

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

Formation Headquarters

Item number: 1/29/5 Part 2

Title: General Staff, Headquarters, 1st
ANZAC Corps

June 1916



AWM4-1/29/5PART2

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C.R.No. 106/52.

FIRST AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND ARMY CORPS.

SECRET.

Headquarters,
June 16th, 1916GENERAL STAFF CIRCULAR No.12.Subject:- CONTRE-ESPIONAGE.

In the event of the Army at any time advancing from its present position, the contre-espionage system, as it at present exists, will be broken up. A contre-espionage personnel, consisting of an Intelligence (C.E.) Officer, a few Intelligence Police, and a certain number of Inspectors of the French or Belgian Surete (according to the country in which the Corps is operating), will be allotted to the Corps to work under the Intelligence branch. The Inspectors will most conveniently be attached to divisions to assist divisional A.P.M.'s in the selection of suitable inhabitants to reorganize the local authority in communes that are occupied, but they will also be available to assist the other C.E. personnel in general C.E. work, and will be under the Corps Intelligence (C.E.) Officer.

The following is the contre-espionage establishment of the 1st A.&N.Z.A.CORPS, which will be formed from personnel of the BAILLEUL office on mobilization:-

	Officers.	N.C.Os. & men	Batmen.	Motor Cycles	Pedal cycles.
Intelligence Officers.	1.	-	1	1 (c)	-
Intelligence Police.	-	3	-	-	3
French Surete Officials.	-)-	3 (-	-)
Belgian Surete Officials.	-)	3 (-	-) 3
Total with Corps.	1	6	-	1	6

(c) Singer Car may be taken in addition when available.

To.	No. of Copies		
1st Aus Div	2	Q.	1
2nd Aus Div	2	War Diary	1
N.Z. Div	2	A.P.M.	1
G.	2	File	1
C.E.	1		
B.G.R.A.	1		
A.	1		

C.B. White
Brigadier-General.
G.S.
1st A.&N.Z.A.C.

War Diary

CONFIDENTIAL.FIRST AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND ARMY CORPS.Headquarters,
15th June, 1916.GENERAL STAFF CIRCULAR No. 11.

Subject:- Reorganization of Light T.M. Batteries.

1. - Those portions of paras. 2(1), 3 and 4 of G.S. Circular No. 2 dated 16th April, 1916 - Subject:- Formation of Medium and Light Trench Mortar Batteries - which relates to Light Trench Mortar Batteries are cancelled and the following amendments are substituted.

2. - Organization. The two light trench mortar batteries with each infantry brigade will be grouped into one battery consisting of two sections of 4 mortars each.

3. - Command. The officer selected to command the battery will be given the temporary rank of Captain.

4. - Establishment. The revised War Establishment of a light trench mortar battery will be as follows :-

Captain	1	Bicycles	2.
Subalterns	3		
Sergeants	2		
Corporals	8		
Privates	32		
Batmen	4		
Totals	50		2

Note: Personnel for light trench mortar batteries will be drawn from infantry.

5. - Nomenclature. Light trench mortar batteries will have the number of their infantry brigades - e.g.

The light trench mortar battery of the 7th Australian Infantry Brigade will be the 7th Australian Light Trench Mortar Battery, that of the 3rd New Zealand Infantry Brigade the 3rd N.Z. Light Trench Mortar Battery.

R B Smythe Maj 98

for Brigadier-General.
General Staff.
1st A. & N.Z.A.C.

Ga. ✓

Gb. ✓

Lgla. 5563

C.R. 16/41.

FIRST AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND ARMY CORPS.Headquarters,
12th June, 1916.GENERAL STAFF CIRCULAR No.10.Subject:- Action to be taken in connection
with hostile aircraft.Reasons for
Action.

1. - Enemy aircraft are chiefly dangerous to us for the following reasons :-
 - (i) They can see the flash of our guns and so locate positions otherwise hidden.
 - (ii) They can identify our billets by the movement in the vicinity.
 - (iii) They can observe movements of formed bodies of troops or transport

The danger to us of the enemy observing these things varies in degree according to circumstances.

Thus

- (i) It is always dangerous if our gun positions are located.
- (ii) The fact that our billets are known does not much matter if our billets are out of range of enemy guns.
- (iii) The importance of hiding movements of troops and transport varies with the tactical situation; for instance it is of **no great** importance if normal movement of transport is observed where it cannot be shelled but it is important to hide movements indicating a relief or other tactical move.

The steps necessary to avoid observation cause a certain degree of disorganization and should therefore not be taken unnecessarily.

As aircraft is now freely used and as there is some difficulty in distinguishing friendly from hostile machines the precautionary measures to be taken must to a great extent be left to the officer on the spot.

Measures to
be taken.

2. - The following measures will be taken :-

- (i) Sentries. Sentries with field glasses will be posted in billet ing areas which are within range of enemy guns and on all our guns when in action. The duty of such sentries will be primarily to watch for and give a warning signal of the approach of hostile aircraft.
- (ii) Signal. The signal that a hostile aircraft is approaching will be 3 blasts of a whistle.
One blast will signify "carry on."

W. B. Murray

Gen. Staff Circular 10.

Detailed Instructions. Detailed instructions of the action to be taken by troops when warning is given, will be issued by divisions.

(iv) Firing at Aircraft. No artillery, machine guns or infantry will fire on any aircraft unless its hostile identity is beyond doubt. When it is undoubtedly hostile it will be engaged by artillery, machine guns and infantry at the discretion of the officers on the spot.

Warning will be sent to A.A. batteries when our own machines intend to fly at night. If no warning is received machines flying low at night will be assumed by A.A. batteries to be hostile and will be fired at.

(v) Reporting Aircraft.

(a) Anti aircraft batteries and R.F.C. squadrons will report to one another movements of our own and of hostile aircraft.

(b) Other units will report both to the A.A. batteries and R.F.C. Squadrons concerned only such aircraft whose hostile identity is beyond doubt.

(c) Unusual enemy aerial activity will be reported without delay by divisions, A.A. batteries, and R.F.C. to Corps Headquarters.

(d) Divisions will arrange for reports to be passed within divisions as they consider necessary.

C.R. M. M.

Brigadier-General,
General Staff.

1st A. & N.Z.A.C.

C.R. 90/61.

FIRST AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND ARMY CORPS.Headquarters,
5th June, 1916.GENERAL STAFF CIRCULAR No. 9.Subject:- Warning of Enemy Gas Attack.

1. - Responsibility for giving warning is apportioned as follows:-

(i) Divisions will warn

- (a) All troops in their areas.
- (b) All their own and attached troops which at the time are outside the divisional area but in an area likely to be affected.
- (c) Civilian authorities in their areas.
- (d) The Town Major of ESTAIRES.
- (e) 2nd Div. Supply Colmn. at NEUF BERQUIN.
- (f) Corps Park at VIEUX BERQUIN.
- (g) The Area Officer, DOULIEU.

(ii) The Town Major of ESTAIRES will warn -

- (a) Troops in ESTAIRES and along the ESTAIRES-NEUF BERQUIN Road as far as L.22.c.0.0.
- (b) The civilian authorities of ESTAIRES

(iii) The O.C. 2nd Div. Supply Col. will warn -

- (a) All troops in NEUF BERQUIN and along the ESTAIRES-VIEUX BERQUIN Road between L.22.c.0.0. and L.1.c.0.6.
- (b) The civilian authorities of NEUF BERQUIN.

(iv) The O.C. Corps Park will warn -

- (a) All troops in VIEUX-BERQUIN and along the ESTAIRES-STRAZEELE Road between L.1.c.0.6. and the railway at E.11.a.
- (b) The civilian authorities of VIEUX BERQUIN.

(v) The Area Officer, DOULIEU, will warn -

- (a) Troops in the DOULIEU area.
- (b) The civilian authorities in DOULIEU.

2. - Responsibility of the Signal Service.

- (i) Warning messages addressed to "Gas" will be passed by all signal offices in the Corps as "priority" messages and will be automatically repeated until every signal office in the Corps and the signal offices of the nearest Brigade and the nearest Division of flanking Corps are warned.

G.S. Circular No. 9 (Ctd.)2. - Responsibility of the Signal Service (Ctd.)

- (ii) The A.D.A.S., outside divisional areas, and O's.C. divisional signal companies in their divisional areas will ensure that a list of offices to be warned, corrected to date and applicable to the office concerned, is kept in every signal office.

3. - Method of reporting.

- (i) The unit reporting gas will differentiate between rumoured and actual gas attack.

- (ii) The time the attack or the alarm occurred will be given.

- (iii) The position of the unit in the line will be given.
Thus.....

To. - "Gas

- (a) "Gas 9 p.m. left Bde. N.Z. Div.

FROM

2nd Wellington Bn."

- (b) To. "Gas

"Gas alarm heard 9.30 p.m. on left of left Bde. N.Z. Division.

FROM

2nd Wellington Bn."

4. - Instructions as to the action to be taken in ESTAIRES, NEUF BERQUIN, VIEUX BERQUIN and DOULIEU have been issued separately to the officers concerned.

CB B M

Brigadier-General,
General Staff.

1st A. & N.Z.A.C.

FIRST AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND ARMY CORPS.

REPORT ON WORK DONE ON FRONT LINE SYSTEM
MONTH ENDING 27-6-1916.RIGHT DIVISION (1st Australian Division).

1. - FRONT LINE. - In this sector the organization of defended localities has been commenced and work on the parapet has been concentrated on the points selected. Gas proof dug-outs for signal stations have been constructed and several concrete shelters for machine guns. The new saps in front of the original line in front of the right battalion sector have now been completed and are manned.
2. - SUPPORT LINE. - Small portions on the right have been made defensible but generally this line is in bad condition. Wire is being renewed, commencing from the right.
3. - RESERVE LINE. - The posts on this line have been considerably damaged by shell fire; they are in fact shell traps and it is considered advisable to abandon them as posts and to build the line through or round them. Work on readjustment is proceeding.
4. - COMMUNICATION TRENCHES. - The system has been extended and is now becoming more satisfactory. Considerable work on traverses, shell slits and general reclamation is still required.
5. - WIRE. - Special attention is being paid to wire on the front line between defended localities and the task of renewing wire in front of the reserve line is being taken in hand.
6. - MISCELLANEOUS. -
 - (a) Traverses. - There are 5 lines serving the front line system all of which are in a satisfactory state. Extensions along the rear of the front line are needed and have been commenced.
 - (b) Emergency Roads.

CENTRE DIVISION. - (2nd Australian Division).

1. - FRONT LINE. - All salients have been consolidated and strengthened and the work of organising defended localities is proceeding. About 25 new machine gun emplacements have been constructed and 80 dug-outs. The parapet has been thickened throughout and is now in good repair.
2. - SUPPORT LINE. - Defended localities have been organised and the line is now defensible along its whole length. Over 60 new dug-outs have been built as well as machine-gun emplacements.
3. - RESERVE LINE. - This line is now practically continuous and defensible throughout; the new work has been improved; battalion headquarters, dressing stations and dug-outs have been built.
4. - COMMUNICATION TRENCHES. - There are eleven main communication trenches from the BOYS GREENHILL line to the front system which

CENTRE DIVISION (Ctd.)

4. - COMMUNICATION TRENCHES (Ctd.)

are all in fair repair but the work of maintenance has been heavy. The recent wet weather has retarded the work of reclaiming these avenues which ^{are} still impassable. The system of communication in the centre of this sector needs extension.

5. - WIRE. - A great deal of new wire has been put out round defended localities.

6. - BOIS GRENIER LINE. - This line has been considerably improved. Machine gun emplacements have been completed and dug-outs put in throughout. (Plan No. 2 herewith).

7. - SWITCHES. - Portions of the RUE ALLER line have been improved. (Plan No. 2 herewith).

LEFT DIVISION. - (New Zealand Division).

1. - FRONT LINE - Has been organized into defended localities; numerous dugouts, machine gun emplacements and O.P.'s have been built.

2. - SUPPORT LINE. - On the right for a distance of about 500 yards there are two continuous support lines, both of which are in good repair and defensible; the second support line carried on to the left by a series of defended posts; these have been strengthened and wired. Dugouts and machinegun emplacements have been constructed; much traversing and revetting has been done.

3. - SUBSIDIARY LINE. - This line is continuous and in fair repair.

4. - COMMUNICATION TRENCHES. - For practically all the main communication trenches shell pits have been made.

5. - WIRE. - Throughout this sector the wire is in fair repair.

Lieutenant-General.

28-6-16.

Commanding 1st A. & N.Z.A.C.

To -
Second Army.

FIRST AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND ARMY CORPS.

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS.

Period 6 p.m. Friday June 2nd to 6 p.m. Thursday, June 8th.



1. The general situation has not altered during the present week.

There has been no concentration of enemy artillery fire which has been more evenly distributed and directed mainly against billets in our support areas. Our own artillery has usually taken the initiative and most of the enemy shelling reported has been in retaliation for our own activity.

2. Arrangements were made for a minor enterprise against the enemy trenches south of the ARMENTIERES - WAVRIN railway in square I.21.c. on the night of the 5th-6th instant. The raid was to have been carried out without previous bombardment, in order to surprise the enemy in his normal occupation of his front line trenches. This object was frustrated by the discovery of an occupied listening post in the middle of the enemy's wire. This wire was cut to within a few yards of the post, and replaced when the latter was found to be occupied, the patrol returning without having been detected.

As the object of surprise could not be achieved, it was decided to postpone the enterprise and arrange for a bombardment to precede the raid on a subsequent date.

3. On the night of the 6th-7th the attempt was renewed against the same sector after a short preliminary bombardment. The enemy's trenches were entered without any difficulty. Three prisoners were captured and information of some value obtained. Twelve of the enemy were killed and after remaining for about six minutes the party returned. No casualties were suffered while in the enemy's trenches, but two of the party were killed and four wounded by a chance shell on the return journey across NO MAN'S LAND.

A separate and detailed report of the above operation is being sent

4. In the left sector our artillery and trench mortars have been active throughout the period under review. Suspected headquarters, billets, and a dump at LA CROIX AU BOIS have been shelled with effect, and on the 3rd instant the enemy's RAILWAY SALIENT at 11.a. was bombarded and ~~sa~~ considerable damage to his wire at I.11.a.6.7. is reported. Some huts and a billet at CROIX MARCHEL were burnt as a result of enemy shell fire but no casualties were suffered and the post was not damaged.

5. Patrols from all sectors have been out nightly and a few encounters with ^{enemy} parties have been reported. In front of trenches 69 and 71 in the left sector the enemy is now cutting the grass which has hitherto afforded concealment to our patrols in this locality.

6. On the 8th instant an enemy mine was fired at CORDONNERIE (N.10.c.2 4.) about 80 yards in front of our line. A small crater was formed but no damage or casualties resulted. The object of the enemy's mining activity in this area is not apparent.

7. Casualties.

	Killed		Wounded.	
	Officers..O.Ranks.		Officers. Other Ranks	
1st Div.	1	13	2	57
2nd Div.	1	16	1	96
N.Z.Div.	-	20	2	83.
Total Casualties.	2	49	5	236
292.				

2nd Army.

Brig.-Gen. Gen. Staff.
1st A. & N.Z.A.C.

FIRST AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND ARMY CORPS.

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS.

Period 6 p.m. Friday June 9th, to 6 p.m. Thursday June 15th.

1. The period has been a quiet one and a tendency on the part of the enemy to avoid aggressive action has been noticeable. Retaliation to our artillery fire has been less prompt, and considerably lighter than in the past.
2. On the night of the 12th/13th a raid on the enemy trenches between the ANGLE (N.6.b.9.5) and the LOZENGE (O.1.a.1.6) was carried out by the 6th Australian Infantry Battalion. The raiding party consisted of 4 officers and 22 men with a supporting party of about 20 men.
A short preliminary bombardment was commenced at 12.50 a.m. during which the raiding party were concealed in NO MAN'S LAND. At 1. a.m. the range of our guns was lengthened and the raiding party advanced and entered the enemy's trenches at the points arranged, without opposition. They remained about 5 minutes in the enemy's trenches. Six prisoners were captured and brought back; 12 of the enemy were killed by the raiders, and further casualties are known to have been caused by our artillery and trench mortars. Two trench mortars were destroyed and one machine gun was dismounted, and taken half-way across NO MAN'S LAND where it had to be abandoned owing to its weight.
Our casualties were two slightly wounded.
3. Systematic patrolling has been carried out along our whole front. One or two encounters with the enemy's patrols have been reported, but without incident. The mine craters in NO MAN'S LAND opposite CORDONNERIE have been visited nightly. No signs of enemy occupation have been found.
4. The activity of our trench mortars has increased and they have been used with effect, especially in our left sector. Practical experience of the results obtained has engendered a growing confidence in their usefulness.
5. Enemy mining opposite CORDONNERIE still continues. On the 11th instant, a camouflet was blown in this locality but no damage to our own works resulted and no crater was formed.
6. Casualties.

	<u>Killed.</u>		<u>Wounded.</u>	
	<u>Officers.</u>	<u>O.R.</u>	<u>Officers.</u>	<u>O.R.</u>
1st Aust. Div.	1	8	2	68
2nd Aust. Div.	2	11	2	35
N.Z.Div.	2	7	3	63
	5	26	7	166
<u>Total casualties. 204.</u>				

Commanding

Cluck run rd.
Captain. G.S.
for Lieut. General
1st A.&N.Z.A.C.

FIRST AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND
ARMY CORPS.

Period 6 p.m. Friday 23rd to 6 p.m. ~~Thursday 29th~~ ^{midday Friday 30th}
June, 1916.

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS.

1. - During this period a series of minor operations has been carried out in accordance with a set programme.
2. - The enemy's parapets and wire have been bombarded at intervals along the whole front, and his trenches have been entered at several places by raiding parties of varying strengths. Considerable casualties have been inflicted and a number of prisoners have been brought back to our lines. Our artillery and trench mortars have prepared the way for these expeditions on every occasion and have also co-operated with the divisions on either flank in support of similar operations undertaken by them.
3. - Accurate details concerning these raids are difficult to obtain but the facts as far as they can be ascertained are given in the attached summary; this shows that in 5 raids a total of 483 officers and men have been engaged and a total of 70 casualties suffered; 24 prisoners have been taken and an estimate based on the evidence of those engaged gives the number of the enemy actually killed as 204.
4. - There has been no attempt on the part of the enemy to undertake any offensive action until last night and he has shewn little inclination to offer serious opposition to raiding parties. Artillery retaliation on occasions has been severe and it is reported that 21 c.m. guns have been active against the left sector for the first time since 7th May.
5. - Our machine guns have carried out systematic indirect fire on communication trenches and frequented roads which according to statements of prisoners have been effective.
6. - Observation from our trenches of the effect of our fire on the enemy's wire has been difficult owing to long grass but on the occasion of each raid scouts have reconnoitred the wire and completed the breach. On other occasions patrols have made reconnaissances to ascertain the extent of the wire cut. Few enemy parties have been met and there has been only one encounter and in this our patrol drove in the enemy and brought back three wounded prisoners.
7. - Work on the forward saps in front of our right battalion is now complete and has been joined up with the trench from IX Corps Area.
8. - The weather has not been favourable for the projection of gas or smoke and the enterprises which were arranged for the nights of 28/29th - 29/30th were postponed in consequence.

9. - Casualties.

	<u>Killed.</u>		<u>Wounded.</u>	
	Off.	O.r.	Off.	O.r.
1st Aust. Div.	1	23	8	124.
2nd " "	1	17	12	112.
N.Z. " "	1	13	7	100.
Total	3	53	27	336.

Total casualties - 419.

Lieutenant-General.

Commanding 1st A. & N.Z.A.C.

To - Second Army.

FIRST AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND ARMY CORPS.

STATEMENT OF RESULTS OF RAIDS.

Date.	Unit.	Strength of Party.		Points of Entry.	Prisoners captured.	Estimated no. of enemy killed.	Casualties suffered by raiding party.				Remarks.
		Off.	O.r.				Killed.	Wounded.	Off.	O.r.	
25th June.	2nd Bn. (3rd N.Z. Inf. Bde)	3	72	C.29.a.4.2.	9	29	-	1	-	8	Artillery preparation good - Enemy put up little resistance. A pumping plant was destroyed.
-do-	Volunteers. 5th A. Inf. Bde.	6	65	I.26.c.9.1.	4	20	-	1	1	12	
26th June.	18th Bn. 5th A. Inf. Bde.	6	69	I.32.c.0.7.	4	60	-	1	1	11	Artillery preparation satisfactory.
28th June.	1st Bn. 1st A. Inf. Bde.	4	58	N.11.a.9.9.	2	15	-	1	2	9	Wire was found practically intact enemy showed fight.
29th June.	Mixed Coy. 6th A. Inf. Bde.	10	190	I.21.c.7.2. c.3.0. b.9.8.	5	80½	-	7	-	15	Wire was well cut in two places & partially destroyed at 3rd. Enemy showed fight. All our dead were brought back.
Totals		29	454		24	204	-	11	4	55	

$\frac{1}{2}$ includes two officers.

Appendix No. F

Appendix No. F

FIRST AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND ARMY CORPS.

Headquarters,
20th June, 1916.

Headquarters,
Second Army.

REPORT ON RAID CARRIED OUT BY NEW ZEALAND DIVISION
ON 16th JUNE, 1916.

On the night of the 16th instant a raid on a section of the enemy's trenches was carried out by the 2nd N.Z. Infantry Brigade.

The raiding party consisted of 4 officers and 83 men under the command of Captain E.B. ALLBY, 2nd Bn. Otago Regt.

The objective was a recently constructed enemy trench running in a north west direction from C.23.c.9.8. and crossing the road leading to the 4 HALLOTS FME., the end of the trench being connected with the main front line by a communication trench running west from C.23.b.2.0., the whole forming a triangular salient.

This work has been under observation for some time and its progress has been carefully followed by means of aeroplane photographs.

The raiding party left our trenches at 11 p.m. taking up a position about 120 yards in front of our parapet on either side of the road.

The night was clear with a bright moon.

At 11.15 our artillery and trench mortars commenced a bombardment of the objective with diversions on other parts of the enemy's front line. After about 20 minutes intensive fire, range was lifted and a barrage formed behind the objective. The enemy retaliated both on back and front areas - machine gun fire was also opened; Captain ALLBY and Lieut. SPINER, his Second-in-Command, were wounded - the former mortally, before any further advance was made.

The raiding party proceeded under the command of Lieut. A.T. WHITE, who had himself been wounded, as soon as our artillery fire was lifted; the enemy's trench was entered at its junction with the road without difficulty or opposition, the wire having been effectively destroyed by our trench mortar fire.

The trench was found to be much damaged by our artillery fire and practically deserted. Only two Germans were discovered and these were both killed; the bodies of four others evidently killed by our shells were seen; an observation post at the apex was blown up by gun cotton.

The trench was systematically searched; no machine guns or emplacements were found and very little material or trench stores.

It is apparent that the trench is not held in any strength and is used as an observation or listening post. The whole salient is in an unfinished condition and a strong barrier was found at the southern junction with the main front line at C.23.c.9.8.

The party remained for about 7 minutes and the casualties (as below) were all suffered previously to the entry of the enemy's trench.

<u>Casualties.</u>	<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded.</u>
Officers	1	3
O.r.	1	5
Total	2	8

for Clerk of Staff
Lieutenant-General.

War Diary

REPORT OF A RAID CARRIED OUT ON 13TH JUNE, 1916
BY 6TH BN. 2ND BDE. 1ST AUST. DIV.

Reference map - 36 N.W. 1/10,000.

1. - Selection of the point of attack.

The portion of enemy trench to be raided was between THE ANGLE (N.6.b.95.51.) and THE LOZENGE (O.1.a.15.65).

This place was chosen as the wire at this part appeared thinnest and as the distance between our trench and that of the enemy was most suitable - 200 yards.

Reconnaissances were made by telescope periscopes from our trenches and by patrols. 2/Lieut. A. LAUGHLIN did specially good work in this respect.

The enemy wire at the proposed point of entry appeared poor, there being none visible in the grass except that close to the knife rests.

It was considered that Mats could be used to make the passage of wire.

A ditch was suspected between the enemy entanglement and his trenches. Ladders were decided on as a means of bridging this ditch.

There was no position of cover or concealment in NO MAN'S LAND in which our party could lie up.

A surprise raid on this point was thought impossible as the enemy was always fairly active and frequently discovered our patrols from his listening posts, one of which had been discovered by 2/Lieut. LAUGHLIN about 30 yards from the suggested point of entry; and also because there were so many points from which the enemy could bring flanking fire on the raiding party and thus prevent it from returning to our trenches.

2. - Preparation.

(i) Training.

Special attention was given to physical training, bomb throwing, bayonet fighting and raid practice.

A facsimile trench as shown in aeroplane photograph was prepared, where the parties practised raiding. Dummies were placed at unexpected places in the trenches for the party to deal with.

The Bombing squad worked as laid down in "Instructions to Bombers". First went the 2 bayonet men then the thrower and carrier, the N.C.O., and then the officer, spare bomber and carrier and spare bayonet man.

The scouts were specially trained in what to look for and where to look.

The officers learned the one phrase in German "Come outside". This was to call enemy out of the dug-outs.

In the raid practice, reserve men were often used to replace casualties. Otherwise every man did his special part of the work.

(ii) Artillery and Trench Mortars.

For some days prior to the raid, our artillery and medium trench mortar battery intermittently bombarded the enemy trench at a number of points along the front, each time dropping a few bombs into the enemy wire; thus making passage through it. This deceived the enemy as to where the raid was to actually take place.

3. - Narrative.

At 12.30 a.m. on the morning of 13th the raiding party under the command of Captain P.D. MONCUR, 6th Battalion, left our trenches - Bay 16, trench 46 - and lay down in NO MAN'S LAND. It was composed of a right trench party under 2/Lieut. HYDE, A.J. and a left trench party under 2/Lieut. A.

3. - Narrative (Ctd.)

LAUGHLIN, each consisting of 1 officer and 11 men. In addition there was a supporting party (20 other ranks), may men, signallers and stretcher bearers.

The raiding party was in position in NO MAN'S LAND by 12.50 a.m. at which hour the artillery bombardment began. The bombardment was carried out by the 1st Australian Divisional Artillery, and Medium Trench Mortars, assisted by 2 field artillery batteries and a medium trench mortar battery from the 2nd Australian Division.

At 1 a.m. the artillery fire was raised to form a barrage in front of and on the flanks of the objective, and the raiding party, led by Lieut. J.D. RODGERS, 6th Battalion, advanced.

Arrangements had been made to cut the enemy's wire by systematic bombardments for some days previously, but on reaching it the raiding party found that much of it was still intact.

The situation was then an anxious one. The raiding party was bunched together on the enemy's wire, and the whole locality was lit up by his flares. A way was soon cleared by the matmen, and the right and left trench parties advanced and entered the trench without a shot being fired.

The right trench party traversed 2½ bays, and then found the trench blocked, owing to the parapet having been knocked in by one of our trench mortar bombs during the bombardment. They took one prisoner, bombed a couple of dugouts and killed 2 men.

The left trench party worked through about 4 bays; they took 5 prisoners, killed about 10 men and bombed several dugouts containing men. A machine gun and two trench mortars were found in this portion of the trench. The machine gun was mounted on a large flat metal stand. It was passed over the parapet and taken about 5 yards past the wire, where, owing to its weight and the fact that the enemy had opened fire from the direction of CORNER FORT it had to be abandoned. In this position it was visible to our artillery observers and C.R.A. reports that it has since been smashed by trench mortar fire. Of the trench mortars, one was destroyed by exploding a Mill's grenade in it.

The raiding party remained in the enemy's trench about 5 minutes and were then recalled. While they were in the trench a good gap had been cleared in the enemy's wire and the whole party had no difficulty in finding their way back to their own trenches by means of a white tape which had been laid on the ground.

As the party arrived at their original position in NO MAN'S LAND the artillery fire was again directed on the enemy's front line trenches, in order to cover their retirement, but it was practically unopposed.

The enemy showed no fight, but it is reported that two or three men who had been captured showed a reluctance to leave their trenches.

The raiders derived great assistance from having practised the details of the raid at the replica of the enemy's trenches which had been prepared. They entered the trench at the spot they had aimed at when rehearsing.

Lieut. LAUGHLIN was shot in the leg while entering the trench but was able to go right through with his party. Pte. MCKENZIE, a stretcher bearer, was shot through the neck on the enemy's parapet.

4. - Comments. (i) Engineers with explosives could have been employed with good results in this raid. This point will be considered in future raids.

(ii) The fact that the artillery and trench mortars so successfully bombarded the enemy's front in many places undoubtedly drew his attention away from the point of attack and the destruction of his wire thus accomplished will be turned to account in the future.

18-6-16.

Lieutenant-General.

NOTES ON RAID MADE BY 6TH BN. A.I.F. ON NIGHT OF MONDAY
JUNE 18TH 1916.

by Capt. Bean. War Correspondent.

Information collected from officers & men forming raiding party.

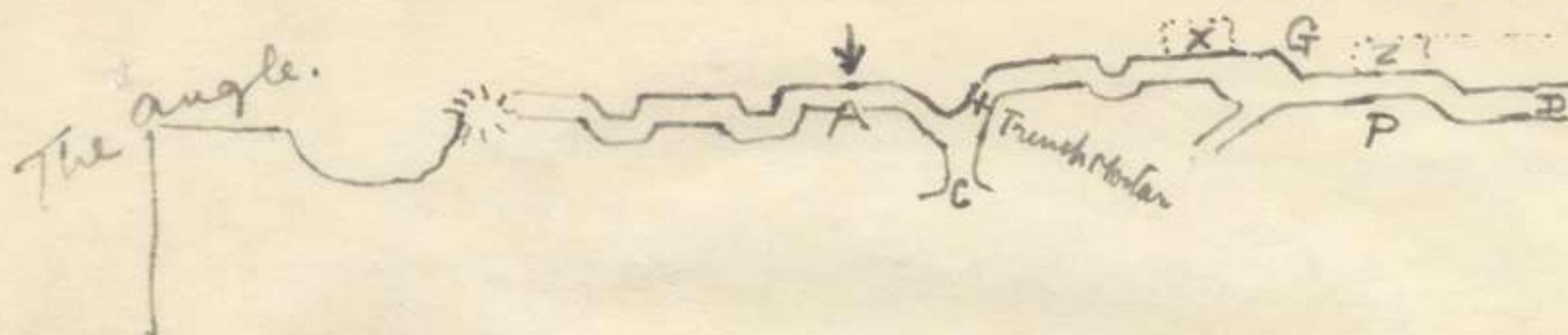
The raid had been practised for some time on trenches ~~xxxxxx~~ built near one of the bombing schools. These were planned from aeroplane photos. The practise trenches were ~~xxx~~ afterwards about 8 ft. deep. (The men found that every turn in the real German trench was familiar to them. This was not the case in the raid made by the 26th and 28th Bns- which found the trench which they raided to be barely recognisable, chiefly owing to absence of parapets).

The raiding party had gone into training as if for sports. It ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ consisted of two trench parties (right and left - each 3 bayonet men, 2 bombers, 2 carriers, one sergeant) under Lieut. Hyde (right) and Lieut. Loughlin (left). In case uncut wire was met with 4 mats (canvas 14ft x 4ft, with battens) were carried. Of the supporting parties (Capt. Moncur and Lt. Rodgers) one was to remain about halfway across No man's land with one telephone; another was to ~~xxxxxx~~ go to the enemy's parapet (with a second telephone). Major Daly (temporarily commanding 6th Bn.) had his battle headquarters at the parapet by the sally port, and was on the telephone all the time.

Six parapet bombers were to go along the parapet as the raiders went along the trench and to cover them with bombs as they advanced, thrown towards the enemy's support trenches, and thrown behind them as they retired.

The point between the Lozenge and the Angle where the raid was to be made was about 220 yards from our trenches. The ground rose slightly to the centre, so that the party was partly covered to about half way. It started at 12.30 and had just reached ~~xx~~ its waiting position half way across when our guns opened. One gun on the ~~right~~ was throwing short - its shells exploded about 10 yds to the right of the party and ~~xxx~~ threw earth over them. ~~xxxxxx~~ Diversions had been carried out by artillery and ~~the~~ wire had been cut in front of German trench by ~~our~~ mortars ~~xxx~~ at 5 that afternoon. A German working party could be heard hammering in the dark near the Angle, but the sound ceased when our bombardment began. This began at 10 to 1. At 1 the bombardment was lifted onto enemy support trenches and party went forward in double file.

(on all strong points in neighbouring front line)



All the wire previously reconnoitred had been well cut by mortars. But it was found that in the "borrow pit" in front of the trench was wire on knife rests and also some pegged down, which had not been cut by bombardment. It had not been seen in reconnaissance. The three bayonet men of the right trench party all were caught in this. Their officer, Lieut. Loughlin, reached the parapet first. *(The wire was 3 feet high & a serious obstacle. By the time they returned it had been cut & mats laid down).* As Lieut. Loughlin reached the parapet a German fired at him over it, hitting him through the thigh. Loughlin fired back with his revolver. The man was not noticed dead but was not seen again.

The trench parties (right and left) lined up to right and left of Loughlin and Lieut. Hyde on the parapet and all jumped into the trench together.

The parapet was about 10 feet across the top at this place. The trench was 9 feet deep. There was a fire step, and the top of the parapet was levelled off ~~for~~ to permit of firing over the top of it. No loopholes were noticed.

There was a parados. The parados was not so high as the parapet, possibly 2 feet lower. It was not continuous, but seemed to be built up much as we build it with gaps at intervals leading to the open country behind. There were ~~no~~ dugouts in the parados although one dugout discovered by the left ~~party~~ party appears to have been a specially constructed chamber on the rear side of the trench where the parados would be. The ~~men~~ ^{construction} men who saw it however distinguish between this/and the simple "parados", and probably mean that where the parados formed the back wall there were no dugouts dug into it.

The trench was floored like a house. There were no duckboards. The fire trench was exceedingly clean and dry.

THE RIGHT PARTY. The parties ^(led by prismatic compass) struck the trench at exactly the point ^(A) where they had always entered it ^{replica} in practice. This was a long bay. There was no one in this bay. The right party

filled down it to the right.

^{first}
In the ~~traverse~~ was a dugout. It was ~~digxixka~~ built into the traverse at a higher level than the floor of the trench. There was no door, but the entrance was only about three feet wide. The chamber was much wider than the entrance. It was low. There were no bunks, but blankets recently left, a German helmet and a respirator. The sides were sandbags supported by a wooden frame.

In the traverse -apparently in the side of it - about 3 feet above the floor of the trench was a metal door. It was large enough for the door of a dugout. It could not be opened. The letter H was painted on it.

In the second bay feet were seen sticking out from the bottom of the parapet. A man was pulled out very much frightened. He was passed from man to man rather roughly imploring "Oh mercy kamerad" "Me come Kamerad".... and Lieut. Hyde received him rather more gently and passed him over the parapet to the men waiting there for prisoners. He was put in charge of a man who frogmarched him at a run straight back along the tape ~~xxx~~ across No-man's-land. Those waiting at the sally port suddenly saw two men bundling up out of the darkness a few yards away. A frightened much bespattered German was suddenly thrust in amongst them with the words "Here's a Bastard" and his guard disappeared again over No-man's-land.)

The dug out from which he was pulled was exactly like ~~it~~ that in the last bay.

In the next bay was a third dugout. This was bombed. The trench ~~xxxx~~ had been destroyed at the end of this bay by a large crater. A man was lying dead beside the crater. Time was up and the right party returned.

THE LEFT PARTY. The left party turned to left along trench. The long bay seemed to end not in a regular traverse but in an angle jutting somewhat to the right. ^{On the map} A communication trench ran off here. (C). This was the only point mentioned to me ~~xxxx~~ where the map based on aeroplane photos was ~~xxxxx~~ misleading. The communication trench or gap ran out in a few paces into ~~xx~~

(3)

the open, and the sergeant who went down it found himself in slush. ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ The ground rose slightly behind this gap and the support trench on the map was not visible, being ~~xxxx~~ behind the rise.

The fire trench at this point made a Y with the communication alley. In the right branch of the Y on the floor of the trench was a trench mortar. It was placed pointing up the trench towards out trenches so as just to clear the parapet. It was heavy and apparently fixed. (A bomb was exploded down the barrel and another - Mills- beneath it).

There was nothing in the next bay.

In the third bay, was a dug out ^(X). A face was seen in it. A shot was fired at the man and he was dragged out. He was a big man and resisted. He was shot several times and finished, as he was still alive, with a knobkerry. Three more men were taken from this dugout. They came easily, and were handed to the scouts, who passed them through a breach in the trench near the trench mortar. The fourth man had a cape with two tucks in it. It was just as these men were being passed through the parapet that a stretcherbearer named Mackenzie who was at the gap on the outside of the trench was shot through the ~~xxxx~~ throat, probably by a chance shot from elsewhere, although some say they saw a flash at close range.

The chamber in which these men were was under the parapet but was not a dugout for living in. The floor of it was about 4 inches below the level of the floor of the trench, and was covered with water. The men had been sitting inside on a plate of tin or iron to raise themselves above the water. The entrance was very low and there were perhaps 7 feet of sandbag protection from its roof up to the ^{top} level of the parapet. The ~~xx~~ place did not seem to be concreted but built with wooden ~~xxxx~~ uprights and sandbags (although this is not very definite). Its roof was 2 ft. from trench floor. There was no equipment, etc. in it.

Just beyond this at G, where a communication trench ~~xxx~~ came in at the end of the 2nd bay was a machine gun emplacement

It was known that this m.g. would be found there. It had been seen during night bombardments; and the day before the raid it had been pointed out through an artillery observation periscope to Lieut. Rodgers. The front of the emplacement was covered by sacks working on strings and these could be seen through the periscope.

The emplacement was built into the parapet about 4ft or 5ft up. It was large enough to hold the gun and two men. The gun was pointed ^{in direction of our salient.} ~~xxxxxxx~~ across to the left enfilading Nomansland. It was on a heavy fourlegged metal mounting - shaped like a table with the legs spread like those of a vaulting horse. The legs were fixed onto ~~xx~~ a long flat metal plate. The gun was clamped with four bolts to the top of the mounting and could not be dismounted. The gun as fixed could not be traversed at all, and there seemed to be no arrangement for traversing. No concrete nor steel ~~xx~~ plates were noticed in the emplacement.

The gun was taken away mounting, bedplate and all. It took 4 men to carry it, and was abandoned in Nomansland about 40 yards on our side of the enemys wire. (The grass was long ^{and} ~~it~~ It could not be seen next day.) There was a belt in it which could not be got out and dragged. The bullets did not seem to be pointed, but like our Mark 6 bullet.

At the rear of the next angle along the fire trench, (position not very clear ^{probably P}) bright light was seen coming from a dugout. A bomb was thrown in. The light disappeared but was relit. Some thought it was a bright lamp - others electric ~~light~~ light. A number more bombs were thrown in - possibly six or seven.

[No equipment or rifles were found in the trench ^{any part of} ~~the trench~~ and the Germans captured were unarmed.]

At this time a messenger arrived recalling the party. A bomb was thrown from the parapet, by ^{one of our} ~~a~~ bombers there, further up the trench. It struck against something metallic in the floor of the trench at D, and an object was seen pointing up in the air. It was taken to be another trench mortar.

As the retreating party neared the angle before the m.g. emplacement they noticed under the parapet a metal plate. It ran in a slot on one side but was out of its slot the other

(5)
side. It was wrenched away and a man, older than the others, with a beard was taken out. He was by himself. This was the same sort of "funkhole" ⁽²⁾ as that from which the three prisoners were taken. He was made prisoner.

The party were recalled by messenger, not by whistle. A whistle had been arranged, but if it was used it was not heard. From the telephone on the parapet the word "Bunk" was sent back - warning to the guns to get ready to lower onto the front parapet again. Flares were up and the party think they were certainly seen going back. Shots began to be fired at them from the Angle and could be seen flicking the rain ~~down~~ from the wet grass close to the retiring party. It seems to have been then that the machine gun, which hampered them, was abandoned. No machine gun fire was noticed.

When they reached half way the word "Hooray" was sent, as a signal to the guns to lower onto the enemys front parapet. Before the party reached our trench the guns had ~~xxxx~~ altered and the sniping at once ceased.

The German trenches had been damaged by our bombs ~~xxx~~ Shells had also in some cases penetrated parts of the parapet. Such damage as was visible from shellfire was mostly ~~xxxx~~ rather in rear of parapet.

The men were very proud of their prisoners, and when they returned the difficulty was not to get the prisoners guarded but to detach each captor from "my prisoner".

The 1st Divisional artillery fired about 2000 rounds 18 pdr and 4.5 hows. No heavy guns ~~xx~~ were used. The German reply was not very quick. Half a dozen red rockets were sent up by the Germans after our artillery opened, each of which burst into two red stars. The reply took about 7 or 8 minutes in coming. It came from not more than two field batteries and one of 5.9s.

Our party was guided back by German tapes ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ used in previous German raid, ~~which~~ These were laid parallel to telephone line at a little distance, were easily visible, and prevented tripping over telephone. They were brought back ~~s~~ as were telephones.

One man was shot at running away. Some others are said to have been killed - total 12 killed & prisoners. I only heard of 9 known to have been killed.

FIRST AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND ARMY CORPS.Headquarters,
9th June, 1916.Headquarters,
2nd Army.

1. - I have the honour to report as follows upon the minor operation carried out by the 7th Brigade, 2nd Australian Division on the night of 6th/7th June 1916.

(i) 1st Intention. On night of 5/6th June an attempt was made to carry out a raid of the enemy trenches at 36.I.21. c.6 $\frac{1}{2}$.2 $\frac{1}{2}$. The enemy wire was to have been cut by selected parties without artillery preparation and the enemy trench rushed in silence - a barrage of artillery fire being placed between enemy front and support lines after the assaulting party had entered the trenches. The wire cutting party succeeded in cutting the enemy wire for a depth of 20 to 30 yards and then encountered an occupied listening post on the far side of the wire. The officer in charge of the party realized that surprise was improbable and therefore replaced enemy wire and returned to report. It was then too late to arrange a preliminary artillery bombardment with hope of carrying through the enterprise in darkness and the raid was therefore postponed.

(ii) Altered Plan. It was decided to carry out the raid the following night on the original plan with the addition of a preliminary bombardment, the wire to be cut by fire of 2" trench mortars.

(a) Strength. The total strength of the raiding party including covering party was 6 officers and 55 other ranks and was organized in 12 parties each with a definite function as shown in appendix "A" attached.

(b) Details. Careful preliminary arrangements were made in all details and included the following - specially laid communications - special clothing - special equipment - distinguishing badges - system of signals - painting of bayonets and blacking of faces - and means for collecting information. See appendix "B".

(c) Artillery arrangements. Temporary grouping of the 2nd Divisional Artillery was made to meet requirements. Registration was carried out unostentatiously during the previous week. The preliminary bombardment covered a front of 1,200 yards and was extended by diversions on the flanks but lasted only 10 minutes. This covered the firing of the 2" trench mortars detailed to cut the wire, and at the same time deceived the enemy as to the point of assault. This is borne out by the fact that the enemy artillery fire was dispersed all over the divisional front with little effect. The Stokes mortars co-operated in the preliminary bombardment and the 2" mortars made a thorough success of the wire cutting. The battery fired 22 rounds in 8 minutes, completely demolishing the wire.

The enemy batteries were engaged by the Corps Heavy Artillery and by the artillery of flanking divisions. The enemy artillery was slow to respond.

A barrage of artillery fire was placed between the enemy's front and support trenches in the vicinity of the point of assault.

(d) Execution of Plan. The assaulting parties went out into NO MAN'S LAND before the bombardment began and remained there without casualty until it was over. They then crossed the wire, rushed the enemy trenches, killed 9 germans and brought away 3 prisoners. On its return journey the party remained in NO MAN'S LAND until the shelling was over. The casualties to the party were 2 killed and 3 wounded, all of whom were brought in.

(e) Results. (i) Casualties - 3 prisoners.- 9 killed by raiding party - 3 killed in listening post by Trench Mortars - other casualties due to artillery fire unknown.

(ii) Information - Enemy trench - breastwork 9' high 16' thick - trench 2' deep - no parados at point entered - no true traverses - revetments, brushwood and calico sandbags - in front of the real parapet a depression and then a smaller parapet 3' high and 6' from main parapet - in front of small parapet a trench 4' x 4' without wire.

Dug-outs. - in good condition - built in parapet with 6' of earth on top - no concrete but wood lining and door - each dugout accommodating 4 or 5 men.

Enemy wire - 45 yards deep 2'6" high.

The information gained from the examination of the prisoners is given in appendix "C" attached.

C. B. B. White

Lieutenant-General.

Commanding 1st A. & N.Z.A.C.

COMPOSITION OF RAIDING PARTY.

Scouts: will leave our trenches at I.21.c.½.7. as soon as it is dark enough. They will take out telephonist and linesman who will lay out wire. Scouts will guide assault party to the enemy's wire and precede them through the wire, cutting any strands of wire which have not already been destroyed. After entry of assaulting party scouts will breach enemy's parapet to facilitate retirement from the trench. One man of the party will lay luminous tape from the enemy's parapet through gap in the wire and along the route of the return journey for about 100 yards.

Telephonist and Linesman: will bring instrument and lay out wire behind scouts. As soon as assault party enter trench they will report to O.C. Scouts outside the parapet and then report by telephone to O.C. Attack, Captain Robinson, by sending word "Entered" as soon as possible after trenches have been entered. They will then wait for orders from the O.C. Assault Party.

As soon as retirement is ordered they will be instructed by O.C. Assault to send "All clear". Telephone will then be detached from wire and Telephonist and Linesman will return to our trenches. Wire will not be taken up.

Assault Party: will leave our trenches minus 1.30 zero time from I.21.c.½.7. and will follow scouts and telephone line until they reach a position about 150 yards from enemy trench, where they will wait until 0.20 zero time, when artillery will lift their fire. The Assault Party will then follow scouts through the enemy's wire in the following order :-

O.C. Assault Party, Captain Foss, 28th Battalion.

Right Bombing Party consisting of one officer, 2 bayonet men, 1 thrower, 1 carrier, 4 spare men, will advance clearing the trenches to bay beyond the sap running out to unoccupied listening post.

Left Bombing Party consisting of one officer, 2 bayonet men, 1 thrower, 1 carrier, and 2 spare men, will advance to bay beyond railway communication trench marked on sketch map. 1 n.c.o. and 1 man will proceed up the sap to the listening post referred to in para. 2 (14) to deal with the garrison.

Parapet

Right and Left Party. Strength 1 n.c.o. 2 men. Will not enter trench but will move along parapet slightly in rear of the bombing parties and will watch ground between enemy Front and Support Trenches to ensure enemy do not enter trench in rear of the Bombing Parties.

Right Blocking Parties consisting of 1 n.c.o., 1 bayonet man, 1 thrower, 1 carrier, 1 spare man, will advance 20 yards down Communication Trench south of place of entry and will block it.

Left Blocking Party: same strength as above; 15 yards down railway communication trench.

Machine Gunners (two) will enter trench and look for and seize any hostile machine guns or trench mortars. If it is found impossible to dismount them the gun will be destroyed. Locks should be removed in any case.

COMPOSITION OF RAIDING PARTY (CTD.)

Appendix No. J

Intelligence Men (1 n.c.o., 1 man) will search all German dead and dug-outs and will remove and bring back the following:-
Pay-books, identity discs, shoulder straps, letters, pocket-books, documents, specimens of flares, pistols, grenades, gas-helmets, etc.

They should take particular notice of construction and design of trenches, and will be prepared to report on anything they have seen, on their return to our trenches.

Runners: will move with O.C. Assault Party and will be available for keeping touch with parties and ensuring the withdrawal is carried out properly.

Covering Party: will follow the Assault Party out of our trenches and will take up a position in extended order at 1 pace intervals along our side of the enemy's wire. They will remain in position until the Assaulting Party have all retired through them on their way back to our trenches and will cover their retirement.

They will also provide escorts for prisoners if necessary. Four Stretcher Bearers carrying one stretcher each will accompany the Covering Party.

Additional men can be drawn from Assault Party if required to carry casualties back to our trenches.

DETAILS OF PRELIMINARY ARRANGEMENTS.Specially laid communications.

1. From Advanced Brigade Headquarters to O.C. Attack.
2. " Group Artillery Commander to Liaison Officer.
3. " Selected Battery to " " *6*
4. " Battalion Headquarters to O.C. Attack.
5. " Divisional Trench Mortar Officer to each 2" T.M. Battery Headquarters.
6. " O.C. Attack to assaulting party - line taken forward in the attack.

No message was got through on the forward line and all other lines except that marked *6* were cut early in the action.

Special Clothing.

British Army uniforms were worn with sandshoes and putties. No hats were worn - faces and hands were blackened.

Equipment

Each party was equipped according to the duty assigned to it as follows:-

1. - Officers: Revolver (1), bombs (4), bomb belt (1), life preserver (1), electric torch (1).
2. - Bayonet Men: Rifle (1), and bayonet (1), bombs (4), bomb belt (1), life preserver (1), 20 rounds S.A.A.
3. - Parapet Party: Rifle (1), and bayonet (1), bombs (4), bomb belt (1), life preserver (1), 20 rounds S.A.A.
4. - Bomb Throwers: Bombs (8), bomb belts (2), life preserver (1), electric torch (1), revolver (1).
5. - Carriers. Same as Bomb throwers only with 12 bombs and 3 bomb belts.
6. - Spare Men. Same as carriers.
7. - Scouts. Revolver (1), life preserver (1), wire cutters - total of 3 pair, bombs (4) bomb belt (1).
8. - Machine Gunners: Revolver (1), bombs (4), bomb belt (1), life preserver (1), electric torch (1).
9. - Telephonist & Linesman. Telephone (1), revolver (1), life preserver (1).
10. - Stretcher Bearers. Revolver (1), stretchers, life preserver (1).
11. - Covering Party. Bombs (4), bomb belt (1), rifle (1), and bayonet (1), life preserver (1), 50 rounds S.A.A. and Web equipment.

DETAILS OF PRELIMINARY ARRANGEMENTS. (CTD.).

Equipment (Ctd.)

12. Runners. with) Revolver (1), bombs (4), life preserver (1),
O.C. Assault) bomb belt (1).
13. Intelligence) Revolver (1), bombs (4), life preserver (1),
Men.) electric torch (1), haversack (1), bomb
belt (1).

Torches will be carried in left breast coat pocket, which should be covered up.

Bayonets will be painted with dark paint and will be carried fixed.

All life preservers will have a thong through handle.

Additional wire cutters will be issued, two to each bombing party, to be carried by spare men. One to each parapet party, one to Machine gunners, one to Intelligence men and one to each Officer.

Distinguishing Badge.

This was a white band around each arm covered by a band of black material. The black band was ripped off just before the party entered trenches. This worked well.

Signals.

(i) 2 small electric torches were placed on our parapet 12" apart at a spot where the drawing of fire would not matter. These served as a guide to the party returning.

(ii) 2 green rockets fired from Very's pistols signalled that our party had left enemy trenches. This was seen by everyone and was quite satisfactory.

Collecting Intelligence.

See "Intelligence men", appendix "A".

REPORT OF PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION OF THREE PRISONERS OF THE 50th RESERVE DIVISION, CAPTURED ON THE NIGHT 6th/7th JUNE AT RUE DU BOIS (36.I.21-d), BY THE SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

GENERAL.

All three prisoners were about 21 years of age, being respectively, (a) 1916 class called up 21/9/15; (b) 1915 class recruits, called up 2/5/15, and (c) Landsturm man, put back one year, and called up last year.

50th RESERVE DIVISION.

Division arrived on the Western front from Russia in October/15, and took over the sector at present held about the middle of March/16.

ORDER OF BATTLE.

The statements of the three prisoners were somewhat contradictory, but it would appear that the 229th R.I.R. is on the right of the 231st R.I.R. and the 230th R.I.R. on its left.

The 231st R.I.R. has three companies south-west of, and one company north-east of the ARMENTIERES-WAVRIN Railway.

The boundaries between the regiments are unknown.

STRENGTH OF COMPANIES.

The prisoner of the 5th Company stated that his company was up to strength, there being a few volunteers, and the remainder, men between the ages of 20 and 30.

The prisoner of the 6th Company stated that his company was 230 to 250 strong, about one-half being active, 10 to 15 volunteers, 10 Landwehr, and the rest reservists.

The prisoner of the Machine Gun Company stated that there were 250 men in his company, which is divided into 12 "Korporaschaften". The n.c.os. were mostly active, and the men reservists, he being the only man of the 1916 class.

GAS.

All the prisoners were positive that no gas cylinders were installed on their front.

MINING.

None of the prisoners had either seen or heard of either offensive or defensive mining operations in the sectors held by their respective companies.

RELIEFS AND REST BILLETS.

Battalion reliefs are carried out every 18 days, the last relief having taken place three days ago. The Battalion returns to their rest billets in LOOS.

The machine gunner stated that the reliefs in his company were carried out independently of the other companies, every six days.

PATROLS.

Patrols do not go out at definite intervals. Ordinary patrols consist of an indefinite number of men, three men generally working together. Counter-patrols usually consist of two groups, each of eight men.

LISTENING POSTS.

There are said to be two listening posts to each Company, each being manned by two or three men armed with rifles and bombs.

(2)

LISTENING POSTS. (Cont.)

Flares are not fired from listening posts as far as is known.

The alarm is given by ringing a hand bell which can be heard at a considerable distance.

METHOD OF HOLDING FRONT LINE.

At night each group has four men on guard, and four in dugouts. Prisoner states that there is one sentry in each bay.

COMMANDERS.

One of the prisoners asserted that the Divisional Commander was Freiharr (not "Graf") von der GOLTZ.

Another prisoner stated that von der GOLTZ had been superceded in the command by some other officer whom he did not know the name of.

The Brigade Commander is said to be Graf von MOLTKE, and the Regimental Commander Colonel August FRITSCH.

MACHINE GUN COMPANIES.

The machine gunner belonged to the machine gun company of the 231st R.I.R. He stated that each "Korporaschaft" had one machine gun.

The 4th "Posen" Fortress Machine Gun Detachment is still with the regiment.

UNITS SEEN.

Prisoners had not heard of, or seen, the 22nd Reserve Jager Battalion, nor the 50th Reserve Cavalry Detachment.

The 50th Field Artillery Regiment is still with the Division.

One of the prisoners stated that the heavy artillery battery attached to the Division was either the 21st or the 50th (but, as far as he knew, not the 221st), and had heard that this battery was armed with 21 cm. Hows.

A further report will be made when the prisoners have been subjected to a second cross-examination.

H. G. Smith
for Major G.S.
for B.G.G.S.

1st A.&N.Z.A.C.

APPENDIX TO FIRST ANZAC SUMMARY- JUNE 8th, 1916.

REPORT ON THE RE-EXAMINATION OF A PRISONER OF THE 6TH COMPANY OF THE 231ST. R.I.R. AND OF A PRISONER OF THE 1ST MACHINE GUN COMPANY, 50TH. RESERVE DIVISION, CAPTURED ON THE NIGHT 6TH/7TH JUNE, AT THE RUE DU BOIS, BY THE SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Map reference - Sheet 36.

GENERAL.

The prisoner belonging to the 5th Company of the 231st R.I.R. would not give any information of value, and, as his statements were obviously meant to mislead, they will not be recorded.

ORDER OF BATTLE.

It now appears certain that the 229th R.I.R. is on the right of the 231st R.I.R.

SECTIONS HELD.

Prisoner of the 6th Company stated that his company covered a front from about I.21.c.1 $\frac{1}{2}$.1 to the railway at I.21.c.7 $\frac{1}{2}$.3. Supposing the 5th Company, which is to the right of the 6th, held a sector equal to that of the 6th, the boundary between the 231st R.I.R. and 229th R.I.R. will be near GERMAN HOUSE. (I.21.b.2.1), and it may be assumed therefore, that the XIX Corps extends southwards to the LILLE-ARMENTIERES Road.

STRENGTH OF COMPANIES.

The prisoner of the 6th Company who stated yesterday that his Company was up to full strength, now mentions that about 20 men are with the train, 15 to 20 are Pioneers, and about 10 are sick. This statement has reference to a photograph of the 6th Company, which is stated in the captured correspondence to represent the whole Company; the photograph shows about 180 men to be present.

The present Company is composed chiefly of 1915 class recruits; there being no 1916 class. Of the 1914 class there are about 20; there are a few Volunteers and Landwehr, and some untrained LANDSTURM.

TRAINING.

Prisoner had 16 weeks training, from the 10th May, 1915, to 1st September 1915, and was drafted to the 231st R.I.R. when in the CHAMPAGNE.

CASUALTIES.

Casualties in the 6th Company are stated to have been very slight; during the month about 4 or 5 only. This is probably due to the extraordinarily effective precautions taken by the Germans, to guard against casualties during a bombardment, as is explained under heading "Dug-outs"...

RELIEFS AND REST BILLETS.

Prisoner stated that the period of relief differs in each Company. In his Company two platoons (Zuge) held the front line, the third platoon being in reserve near LA VALLEE.

Each platoon is 12 days in the front line and 6 days in the reserve position. Two Battalions normally hold the front line, the third being in rest billets in LOOS. Battalions are relieved every 18 days, and therefore, each Battalion spends 9 days in their rest billets.

The rest billets of the 6th Company are in a large building which appeared to prisoner to have been a convent, in the main street of LOOS at .17.d.

R

(2)

The route followed to the trenches is by the main road through HAUBOURDIN, VERT BALLOT, ENNETIERES, LA VALLEE, MONT PINDO, to the HALT at I.34.a.0.2 $\frac{1}{2}$, and thence into the communication trench on the western side of the railway, up to the front line at I.21.c.3.1.

The reliefs do not take place at any fixed hour, not more than one platoon relieving at a time.

Prisoner states that on certain occasions the electric tramway is used from LOOS to the ROAD FORK at B.14.c.7.1 $\frac{1}{2}$. An alternative route is sometimes followed, the road branching north-west at P.16.d.0.1 towards the central prison, being used; from this point they take an emergency road towards FORT D'ENGLOS, and thence through the main road to LA VALLEE.

HEADQUARTERS.

The Company Headquarters is said to be in a strong dugout at the Salient, mid-way between the railway and the before-mentioned communication trench. The exact spot cannot be accurately determined, but would seem to be at I.21.c.45.18, (See air photograph 16.B.10.) behind the point where water appears to have collected. It is said that there is a telephone up to this point.

Battalion Headquarters are said to be in a strongly constructed dugout, alongside a house which bore the name of "LEISNIG". Prisoner pointed out the house at I.34.a.4.2. as being Battalion Headquarters, but was not sure.

Regimental Headquarters are in LOOS at, prisoner states, P.7.a.7 $\frac{1}{2}$.3 $\frac{1}{2}$

Divisional and Brigade Headquarters are on the north side of the main street of LOOS. (P.17.d.)

COMMANDERS.

The prisoner seemed to think that Freiherr von der GOLTZ is still the Divisional Commander, or at any rate, had been about a month ago. He is said to be a very capable and popular officer, but he had never been seen in the trenches.

The officer commanding the 231st R.I.R. (Colonel August Fritsch), is also said to be popular, but prisoner had never seen him in the trenches. The Company commander (Lieutenant Mund) is said to be a good leader.

LIGHT RAILWAYS.

Prisoner could not give definite information regarding light railways, but states that a railway runs along the road from LA VALLEE through ENNETIERES, and then branches off across the front of FORT D'ENGLOS to LOMME.

TRENCH TRAMWAYS.

The existence and continued use of Trench tramway which runs from the west of LA HOUSOIE to LA VALLEE is confirmed by prisoner.

GAS ALARMS.

The gas alarm is said to be given by the ringing of a hand bell. Prisoner was sure that the blowing of a horn was not a signal. The reported blowing of horns must be due to buglers practicing. Stretcher Bearers are summoned by orderly.

TELEPHONE CABLES.

All telephone lines are said to be buried. Prisoner had not seen any aerial lines nearer to the front line than LA VALLEE.

PIONEERS (3)

Each Infantry Regiment has a certain number of Infantry Pioneers, these, and the regular pioneers are accommodated in dugouts in the support lines and do not do any sentry duty, but on an alarm being given, they are supposed to man the front trenches if ordered to do so.

The Pioneers attached to the 50th Reserve Division are stated to be BAVARIAN. Prisoner could not say the number of the Battalion, but thought that they had the Number "2" or "20" on their shoulder straps. The Infantry Pioneers also work on the construction of dugouts. Men of the labour Battalions ("Armierungs") wore dark blue tunics and coats, with blue or yellow shoulder straps, and are never seen in the front lines.

DUG-OUTS.

There appear to be two kinds of dug-outs. The ordinary dugouts are constructed of sand bags, earth, heavy beams of timber, and steel plates; these are said to be provided with wooden doors and small glass windows, but have no fourth side.

The men who are not actually on the watch are normally resting in these dugouts. There is another kind of dugout known to the men as "Rabbit holes". These are said to resist the heaviest bombardment and are constructed of armoured concrete. These are the so-called "Trommelfeuerposten". The frame work of these consist of steel bars about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches thick, and on top of this steel plates, sand bags and earth are piled up to the level of the parapet. These dugouts are about 2 metres wide and one metre deep, and about as high as an ordinary table. They accommodate about 4 men each who have to crowd together. It is impossible to stretch out the legs. The position of these dugouts is either under the front parapet or in the parados. The fourth side is almost completely closed, there being only a small hole left as an exit. The floor of the dugout is level with the floor of the trench. There are said to be sufficient armoured dugouts to accommodate all the men who are not on sentry duty. Similarly constructed dugouts are said to be in the support lines. Prisoner states that these dugouts were already constructed when he arrived in March last. The front trench is said to have a parados about 1 metre wide, and in some cases narrower, along the whole line. At the point at which our raiding party entered it was remarked that there was no parados. Prisoner stated that this was due to the construction of the trench being somewhat different at the point where it crosses the railway.

METHOD OF HOLDING FRONT LINE TRENCH.

At night one half the number of men in each group (8 men) are on guard, the remainder being in their dugouts. The distance between sentries is 5 to 6 metres, there being one man per bay. If the bay was large there would be two men in it.

In addition to this there are listening posts in Saps. One man patrols up and down the Sap, and another man is ready at the Sap Head to give the alarm. If the listener notices anything unusual he communicates what he has seen to the second man, who passes on the information to the sentries by word of mouth. In a case of immediate danger the second man rings a hand bell which can be heard a considerable distance.

On our artillery bombarding their front line trenches, all those who are not at the listening posts, enter the "Trommelfeuerposten" and remain there until the bombardment ceases or lifts from their trenches.

Prisoner had not heard of any listening apparatus having been installed in the enemy trenches.

(4)

All the prisoners examined agree that there are no definite hours of "standing to", and it would appear that the enemy do not expect an attack to take place at sunrise or sunset.

SNIPERS POSTS.

Prisoner was able to give some information regarding the method of sniping. He states that steel loop-hole plates are built into the parapet at varying distances along their front trench. The sniper fires from these loopholes, being careful not to fire too often through the same hole. He states that snipers are provided with a helmet consisting of a steel plate about 5 mm. thick which comes down to the level of the eyebrows but do not extend very far back over the head; the rear part being made of cloth. Prisoner denies the use of dummy figures as a means of spotting our snipers. Spotting is done entirely by (?) flash seen through a telescope; alidades are not used for this purpose.

GUN POSITIONS.

The prisoner could not give any definite positions of the enemy artillery, but knew of their being several emplacements on both sides of the road between LA VALLEE and BONNETIERES, as there were sentries guarding the pathways to the batteries.

A battery is said to be a few hundred yards to the southwest of LA VALLEE. The S.O.S. signal is said to be given by telephone and not by flare.

HEAVY ARTILLERY.

Prisoner now states that the No. of the Foot Artillery Battery was 15 or 20, and was armed with 21 cm. Hows.

He had not heard of the 221st Foot Artillery Battery.

FOOD.

Prisoner appeared entirely satisfied with the rations supplied, and stated that each man received a large loaf (4 to 6 lbs), and also sufficient fresh butter, jam etc., every other day. Hot meals were served every day, as was also, tea and coffee in the mornings.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Prisoner had heard of a raid on the BRIDOUX SALIENT and had heard that 22 prisoners were taken, also one trench mortar, and he believed, one machine gun. He had not heard of the raid which took place on the night of the 30th May at CORDONNERIE.

Prisoner had not heard of any projected raids on our trenches nor did he know that any practice raids had taken place behind the lines.

The following particulars were supplied by a wounded prisoner of the 1st Machine Gun Company, of the 50th Reserve Division.

GENERAL.

Prisoner arrived with a draft of 12 men from NEUSTADT (X Corps District) 4 days ago, and was therefore unable to give much local information.

TRAINING.

He underwent 6 months Infantry training in the Depot. Battalion of the 92nd R.I.R. (X Army Corps). He was then selected to undergo a course of machine gun instruction. This course took place with the Depot. Unit of the 2nd Machine Gun Company of the X Army Corps in NEUSTADT, and lasted 10 weeks.

(5)

MACHINE GUN COMPANIES.

Prisoner states that his Company is now known as the 1st Machine Gun Company of the 50th Reserve Division, but men wore the shoulder straps of the 231st R.I.R.

He now states that there are not more than 6 machine guns in his Company, but seemed to be very vague as to the composition and organisation thereof. He knew that there was another machine gun detachment with the Regiment, and that these wore a green uniform with the number "4" on the shoulder straps, but could not say if these belonged to the 4th "Posen Fortress Machine Gun Detachment"

MACHINE GUN EMBLEMMENTS.

When our attack took place prisoner was with his comrades in his dugout. On our opening fire, they left the dugout presumably to go to the armoured "Trommelfeuerposen" which was immediately to his right. When reaching out for his coat a shell splinter hit his arm and he remained in the dugout until captured, and was therefore unable to say what happened to his comrades or the machine gun.

The machine gun emplacement is of similar construction to the armoured dugouts before mentioned, but has a double steel loop hole plate in the parapet, with a hole sufficiently large for the muzzle of the gun, which can traverse over a very wide angle.

The gun crew do not as a rule remain alongside the gun, but there are two sentries just outside.

He states that this emplacement is immediately to the west of the railway at I.21.c.7.3. He states that there was another gun some distance to his right, "about 10 minutes walk". He placed this on an air photograph at about I.21.d.0.7½. He knew that there were other guns of his Company on his left, but did not know their exact positions.

UNIFORMS.

The machine gunner above mentioned was wearing a blue-grey overcoat, rather similar in colour to that worn by the French soldiers; having a number 164 on the shoulder straps.

Prisoner stated that this coat was issued to him at the commencement of the machine gun course of instruction, but he had never served in the 164th Regiment, which, by the way, is also a regiment of the X Army Corps.

Among the booty brought in there was a German spike helmet (Pickelhaube) with a grey cover marked R in green.

2 3 1

The 231st R.I.R is a regiment of the IVth Corps District. On removing the cover a Saxon helmet plate was disclosed. From markings on the lining of the helmet it was seen that this helmet had previously belonged to a man in the 3rd Battalion of the 179th Infantry Regiment, (XIX Army Corps.) This helmet had probably been served out to the 50th Reserve Division from a Depot. in LILLE, as the XIX Corps is on their immediate right.

From above it will be noted that identifications from equipment are becoming more and more unreliable.