" guns during the day.

W. J. Smith

1st Jan '19.

Brigade Major, Hy: Arty: III Corps.

Headquarters R.A.
IIIrd Corps.

Ammunition expended 1st to 31st December 1916.

=====

<u>TYPE.</u>	<u>ROUNDS.</u>
A.	42742
A.X.	100377
B.X.	36147
B.COM.	968
B.S.K.	490
B.P.S.	698
B.O.B.R.	100
W.	1217
W.X.	2625
W.S.K.	150
W.P.S.	37
D.	8094
D.X.	13635
D.S.K.	310
D.P.S.	418
D.O.B.R.	117
D.COM.	10
K.	307
K.X.	827
P.	7234
F.	818
S.	2693
M.	3886
T.	14
U.	15
THERMITE.	1

31/12/16.

(sd) E.R.Gibson Lieut.R.A.
for Brig-General,
G.O.C., R.A., IIIrd Corps.

SECRET

Copy No. 4

ARTILLERY INSTRUCTIONS NO. 110
BY
THE G.O.C., R.A., IIIrd CORPS.

H.Q., R.A., III Corps.

25th December, 1916.

1. "A" Battery, R.H.A. and proportion Ammunition Column attached to IIIrd Corps will return to its Division. They will be ready to march out of MOLLIERE AU BOIS on 1st January, 1917, and will come out of action on December 30th, 1916, under arrangements made by G.R.A. Right Group.

On January 3rd March to LONGPRE LES CORPS SAINTS

" - " - 4th - " - TOLUPLES (S.W. of ABBEVILLE)

" - " - 5th - " - SALLENELLE (Destination).

2. Rations will be drawn from IIIrd Corps until January 4th (inclusive) and after that date from Cavalry Corps.
3. Any roads and times are available for the moves from MOLLIERE AU BOIS to SALLENELLE.
4. Section of Divisional Ammunition Park at present at CONTAY will move to XIV Corps area M.M. Dump (E.22.d) on January 6th.

Rations will be drawn from IIIrd Corps until January 6th (inclusive), then from XIV Corps.

5. Acknowledge.

Issued at 11.30 a.m.

Ch Gibson
Major,
a/Staff Officer to G.O.C., R.A.,
IIIrd Corps.

Copy No. 1 1st Division
2 Right Div. Arty. Group.
3 "G" III Corps.
4 "G" III Corps
5 III Corps Ammun. Park
6 - 8 Filed.

SECRET

Headquarters R.A.
IIIrd Corps.

1st Division.
15th Division.
Heavy Artillery.
IIIrd Corps "G" (For information.)

2/10/16
WMP *A.C. 109*

There will be an Artillery Bombardment of the German Roads and Tracks opposite the IIIrd Corps on Christmas Day. All available guns and howitzers (less 15" and 18") will participate.

Three Salvoes will be fired.

First Salvo	11.5.am.
Second "	11.10.am.
Third "	11.20.am.

Group Commanders will distribute their fire so as to cover the whole of the targets allotted to their Groups with each salvo.

TARGETS.

LEFT GROUP:-

Track G. 33.c.14. to 5.7.
Forked Roads G. 33.c.7.7.
Road M. 5.c.5.4. to M. 5.a.8.7.

RIGHT GROUP:-

Track N. 1.c.8.2. to 3.8.
Road N. 13.b.7.0. to N. 7.d.8.8.
Road N. 7.c.1.0. to 0.8.

Heavy Arty. Group. Road G. 33.b.2.8. to G. 34.b.1.5. 7.0.
Junction of Road and Trench G. 37.a.6.8.
Cross Roads G. 32.c.35.00.
Road G. 35.d.2.2. to 7.8.
Road H. 1.a.8.8. to H. 31. d.3.3.

Any other Road or Track may be added to this list by the Division.

Watches will be synchronized at 9.am. on 25/12/16.

Acknowledge

24/12/16.

J. H. Williams
Major,
a/Staff Officer to G.C.C., R.A.,
IIIrd Corps.

WRA

By order of the Division:

WMP
by

MM
Ref
362
COPY NO. 10
ADDENDUM NO. 2 to
ARTILLERY INSTRUCTIONS NO. 100
BY
THE C.O.C., R.A.A., III Corps.

H.Q., R.A.A., III Corps.
5th December, 1916

1. No 18-pounder shrapnel will now be used for barrages from
Zero to +0.30.

2. Acknowledge. *done*

Issued at 10-35 a.m.

W. J. Lewis
Major.
Staff Officer to C.O.C., R.A.A.,
III Corps.

Addressed all recipients Artillery Instructions No. 100.

266/1792

- 3 -

6. Divisional Artillery.

Ammunition allotted for X, Y and Z days in addition to daily allotment:-

Right Divl. Artillery Group.

10,000 AX.

1,500 BX.

Left Divl. Artillery Group.

14,000 AX.

1,500 BX.

Commencing on X day the fire of the Divisional artillery will gradually be increased up to Zero on Z day, being particularly active on Y night.

7. Acknowledge.

J. W. Lewis

Issued at 0.10 p.m.

Major,
Staff Officer to G.O.C., B.A.L.,
III Corps.

Addressed all recipients 15 Aug 1918

366

7. Programme from Zero onwards. (Chinese Attack)

(a) Divisional Artillery. 18-pounders.

Two types of barrage. Creeping and stationary.

Creeping barrage.

Zero to +0.4.

Half the 18-pounders of each group will place a horizontal barrage 300 yards in front of our own front line.

+0.4 to +0.14

The barrage will creep back 50 yards per minute until it joins the stationary barrage, then all the 18-pounders will creep back 50 yards per minute for 300 yards.

Stationary barrage.

As detailed for the 18-pounders in para. 5.

(b) At +0.15 all 18-pounders and 4.5" Howitzers will come back on to original stationary barrage line and fire to order.

+0.15 to +0.30 Frequent bursts of fire on selected objectives.

(c) Howitzers (both 4.5" and 14.2").

Zero to +0.4 On objectives as detailed in para. 5.

+0.4 to +0.14 Lift on to the line BRISBANE PARK - CAT LAKE -
LA BARQUE SWITCH - GALLIERS SUPPORT - LITTLE WOOD.

Heavy Howitzers will cease fire at +0.14, recommencing at
+0.15 and continue at a gradually decreasing rate till 4 p.m.

8. Rate of fire.

Rate of fire for Heavy Artillery and 4.5" Howitzers will be detailed later.

Rate of fire for 18-pounders from Zero to +0.30 will be as follows:-

Zero to +0.5 3 rounds per gun per minute.

+0.5 to +0.30 1½ rounds per gun per minute.

9. Counter batteries will be very active from Zero on selected active hostile batteries.

10. If Divisions require any other objectives, than those detailed,

bombarded by Heavy Hows, they will please forward their requirements to this office tomorrow (Sat inst).

366

11. In the event of the operations detailed in para. 2 of III Corps Operation Order No. 144 not taking place, the objectives for the Heavy Mortars may be slightly altered or added to.

12. ACKNOWLEDGE.

Issued at 7.35 p.m.

S. A. Lewis
Major,
Staff Officer to G.O.C., R.A.,
III Corps.

Copy No. 1 1st Division
2 48th Division
3 Right Divl. Arty. Group.
4 Left Divl. Arty. Group
5 Heavy Artillery.
6 34th Squadron, R.F.C.
7 No. 14 Kite Balloon Section
8 Arty. 1st Anzac Corps
9 Arty. IV Corps.
10 III Corps "G.S."
11 R.A. Fourth Army.
12-14 Filed.

368 ✓

7. The 23rd Divisional Artillery on relief will take over the billets and bivouacs vacated by 48th Divisional Artillery, less those detailed in the Table of Routes.

10. Ammunition will be taken over in position, 23rd Div. Artv. will inform this office of amount and type of ammunition required to fill positions.

11. Acknowledge.

Issued at 10.30 a.m.

W. L. Lewis
Major,
Staff Officer to G.O.C., I.I. Corps.

- Copy No. 1 1st Division
2 15th Division
3 48th Division
4 50th Division
5 Light Div. Artv. Group
6 Left Div. Artv. Group
7 15th Divl. Artv.
8 48th Divl. Artv.
9 50th Divl. Artv.
10 Heavy Artillery
11 3rd Squadron, R.A.C.
12 No. 1 Lts Balloon Squadron
13 Artv. II Corps.
14 III Corps "C.S."
15 III Corps "C.S." 4
16 A.P.S.
17 A.D.A.S.
18 A.D.O.S.
19 R.A. Fourth Army.
20-22 Filed.

RCDIG1016053

G.O.C., R.A.,
1st December, 1916

Copy No. 12340

ADDENDUM NO. 1 to
ARTILLERY INSTRUCTIONS NO. 106
BY
THE G.O.C., R.A., IIIrd CORPS.

H.Q., R.A., III Corps.
1st December, 1916

1. Para. 6 of Artillery Instructions No. 106 is cancelled and the following para. substituted:-

Para. 6 Counter Battery work.

(a) Right Divl. Artillery Group will detail one 4.5" Howitzer Battery.

Left Divl. Artillery Group will detail one 18-pdr Battery.

These batteries will be attached to the Counter Battery Groups for tactical purposes, and should be in direct communication with the nearest counter battery.

(b) The Field Artillery Counter Batteries will during the day give precedence to counter battery work if called on, except in the case of S.O.S. call.

At night they will carry out their normal work under Divisional Arrangements.

(c) Counter Battery Staff Officer IIIrd Corps, will arrange further details with C.R.A.'s of Divisional Artillery Groups.

2. ACKNOWLEDGE.

Issued at 4.0 p.m.

W. J. Lewis

Major,
Staff Officer to G.O.C., R.A.,
III Corps.

Addressed all recipients Arty Instructions No. 106

SECRET

File 28/4/46
W.M. 12/12/46
copy 12/12/46

ARTILLERY INSTRUCTIONS NO. 104
BY
THE C.O.C., R.A., THIRD CORPS.

H.Q., R.A., III Corps.
15th November, 1946

1. Counter battery areas are allotted to IIIrd Corps as follows:-

W. Boundary - As at present - (a line from Road H.25.4.7.3 railway junction G.14.4.1.3 along the line of the railway to the north)

N. Boundary - A line through Flaks & Roads H.31.4.5.1 and H.27.4.7.1
(To come into force at noon Nov. 30th)

2. The 3rd R.A.G. which is at present attached to IIIrd Corps be re-transferred to 1st Army Corps from noon November 30th.

3. The IIIrd Corps Heavy Artillery will arrange to cover the IIIrd Corps front by 12 noon November 30th.

4. Going to XVth Corps re-entering the line the following transfers from III Corps heavy Artillery to XVth Corps will take place.

To XVth Corps	1 H.A. Group Headquarters	(To be detailed later).
	<u>Siege Batteries</u>	1st Siege Bty. (9 guns)
		11th Siege Bty. (10 guns)
		14th Siege Bty. (10 guns)
		17th Siege Bty. (10 guns)
		17th Heavy Bty. (8 guns)
		18th Heavy Bty. (8 guns)
		19th Heavy Bty. (8 guns)

Orders as to withdrawal of these batteries will be issued later, but they must be prepared to move at short notice.

5. IIIrd Corps Heavy Artillery will then be reconstituted as follows:-

Left Div. Group (35th H.A.G.) X.22.4.3.3	C.O. Gun group (44th H.A.G.) S.14.4.9.2	C.O. Ho. group (14th H.A.G.) S.14.4.7.4
40 Siege Bty.	21 Heavy Bty.	13 Siege Bty.
109 Siege Bty.	22 Heavy Bty.	37 Siege Bty.
113 Siege Bty.	23 Heavy Bty.	75 Siege Bty.
69 Siege Bty.	120 Heavy Bty.	67 Siege Bty.
133 Siege Bty.	1/1 London H.A.	122 Siege Bty.
	126 Heavy Bty.	130 Siege Bty.
		40 Siege Bty.

342

"Long Range Gun" Group, 7th H.A. Group, F.S.b.8.8

- 50th Siege Bty.
- 35th Heavy Bty.
- 1/1st Airview Heavy Bty.
- No. 10 R.A.
- 18th Siege Bty

This redistribution will take effect from Noon - 30th.

There is a possibility however that 18th Siege Battery will be transferred from "Long Range Gun" group to G.B. Howe Group.

Divisional Artillery.

Cancelled

Each Divisional Artillery Group will detail one 18-pounder battery and one 4.5" Howitzer battery for counter battery work; the numbers of the batteries selected to be notified to this office and to 3rd Squadron, R.F.C.

7. acknowledge.

Issued at 7.30 p.m.

W. Lewer

Major,
Staff Officer to G.O.C., R.A.,
III Corps.

- Copy No. 1 1st Division
- 2 15th Division
- 3 48th Division
- 4 50th Division
- 5 Right Div. Arty. Group
- 6 Left Div. Arty. Group
- 7 16th Div. Arty.
- 8 50th Div. Arty.
- 9 Heavy Artillery
- 10 34th Squadron, R.F.C.
- 11 No. 1 Air Balloon Squadron, R.F.C.
- 12 III Corps "G.S."
- 13 III Corps "A & B"
- 14 Arty. 1st Anzac Corps
- 15 Arty. II Corps
- 16 R.A. Fourth Army.
- 17-19 Filed.

40

2076^{on} H.