

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

Formation Headquarters

Item number: 1/50/24 Part 3

Title: General Staff, Headquarters 5th
Australian Division

February 1918



AWM4-1/50/24PART3

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W DiarySECRET

appendix 8

G3/2947

8th Infantry Brigade
 14th Infantry Brigade
 15th Infantry Brigade
 Divisional Artillery
 25th Machine Gun Co.
 D.M.G.O.

S.O.S. BARRAGES

1. The present system of S.O.S. barrage by which the areas from 0.36.c.05.65 to 0.36.a.10.05 and 0.17.d.87.00 to 0.18.a.10.00 are covered solely by machine gun fire will be discontinued.
2. (a) The C.R.A. will arrange for an artillery barrage to cover the whole of the Divisional front, and will prepare schemes of concentration to enable concentrated artillery fire to be put down on any sector of the Divisional front, in case of enemy raid or local attack.
 (b) The M.G. batteries at present employed on barrage as stated in para. 1 will be available for supplementing the artillery barrage.
 Infantry Brigadiers will state what portions of their front they consider tactically to be the weakest, and M.G. barrage schemes will be prepared accordingly to supplement the artillery barrage on these sectors.
 These M.G. batteries will also be prepared to switch, in order to supplement the artillery barrage on any other sectors of the front, within range, as may be necessary.
3. The change from the present system to the new system (para.2.) will come into force at 12 noon on the 13th February 1918.

(sgd) J.H. PECK.
 Lieut-Colonel,
 General Staff.
 5th Australian Division.

12th February 1918.

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Approved 7.121

G1/3490

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8th Infantry Brigade
14th Infantry Brigade
15th Infantry Brigade
Divisional Engineers.

DIVISIONAL SCOUTING AND PATROLLING SCHOOL.

1. With reference to General Staff Memorandum No.202 dated 13th instant, the first course at the above School will commence on the 20 instant at ROSSIGNOL CAMP.

2. The following will be the school staff:-

Lieut. Patterson	29th Battalion	Chief Instructor
Lieut. J.F. deMeyrick	55th Battalion	Instructor
3171 Sgt. P.L. Little	59th Battalion	Asst. Instructor
1754 L/Cpl. E.M. Wraith	55th Battalion	Asst. Instructor (to be L/Sgt. whilst acting as Instructor)

1 clerk to be detailed by the 15th Infantry Brigade
1 batman for the two officers instructors to be detailed by the 8th Infantry Brigade
1 sapper (with tools) to report daily from the nearest Field Co. to make targets, etc. To be arranged by C.R.E.

All the above personnel will report at 15th Brigade Headquarters at 11 a.m. on 18th instant.

3. Vacancies for the first course are allotted as follows:-

8th Infantry Brigade	-	4 scout sergeants.
14th Infantry Brigade	4 scout officers	-
15th Infantry Brigade	4 scout officers	4 scout sergeants.

The 14th and 15th Infantry Brigades will each send two batmen with the officers from their Brigade.

Students and batmen will report at ROSSIGNOL CAMP by 4 p.m. on the 19th instant, with unconsumed portion of the day's rations.

4. Arrangements have been made for the officers to mess at KEMMEL Club, other ranks will take their own eating utensils, and will be rationed by the 59th Battalion. Subsequently the battalion which takes over the camp from the 59th will ration other ranks at the School.

5. Students will take the following kit:-

- (a) Officers: Fighting Order
Rifle and bayonet
Revolver
Prismatic compass
Notebook
S.S. 195
Rulers, dividers, protractors
Infantry Training
Bedding etc.
- (b) Other ranks: Fighting Order
Rifle and bayonet
Revolver
Prismatic compass
Rulers, dividers, protractors
S.S.195

Battalions will, as far as possible provide students with any of the above articles not in possession of the students.

Sgd J.H. Peck
Lieut-Colonel,
General Staff.
5th Australian Division.

17/2/18.

Copy to "Q"

NOT TO BE TAKEN FORWARD OF BATTALION HEADQUARTERSS E C R E T

8th Infantry Brigade.
 14th Infantry Brigade.
 15th Infantry Brigade.
 Divisional Artillery.
 Divisional Engineers.
 D. .G.O.
 25th Machine Gun Co.
 5th Pioneer Battalion.

ANTI-AIRCRAFT DEFENCE

1. In order to deal with low flying enemy aeroplanes in forward areas an organised system of anti-aircraft defence is necessary and will be put in hand forthwith.
2. The system of defence will be organised as follows:-
 - (a) A forward line of Lewis guns (1st Echelon).
 - (b) A second line of Lewis and machine guns (2nd Echelon).
 - (c) Lewis guns attached to Artillery to protect Artillery groups (3rd Echelon).
3. Details of Echelons are as follows:-
 - I. 1st Echelon (Forward Zone)
 - (a) Made up of Lewis guns, supplied by Brigades in the Line.
 - (b) Lewis guns will be placed approximately 200 to 500 yards behind the front system, according to the ground and the areas which it is found the enemy shells.
 - (c) Single guns will not be more than 800 yards apart; guns in groups of two or more, not more than 1500 yards apart.
 - (d) An officer will be detailed by each Infantry Brigade to supervise the guns and teams so detailed.
 - II. 2nd Echelon (Front of 2nd Zone)
 - (a) Made up of Lewis guns supplied by Brigades in the Line, supplemented by machine guns of the reserve line (Front Zone) defences. Machine guns so employed will be in positions from which they can at once take their part in the general scheme of defence.
 - (b) Guns will be placed 1500 to 2000 yards behind the front line of posts.
 - (c) Single guns will be not more than 800 yards apart; guns in groups of two or more, not more than 1500 yards apart.
 - III. 3rd Echelon (Artillery Protection)
 - (a) Made up of Lewis guns supplied by the 5th Pioneer Battalion (pending the provision of Lewis guns for Artillery units and the training of necessary personnel).
 - (b) Gun teams will consist of one N.G.O. and 3 men per gun.
 - (c) Guns will be in groups of two or more and not more than 1500 yards apart.
 - (d) Guns should not be placed more than 200 to 300 yards from the battery position itself.
 - (e) The Lewis guns so employed will be under the orders of the Artillery group Commander concerned.
4. With regard to Echelons I and II. Infantry Brigadiers will confer and arrange the general line on which the guns are to be sited. Brigades of other Divisions on the flanks will also be communicated with to ensure that the whole system is properly co-ordinated. With regard to Echelon III the G.R.A. will also arrange for the protection of batteries of this Division which are in position in other Divisional areas.

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5. The role of the above defences will be to engage all low flying enemy planes (3000 feet or under) in the forward area.
6. Working parties in the forward area will be specially provided with anti-aircraft defence if the arrangements above (paras. 2 and 3) do not sufficiently protect them.
7. Infantry Brigades in the line will also arrange to employ their Stokes Light Trench Mortar batteries on anti-aircraft defence. Owing to the danger to our own troops from the employment of Stokes mortars in anti-aircraft defence, mortars so employed will not as a rule be sited more than 250 yards in rear of our front line of posts.
8. Rest billets, camps, horse lines etc. will provide for their own defence under the orders of the Brigade or unit Commander. Machine and Lewis guns so mounted for defence will be provided with definite orders. They will only engage enemy aircraft by day or by night when such aircraft clearly disclose their hostile identity. They are not to co-operate in general actions against enemy aircraft.
9. Personnel and Equipment.
- (I) Attached hereto are copies of O.B. 1934 dated 3rd February 1918 which contains details of the extra equipment being provided to meet ... defensive requirements and the reason for such provision. These will be provided and issued as soon as available.
- (II) Additional personnel is not being provided. Requirements will therefore be met in the manner suggested in O.B. 1934. The present difficulty in the organization of Vickers and Lewis guns for anti-aircraft work is the lack of permanence in the detail of the personnel. With the added equipment it will now be possible to form a small anti-aircraft organization in each unit. This organization will be the cadre for subsequent expansion. To be effective the anti-aircraft personnel of units will require a thorough initial training and frequent refresher courses will be necessary to ensure the maintenance of the required standard. When the permanent cadre requires to be augmented the additional personnel must be found from the Vickers and Lewis gun sections. The permanent cadre will therefore be made responsible for the training in ... duty of a proportion of the personnel of such sections.
- (III) Particulars of the classes to be held and the training facilities to be provided will be communicated later.
10. Pending the issue of anti-aircraft sights vide. (O.B./1934 TABLE "A" attached) the following rough rules will prove of value:
- (I) When a hostile aeroplane is flying at an angle of sight greater than 40° aim two fingers ahead of the aeroplane in the direction of the flight.
- (II) When an aeroplane is flying at an angle of sight less than 45° aim one finger ahead of the aeroplane in the direction of its flight. In both cases the back sight should be set at 600 yards.
11. The disposition of ... Lewis and machine guns as set out in paras. 2 and 3 will be put in hand forthwith.

G. H. Crofton Major
for
Lieut-Colonel,
General Staff.
5th Australian Division.

18th February 1918.

Copy to "G"

O.B./1934.

SECRET.

FOURTH ARMY.

1.—With reference to para. 3 of O.B./2093, of 21st December, it has been decided to issue Machine or Lewis Guns, additional to existing equipment except in the case of Pioneer, Cyclist, Tank Corps and Machine Gun Units. These additional guns, as well as a certain proportion of the existing guns in Units, will be provided with anti-aircraft sights and mountings.

2.—Additional guns on the scale of 1 per Squadron or Company have been allotted to Cavalry Regiments and Infantry Battalions, because the guns now on charge are troop or platoon weapons and cannot, therefore, be reserved exclusively for anti-aircraft work without decreasing the fire power of the troop or platoon to an undesirable extent.

3.—No additional guns have been allotted to:—

- (a) Pioneer and Cyclist Battalions, because normally all the guns now on charge are available for anti-aircraft work.
- (b) Tank Corps and Machine Gun Units, because these Units have sufficient guns on charge to enable them to provide for their own anti-aircraft defence.

4.—Except in the case of Cavalry Regiments and Infantry Battalions additional guns have been allotted on the principle that:—

- (a) Units which, when in action, have their wagon lines some distance away from the rest of the unit, *i.e.*, Artillery Batteries, require two guns, one for the defence of the guns and one for the defence of the wagon lines.
- (b) Units which, while at work, are normally scattered in small groups, *i.e.*, Field Companies, Train Companies, etc., require one gun only for the defence of their transport lines and camp.

5.—It is not possible to increase existing establishments and, therefore, the detachments required for the additional guns will have to be found from within the present establishment. As, however, these guns are not required to move to the same extent as the troop or platoon guns, the detachments need not be so large, and a detachment of 1 N.C.O. and 3 men will normally suffice.

In units other than Cavalry Regiments or Infantry Battalions the guns should be manned, in the case of Batteries in action, by the Battery Commander's Staff, and in the case of wagon lines or camps, by the guard.

In Cavalry Regiments and Infantry Battalions the additional guns will form part of Squadron or Company Headquarters and the detachments will be found by withdrawing one man from each Hotchkiss or Lewis Gun Section of the four troops or platoons of the Squadron or Company and attaching them to Squadron or Company Headquarters.

6.—Instructions as to the method of transport of the additional guns will be issued later.

7.—Table "A." shows in detail the scale on which guns, sights and mountings will be issued and the type of gun with which each unit will be armed.

Arrangements are being made to equip Infantry Battalions and Batteries to half scale and Royal Engineer units to full scale, forthwith.

Anti-aircraft sights and portable mountings are under manufacture, but will not be available for issue for some weeks.

8.—At first the forward area sight will be issued to all Units. This sight, which is kept permanently on the gun, consists of an elliptical ring foresight with aperture backsight and requires no adjustment while the gun is firing.

Later, a more elaborate but more accurate sight will be issued for use with guns employed on fixed anti-aircraft defences. This sight requires one man to manipulate it during firing, in addition to the man firing the gun, and is therefore not suitable for forward work.

Until the forward area sight is available, the present Hill-Jackson sight will be used.

9.—Ten magazines per Lewis and 20 strips per Hotchkiss will be issued with the additional guns.

R. BUTLER, Major-General,
for Lieutenant-General, C.G.S.

General Headquarters,
3rd February, 1918.

[P.T.O.]

TABLE "A."

UNIT.	MACHINE GUNS.		A.A. Sights.	A.A. Mountings.	REMARKS.
	Lewis.	Hotchkiss.			
Cavalry Regiment	—	3*	6	6	1 extra sight and mounting per squadron.
R.A. Battery	2	—	2	2	
A.A. Section	1	—	1	1	
Field Squadron	—	1	1	1	
Field Company	1	—	1	1	
Company Special Brigade	1	—	1	1	
Army Troops Company, R.E.	1	—	1	1	
Siege Company, R.E....	1	—	1	1	
Tunnelling Company	1	—	1	1	
A.A. Searchlight Section*	2	—	—	—	See Note (a).
Pontoon Park	1	—	1	1	
Infantry Battalion	4	—	8	8	See Note (b).
Pioneer Battalion	—	—	8	8	" " (c).
Cyclist Battalion	—	—	6	6	" " (c).
Company Tank Corps	—	—	1	1	
Machine Gun Squadron	—	—	3	3	See Note (d).
M.M.G. Battery	—	—	6	6	" " (e).
Machine Gun Company	—	—	4	4	1 per section.
A.S.C. Company	—	1	1	1	
Ordnance Mobile Workshop... ..	—	1	1	1	
Forestry Company	—	1	1	1	
Labour Company	—	1	1	1	See Note (f).
Employment Company	—	1	1	1	
R.O.D. Train	—	1	1	1	See Note (g).

NOTES :—

* Includes one gun for A.A. purposes already authorised.

(a) 1 per light mounted on projector. No sight or mounting required.

(b) 1 extra sight and mounting per Company.

(c) 1 Sight and mounting per gun on charge.

(d) 1 per two sub-sections.

(e) 1 per gun on charge.

(f) It is possible that Companies in Army Areas will be armed with Lewis guns.

(g) Up to a total of 200.

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AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

REPORT ON MINOR ENTERPRISE CARRIED OUT BY THE 54th BATTALION A.I.F.
ON THE NIGHT OF 19th FEBRUARY, 1918.

REFERENCE MAP - HOUTHEM - 1/10,000

1. On the 16th February instructions were received from the 14th Australian Infantry Brigade ordering a minor enterprise to be carried out by the 54th Battalion on GREEN FARM (O.17.b.4.4.)
On the evening of the 17th inst, a reconnoitring patrol, consisting of the Battalion Intelligence Officer (Lieut. H.E.G. STAPLES M.M.), the officer commanding the party (Lieut. A.G. BATES D.C.M.) and 6 O/Ranks of the party penetrated GREEN FARM and found that it was not occupied by the enemy. Identifications being imperative another objective had to be chosen. This was decided at a conference held at the 54th Battalion Headquarters at 10. a.m. 18th inst. The conference was attended by the G.O.C. 14th A.I. Brigade, the Officer Commanding HOLLEBEKE Artillery Group and 54th Battalion Headquarters staff. WHIZ FARM was chosen as an objective, and all arrangements were made relative to the enterprise.

2. ARRANGEMENTS AND DISPOSITIONS.

- (a) WHIZ FARM, the objective named, being a series of enemy strong points extending over a frontage of about 100 yards, the actual point of entry for the party was left to the discretion of the Officer Commanding. A personal reconnaissance on the part of the Commander on the night 18/19th February determined that the trenches or shelters shown immediately south of WHIZ FARM (as per aerial photograph) would be the main objective.
- (b) It was decided that the number of the party would be 1 officer and 20 O/Ranks.
- (c) It was arranged that the party would leave S.P.2.O.17. at 8.15 p.m. and be assembled in a line of old trenches (O.17.d.15.90 to O.17.d.30.60) by 8.45 p.m. At ZERO the party was to move forward under the protection of the artillery barrage and at ZERO plus two minutes to rush the objective, the artillery barrage having lifted to targets further in rear. The HOLLEBEKE Artillery Group arranged at ZERO, to open fire on WHIZ FARM, FLY BUILDINGS, HIGH FARM, BANG FARM, and THE TWINS. At ZERO plus two minutes the barrage was to lift from WHIZ FARM and be distributed on targets further in rear. Meanwhile the Heavy Bombardment and Counter Battery Groups were to deal with enemy defences and guns.

3. REPORT ON OPERATIONS

- (a) Everything went as per programme until the assembly point was reached. A light mist by this time having enveloped the front the O.C. Party decided to get as far forward as possible under cover of this mist before ZERO. This resulted in the party being 20 yards from the enemy wire at ZERO.
At ZERO (9 p.m.) the artillery barrage opened and the party pushed through the enemy's first line of entanglements.
At ZERO plus two minutes the second line of entanglements was passed and the party rushed the first system of posts and dugouts
- (b) No enemy was met with in the first two dugouts. Bombs were thrown into these and sentries posted at the entrances. A third and larger dugout was then rushed and the O.C. Party arrived just as a Boche came to the entrance. Lieut. Bates was fired on and missed by the man, whom he shot. The garrison showed signs of resisting until Pte. White of Battalion Headquarters Intelligence Section, a German speaker, called on them in German to surrender; this they did, leaving their arms, in accordance with Pte. White's instructions in the dugout.
The object of the enterprise being attained, Lieut. Bates decided to withdraw with his prisoners, who numbered seven. 1 of the party was detailed to each prisoner, the remainder of the party covered their retirement until the guard wire was reached, when the whole party made all haste to PIONEER LANE. The guard wire was reached on the return journey at ZERO plus ten minutes.

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- (c) ARTILLERY ACTION. This was admirably timed and carried out, and was so accurate that Lieut. Bates reports that his party were operating directly under the shrapnel bursts and within 40 yards of the H.E. bursts. The shooting was remarkably accurate. The success of the Scheme was due, in a large measure, to the artillery support - Field, Heavy and Counter Battery.
- (d) ENEMY ACTION. No enemy action commenced until ZERO plus five minutes, when four posts (S.P.2.3.17 particularly) were heavily bombarded with minenwerfer, 7.7's and 4.2's. Machine guns also opened up over the whole front, but fired high and affected the rear area rather than the forward posts. No casualties were suffered by the party.

4. INFORMATION OBTAINED.

The enemy hold the front on similar lines to the system adopted by us. The prisoners, who belong to the 162nd Regiment (17th Division) only having been in this sector 2 days, do not know where the main defensive position is. The WHIZ FARM garrison consists of 4 or 5 dugouts or concrete shelters, each containing from 3 to 7 men. The locality is strongly wired with 2 bands of wire. This is, however, in constant need of repair, as a result of our 9.45 H.T.M. activity.

5. RESULT OF RAID.

The result of the enterprise was to capture 7 of the enemy and inflict a number of casualties. Two of the enemy were known to have been killed and 1 officer severely wounded; it is possible that the casualties sustained by the enemy were even heavier than this. The success of the enterprise was due to:-

1. Good leadership.
2. An enthusiastic and carefully chosen raiding party (volunteers).
3. Previous reconnaissance by the whole party of the locality to be raided.
4. The inclusion of a German speaker in the raiding personnel.
5. Last, but not least, splendid artillery co-operation.

19/2/18.

(sgd) D.M. McCONAGHY Lieut-Colonel,
Commanding 54th Battalion, A. I. F.

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X

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X

NOTE:-

At 11.25 p.m. a burst of fire was put over on WHIZ FARM by the HOLLEBEKE Group in order to catch any working party employed in repairing the damage.

21/2/18.

J.H. Peck
Lieut-Colonel,
General Staff,
5th Australian Division.

Raid preparation

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1. Object of raid.
 - (a) obtain identification - alive - or dead
 - (b) Kill enemy
 - (c) damage defences

Identification not essential - men using knobkeria judiciously

2. Point of entry. selection from information observed, or read from aeroplane photographs

3. Size of party and plan

4. Artillery ^{MG. Inf. M.} action before and during the raid watches synchronized etc. - cutting wire.

5. Arrangements for approach march, assembly and withdrawal.

6. Medical arrangements

7. Any help required from neighbouring units or divisions, (artillery, infantry or m. Gun action)

8. Raid, if desired in the dark, must be done by the

9. ^{20th} Report after giving details to be forwarded to Division for transmission to Corps for approval

[Handwritten signature]

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CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY, 1918.

Times calculated for FOURTH ARMY Front and GREENWICH MEAN TIME.

Day of Month.	Sun.		Day of Month.	Moon.		Phase
	Rises	Sets		Rises	Sets.	
1	7.26 a.m.	4.42 p.m.	1	10.48 p.m.	8.51 a.m.	
2	7.25	4.43	2	11.56	9.8	
3	7.23	4.45	3	-	9.31	
4	7.21	4.47	4	1.04 a.m.	9.56	Last Cr
5	7.20	4.48	5	2.11	10.28	
6	7.18	4.50	6	3.18	11.14	
7	7.17	4.51	7	4.19	12.10 p.m.	
8	7.15	4.53	8	5.08	1.19	
9	7.13	4.55	9	5.49	2.38	
10	7.12	4.57	10	6.19	4.02	
11	7.10	4.59	11	6.47	5.28	New Moon
12	7.09	5.00	12	7.11	6.57	
13	7.07	5.01	13	7.32	8.30	
14	7.05	5.03	14	7.54	9.49	
15	7.04	5.05	15	8.19	11.14	
16	7.02	5.07	16	8.44	-	
17	7.00	5.09	17	9.18	0.32 a.m.	1st Cr
18	6.58	5.11	18	9.57	1.47	
19	6.56	5.13	19	10.45	2.52	
20	6.54	5.14	20	11.43	3.47	
21	6.52	5.16	21	12.49 p.m.	4.28	
22	6.50	5.18	22	1.54	5.03	
23	6.48	5.20	23	3.04	5.29	
24	6.46	5.22	24	4.09	5.51	
25	6.44	5.24	25	5.19	6.07	Full Moon
26	6.42	5.26	26	6.25	6.27	
27	6.40	5.27	27	7.30	6.46	
28	6.38	5.29	28	8.34	7.1	



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"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	Date.....
					At.....	Service.	From.....
					To.....	By.....	
					By.....	(Signature of "Franking Officer.")	

TO { Aust Corps I

at 017 d 178
AAA in minor

Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.
* 10 3744.	19	

Seven prisoners secured by patrol at 017 d 78 minor enterprise tomorrow AAA
 Identification 10 Co. 162 IR AAA
 Order of battle N to S
 76 162 163 normal AAA
 Relieved 2nd Div on night 18th/19th six days in line AAA
 17th Res Div. probably to be relieved by 8th Div 4th to 8th March then one month in rest at GHENT or BRUGES AAA
 Offensive perhaps at LENS or SOISSONS AAA Statements vary as to probability of anything here AAA
 Six company system in vogue AAA
 No knowledge of gas AAA

Place: 5th Aust Div
 Time: [blank]
 The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z) K.A. Goodlaw

* This line should be erased if not required. (3796.) Wt. W 492/M1647. 650,000 Pads. 5/17. H. W. & V., Ltd. (E. 1187.)

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app. (11)

Prisoners 10 Coy 162 I. R. AAA
 Order of Battle N to S 76, 162, 163.
 normal AAA relieved second Battalion
 on 18/19 six days - Line AAA 17 Reg
 Div. probably to be relieved by 8th
 Div. 4-8 March. The one month
 in rest at Chert or Boulogne. AAA
 offensive perhaps at sea or Sorbus.
 statements vary as to probability of
 being here AAA six Coy system in
 vague AAA no knowledge of gas.

REPORT ON MINOR ENTERPRISE CARRIED OUT BY THE 54th BATTALION, A.I.F. ON THE NIGHT OF 19th FEBRUARY, 1918.

REFERENCE MAP. - HOUTHEN - 1/10,000.

1. On the 16th February instructions were received from the 14th Australian Infantry Brigade ordering a raid to be carried out by the 54th Battalion on GREEN FARM (O.17.b.4.4.)

On the evening of the 17th inst., a reconnoitring patrol consisting of the Battalion Intelligence Officer (Lieut. H.E.G. Staples, M.M.), the officer commanding the projected raid (Lieut. A.G. Bates, D.C.M.), and 6 O/Ranks of the raiding party penetrated GREEN FARM and found that it was not occupied by the enemy. Identifications being imperative another objective had to be chosen. This was decided at a conference held at the 54th Battalion Headquarters at 10a.m. 18th inst. The conference was attended by the G.O.C. 14th A.I. Brigade, the Officer Commanding HOLLEBEKE Artillery Group and 54th Battalion Headquarters Staff. WHIZ FARM was chosen as an objective, and all arrangements were made relative to the raid. *enterprise*

2. ARRANGEMENTS AND DISPOSITIONS.

- (a) WHIZ FARM, the objective named, being a series of enemy strong points extending over a frontage of about 100 yards, the actual point of entry for the raiding party was left to the discretion of the Officer Commanding raid. A personal reconnaissance on the part of the raid Commander on the night 18/19th February determined that the trenches or shelters shown immediately south of WHIZ FARM (as per aerial photograph) would be the main objective.
- (b) It was decided the number of the raiding party would be 1 Officer and 20 O/Ranks.
- (c) It was arranged that the party would leave S.P.2.O.17. at 8-15p.m. and be assembled in a line of old trenches (O.17.d.15.90 to O.17.d.30.60.) by 8-45p.m. At ZERO the party were to move forward under the protection of the Artillery Barrage and at ZERO plus two minutes to rush the objective, the Artillery Barrage having lifted to targets further in rear. The HOLLEBEKE Artillery Group arranged, at ZERO, to open fire on WHIZ FARM, FLY BUILDINGS, HIGH FARM, BANG FARM and THE TWINS. At ZERO plus two minutes the Barrage was to lift from WHIZ FARM and be distributed on targets further in rear. *Meanwhile the Heavy Bombardment party took care of enemy gun positions were to deal with enemy*

3. REPORT ON OPERATIONS.

- (a) Everything went as per programme until the assembly point was reached. A light mist by this time having enveloped the front the O.C. raid decided to get as far forward as possible under cover of this mist before ZERO. This resulted in the party being 20 yards from the enemy wire at ZERO.

At ZERO (9p.m.) the Artillery Barrage opened and the party pushed through the enemy's first line of entanglements.

At ZERO plus two minutes the second line of entanglements was passed and the party rushed the first system of posts and dug-outs.

- (b) No enemy was met with in the first two dug-outs. Bombs were thrown into these and sentries posted at the entrances. A third and larger dug-out was then rushed and the O.C. raid arrived just as a Bosche came to the entrance. Lieut. Bates was fired on and missed by this man, whom he shot. The garrison showed signs of resisting until Pte. White of Battalion Headquarters Intelligence Section, a German speaker, called on them in German to surrender; this they did, leaving their arms, in accordance with Pte. White's instructions, in the dug-out. *enterprise*

The object of the raid being attained, Lieut. Bates decided to withdraw with his prisoners, who numbered seven. 1 of the raiding party was detailed to each prisoner, the remainder of the party covered their retirement until the guard wire was reached, when the whole party made all haste to PIONEER LANE. The guard wire was reached on the return journey at ZERO plus ten minutes.

- (c) ARTILLERY ACTION. This was admirably timed and carried out, and was so accurate that Lieut. Bates reports that his party were operating directly under the shrapnel bursts and within 40 yards of the H.E. bursts. The shooting was remarkably accurate.

The success of the scheme was due, in a large measure, to the Artillery support. *Heavy and counter-battery*

3. REPORT ON OPERATIONS (Cont'd.)

(d) ENEMY ACTION. No enemy action commenced until ZERO plus five minutes, when the four posts (S.P.2.0.17 particularly) were heavily bombarded by minnenwerfer, 7.7's and 4.2's. Machine Guns also opened up over the whole front, but fired high and affected the rear area rather than the forward posts. No casualties were suffered by the ~~raiding~~ party.

4. INFORMATION OBTAINED.

The enemy held the front on similar lines to the system adopted by us. The prisoners, who belong to the 162nd Regiment (17th Division) only having been in this Sector 2 days, do not know where the main defensive position is. The WILZ FARM Garrison consists of 4 or 5 dug-outs or concrete shelters, each containing from 3 to 7 men. The locality is strongly wired with 2 bands of wire. This is, however, in constant need of repair, as a result of bur 9.45 H.T.M. activity.

5. RESULT OF RAID.

The result of the ^{raid} was to capture 7 of the enemy and inflict a number of casualties. Two of the enemy were known to have been killed, and 1 Officer severely wounded; it is possible that the casualties sustained by the enemy were even heavier than this.

The success of the enterprise was due to:-

1. Good leadership.
2. An enthusiastic and carefully chosen raiding party (volunteers.)
3. Previous reconnaissance by the whole party of the locality to be raided.
4. The inclusion of a German speaker in the raiding personnel.
5. Last, but not least, splendid Artillery co-operation.

(Signature)

Debonagh

Lieut-Colonel.

Commanding.

54th Battalion, A.I.F.

19/2/18.

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app 11

- 54th Battalion
- 53rd Battalion)
- 55th Battalion)
- 56th Battalion)
- 14th M.G.Coy.)
- 14th L.T.M.B.)
- 8th Inf. Brigade.)
- 12th Inf. Brigade.)
- 5th Aust. Division.) ✓

SECRET.

app. 11.



1. A minor enterprise will be carried out by the 54th Battalion on the night 19th/20th February, against WHIZ FARM at O.17.d.7.8. with the object of obtaining identifications and prisoners.
2. The enterprise will be carried out by a party of 1 Officer and about 20 other ranks, with the co-operation of the HOLLEBEKE GROUP artillery.
3. The party will assemble in a lie out position about O.17.d.3.7. by Zero. At Zero the artillery will open on WHIZ FARM, FLY BUILDINGS, HIGH FARM, BANG FARM and THE TWINS, for two minutes. During this time the infantry will work towards WHIZ FARM as far as possible. At Zero plus 2 min the guns will lift from WHIZ FARM and the party will close in and investigate the strong point. The O.C. party will arrange his own signal for withdrawal. Fire will be maintained on the other strong points mentioned above until the party has returned.
4. The 8th Infantry Brigade has arranged to silence any enemy action from WASP FARM, by trench mortar fire.
5. Details of the artillery action are forwarded separately to 54th Battalion.
6. Zero hour will be notified later.

R. G. Jones Major,
 Brigade Major,
 14th Aust. Infantry Brigade.

18th February, 1918.



R.G.J.

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app. 11.

SECRET.

Copy No. 6

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY ORDER No. 165.

Headquarters,
19th. Feby. 1918.

Reference Map 1-10,000 MONTMELVILLE.

1. The 14th. Australian Infantry Brigade are carrying out a minor enterprise on the night 19th./20th. February, 1918.
2. Field Artillery co-operation will be arranged by C.O. HOLLIBROOK Group.
3. The Heavy Artillery, Australian Corps are co-operating in accordance with attached Table and with Counter Battery.
4. C.O. MESSINES Group will arrange a diversion on the MESSINES Group Front commencing 5' before ZERO.
5. Matches will be synchronised under arrangements made by C.O. HOLLIBROOK Group.
6. ZERO HOUR will be notified later.
7. ACKNOWLEDGE. *VΦM*

Attention

Major,
Brigade Major,
5th. Australian Divisional Artillery.

Issued at 5.50 p.m. on :- Comm. No.

- MESSINES Group. 1.
- COSTAVERTS Group. 2.
- HOLLIBROOK Group. 3.
- D.T.M.O. 5th. Aust. Divn. 4.
- C.O. 5th. D.A. Column. 5.
- "G", 5th. Aust. Divn. 6.
- I.A., AUSTRALIAN Corps. 7.
- H.A., AUSTRALIAN Corps. 8 - 9.
- (1 for C.B.S.O.)
- 3rd. Aust. Divl. Artillery. 10.
- 4th. Aust. Div. Artillery. 11.
- G.O.C., 3th. Aust. Inf. Brigade 12.
- G.O.C., 14th. " " " 13.
- G.O.C., 15th. " " " 14.
- Staff Captain. 15.
- R.O. 16.
- File. 17.
- War Diary. 18.-20.
- 12. H. Group* 21.

See Table P. 10

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TABLE
 (to accompany 5th. Aust. Divl. Artillery Order No. 165.)

Tire.	Nature of Piece.	T A S K.	Rds. pgpm.	Ammunition.
Zero to Zero + 15'	1 6" How.	Bombard POLL HOUSE 0.18.a.75.55.	- 1.	15.
Zero to Zero + 15'	3 6" Hows.	Bombard BOMB FARM 0.18.c.70.97. to CENTRE FARM - 0.18.c.40.15.	+ 1.	45.

N.B. "pgpm" signifies "per gun per minute."

app. 11
 11.44



app. 11
SECRET.

8th A.L.T.M. Batt.
32nd Battalion

1. A minor operation will be carried out by the 14th Aust. Inf. Bde on the left of this Brigade Sector on the night 19/20th February against WHIZ FARM at O 17 D 7 8 with the object of obtaining identifications and securing prisoners.
2. The enterprise will be carried out by a party of 1 Officer and about 20 O.R. with the co-operation of the HOLLEBEKE Group Artillery
3. At ZERO the Artillery will open on WHIZ FARM, FLY BUILDINGS, HIGH FARM, BANG FARM and THE TWINS for two minutes. At ZERO plus 3 minutes the guns will lift from WHIZ FARM and this point will be investigated by the party.
4. The O.C. 8th A.L.T.M. Batt. will arrange to have two guns, together with 50 rounds of ammunition per gun, in position to deal with enemy action and silence any hostile machine gun fire from WASP FARM O 23 B 50 55.
5. O.C. 8th A.L.T.M. Batt. will arrange with 29th Battalion to furnish a covering party for the guns.
6. MESSINES and COSTAVERNE Groups Artillery will co-operate by fire along the enemy front line from ZERO to ZERO plus 3 minutes and then a Box Barrage will be placed around the lane in enemy wire at O 35 D 25 80 from ZERO plus 3 minutes to ZERO plus 15 minutes. 32nd Battalion will arrange for a fighting patrol to be in position at ZERO and, if possible, to get through the enemy wire under cover of the barrage and investigate enemy trenches and secure prisoners. From ZERO plus 15 minutes to ZERO plus 2 hours artillery fire will not be directed on the enemy trenches in this vicinity.
7. Lane out in enemy wire will be kept under fire by 8th M.G. Coy who will arrange times for firing direct with C.O., 32nd Battalion.
8. Detail of artillery action will be notified when received.
9. Zero hour will be notified later.
10. ACKNOWLEDGE by wire. *fm*

19th February 1918

A. Dickson
Capt.
Brigade Major 8th Aust. Inf. Bde.

Copies to :-

5th Aust. Div.
29th Battalion
30th " "
31st " "
8th M.G. Coy
15th M.G. Coy
MESSINES Group Artillery
COSTAVERNE Group Artillery.
14th Aust. Inf. Bde.



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no. 10



SECRET.

COUNTER BATTERY - AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

COUNTER BATTERY ORDER NO 29/4.

In support of a raid to be carried out by the ^{5th} AUSTRALIAN DIVISION this evening, the 19th instant, Counter Battery action will be as follows:-

1. Targets to be engaged by batteries are detailed in Table 'A' attached.

2. Rates of fire will be:-

6" Hows.	Zero. to Zero plus 20.	1 round per gun per minute.
8" Hows.	" " "	2 rounds per gun per 3 minutes.
9.2" Hows.	" " "	2 rounds per gun per 3 minutes.

3. Fire will cease at Zero plus 20 unless further orders are received.

4. Zero hour will be notified later; special instructions for Brigades concerned are enclosed in separate cover herewith.

5. PLEASE ACKNOWLEDGE BY WIRE. ✓ *gm*

W. H. ...

Lieut. Col. R.A.
C.B.S.O. AUSTRALIAN CORPS H.A.

19.2.18.

Issued at 8 p.m.

Copies to:- No 1. R.A. AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

- 2. B.M., H.A.
- 3. 41 Brigade.
- 4. 36 (AUST) Brigade.
- 5. 51 Brigade.
- 6. 52 Brigade.
- 7. 18 Brigade.
- 8. 50 Brigade.
- 9. 12 Brigade.
- 10. 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.
- 11. File.
- 12-14. Spare.

Approved

mm

...



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SECRET.

T A B L E "A"

12th BRIGADE R.G.A.

242 S.B.	PY 11	1 gun.
	PY 23	1 gun
	P 34 c 9080	2 guns.
263 S.B.	PY 51	1 gun.
	PZ 33	2 guns.
70 S.B.	PY 54	1 gun.
	P 32 b 6396	1 gun.
	P 32 b 7060	1 gun
	PY 85	1 gun.
	PY 41	1 gun.

50th BRIGADE R.G.A.

72 S.B.	PZ 19	2 guns.
	PZ 37	1 gun.
74 S.B.	PZ 101	2 guns.

18th BRIGADE R.G.A.

218 S.B.	PZ 20	2 guns.
	PZ 101	2 guns.
117 S.B.	PZ 35	1 gun.
	PZ 24	2 guns.
	P 34 a 5050	1 gun.
180 S.B.	PZ 20	2 guns.
	P 22 b 9080	2 guns.

41st BRIGADE R.G.A.

1 S.B.		
	P 26 d 4560	1 gun.
	P 27 d 1530	1 gun
	VW 11	1 gun.

19.2.18.

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S E C R E T.

Appendix 12
G7/ H044

8th Infantry Brigade.

TEST MANNING OF DEFENCES BY RESERVE BRIGADE.

With reference to "B" Division Defence Scheme, Section 3, para. 4 :-

1. I am to ask you to carry out a test manning of the defences in skeleton in accordance with sub-paras. (i) (ii) and (iii) of the abovementioned paragraph and referred to therein as under

- (i) (a) Reserve Brigade Scheme "A" night:
- (b) Reserve Brigade Scheme "A" day :
- (ii) Reserve Brigade Scheme "B":
- (iii) Reserve Brigade Scheme "C".

2. The skeleton force should consist of as many officers and N.C.O's. as can be spared from the work of supervising working parties etc., and in any case the practices will be repeated until all officers and N.C.O's. of the Brigade have taken part therein.

3. The correct distances and the pace which would obtain in the real operation will be maintained, as it is desired to ascertain the length of time necessary to carry out the disposition of the Brigade under the various schemes.

4. In carrying out the practice during daylight care is to be taken to avoid observation by the enemy, and time of the exercise is to be selected with regard to this.

5. Notification of the practices will be given to units concerned and this office. The Divisional Commander is anxious for the practices to be completed as soon as possible.

6. It will be seen that in the night concentration scheme "A" there is the liability of the "A", "B" and "C" battalions clashing at the WYTSCHAETE "bottle neck", and it is possible that better arrangements will suggest themselves to avoid this possibility - and of much greater importance - to avoid the heavy shell fire which is almost sure to be directed against this locality in case of an attack.

J. Meade
Lieut-Colonel, G.S.,
5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

22nd February 1918.
Copies to :-

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Aust. Corps | Div. Engineers |
| 14th Infantry Brigade | Div. Train |
| 15th Infantry Brigade | Div. Signal Co. |
| 5th Pioneer Battalion | A.D.M.S. |
| 25th Machine Gun Co. | A.P.M. |
| 5th Aust. Div. Art. | |

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SECRET.

SECRET

G22/4339 142

Appendix 13

Headquarters,
 AUSTRALIAN CORPS.
 14th Infantry Brigade)
 15th Infantry Brigade)
 Divisional Artillery)
 Divisional Engineers)
 A. Q.)
 D.A.D.O.S.) For information.
 Headquarters)
 3rd Australian Division)
 4th Australian Division)
 1st Australian Division.)

RAIDS.

1. Approval is requested to carry out a series of raids as detailed below on or about 2nd March 1918:-
 - (a) Raids by 15th Infantry Brigade:
 - (i) At U.5.d.70.23 approximately,
 - (ii) At O.35.d.8.8 approximately.
 - (b) Raid and Chinese attack by 14th Infantry Brigade:
 - (i) Raid at WHIZ FARM (O.17.d.65.75) or BANG FARM (O.17.b.95.32)
 - (ii) "Chinese attack" at THE TWINS (O.11.d.95.25).

"Z" day and selected hour will be fixed ^{in consultation} with the 3rd Australian Division.
2. The objects of the raids and "Chinese attacks" are:-
 - (i) To capture or kill as many enemy as possible.
 - (ii) To damage or destroy material and defences.
 - (iii) To obtain identifications.
 - (iv) To create a diversion to assist the 3rd Australian Division.
3. The number of men employed in each raiding party will be from about 20 to 30 and the methods adopted will be similar to those successfully employed on the 19th instant. Detailed plans will be submitted later.

J. H. ...
add

25th February 1918.

Major General,
 Commanding 5th Australian Division.

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app. 14

G1/4633

- 8th Infantry Brigade
- 14th Infantry Brigade
- 15th Infantry Brigade
- 25th Machine Gun Co
- 5th Pioneer Battalion
- Divisional Artillery
- Divisional Engineers
- Divisional Signal Co.
- Divisional Train
- A.D.M.S.
- D.A.D.V.S.
- A.P.M.
- D.A.D.O.S
- Camp Commandant
- Divisional Salvage Co.

Appendix 14

1. With reference to this office letter G1/4483 of the 26th instant, the place at which the lecture will be delivered is KEMMEL School House on the KEMMEL - LA CLYTTE Road. The subject will be "Duties and responsibilities of junior officers".
2. Officers above the rank of Captain may also attend.

A.H. Peck

Lieut-Colonel, G.S
5th Australian Divisi

28th February 1918.

Copy to "Q".

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app. 14

app. 14

G1/4483

- 8th Infantry Brigade
- 14th Infantry Brigade
- 15th Infantry Brigade
- 25th Machine Gun Co.
- 5th Pioneer Battalion
- Divisional Artillery
- Divisional Engineers
- Divisional Signal Co.
- Divisional Train
- A.D.M.S.
- D.A.D.V.S.
- A.F.M.
- D.A.D.C.S.
- Camp Commandant
- Divisional Salvage Co.

1. The Divisional Commander will lecture to all available officers of all units of the rank of captain and below that rank at 3 p.m. on 1st March 1918. The subject of the lecture will be communicated later.
2. Unit Commanders are requested to make special efforts to facilitate the attendance of junior officers.
3. "Q" Branch of the Division will arrange for a lecture hall at KEMMEL and will notify all concerned of the locality.

W. Beck

Lieut-Colonel, G.S.
5th Australian Division.

26th February 1918.

Copy to "Q".

S E C R E T.

G7/ 4870

8th Infantry Brigade
 14th Infantry Brigade
 15th Infantry Brigade
 25th Machine Gun Co.
 5th Pioneer Battalion
 Divisional Artillery
 Divisional Engineers
 Divisional Signal Co.
 Divisional Train
 A.D.M.S.
 A.P.M.
 D.M.G.O.
 184th Tunnelling Co.

Appendix 15ENEMY'S ATTACK.

1. The following message has been received from Australian Corps :-
 " Deserter 84th R.I.R., captured by Corps on our Left yesterday, states that an attack on the high ground about J.22.a.6.9. is to take place in the early morning of February 28th, but this may be postponed for a few days owing to casualties sustained by Divisional Artillery."

2. With reference to the above, the Divisional Commander directs that no troops are to be utilised as working or other parties other than those absolutely essential, such as ration parties etc. β. Troops attached to Field Companies and Tunnelling Co. may carry on with their tasks as long as the provision as regards the carrying of arms and ammunition, as laid down by Defence Scheme are observed.
 Troops of the Reserve Brigade may carry on with Musketry and other training, provided they are not unduly dispersed in so doing.

27th February 1918.

J. H. Peck
 Lieut-Colonel, G.S.,
 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Copies to :-
 "A.G."

β until after 8 a.m. 28th instant.

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app. 16

CFC

8th Infantry Brigade	Divisional Engineers
14th Infantry Brigade	5th Pioneer Battalion .
15th Infantry Brigade	

G7/2876

app. 16

War Diary

The Corps Commander has approved of the policy of not carrying out new work on SUNDAYS provided the amount of work done during the previous six days warrants it. Should the amount of work done during the previous six days not be satisfactory, SUNDAY work will be reinstated.

This is to be explained to the men so that they may understand that the matter of a SUNDAY holiday depends upon the energy which they themselves put into their daily work.

11th February 1918.

W. Sweet
 Major, G.S.,
 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.