

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

Formation Headquarters

Item number: 1/50/20 Part 12

Title: General Staff, Headquarters 5th
Australian Division

October 1917



AWM4-1/50/20PART12

G16/215.

First ANZAC Corps,

1st October 1917.

- 1st Australian Division
- 2nd Australian Division
- 4th Australian Division
- 5th Australian Division
- C.M.G.O.
- 10th Aust. L.H. Regiment
- 1st ANZAC Cyclist Battalion
- Corps Mounted Troops
- A.P.M.

Promiscuous firing at aeroplanes is strictly forbidden.

Firing may be carried out only by machine guns or parties specially mounted by brigade commanders or under orders of an area commandant. Such firing should be arranged on a definite scheme.

(Sgd) A.M. ROS., Lieut-Col.,
for Brigadier-General,
General Staff,
First ANZAC Corps.

Copies to :-

- "AC")
- Ig.)
- C.E.)
- S.D. Signals.)
- D.D.M.S.)
- Camp Commandant.)
- G.C.C., A.A.)

For information.



BOMBING CONFERENCE

1. A Conference of Divisional, Brigade and Battalion Bombing Officers will be held at Divisional Headquarters at 10 a.m. on the 4th instant.
2. If for any reason any Bombing Officer is unable to attend, a substitute will be sent.
3. A successor should be appointed immediately for any officer who has become a casualty during the recent operations, and the name of the officer notified to Divisional Headquarters.
4. All Bombing Officers will bring to the Conference all informations and suggestions regarding (a) bombing tactics, (b) ammunition supplies, that they can gather from the experiences of their units in the operations just concluded.

2nd October, 1917.

K. A. Goodland per
 for Lieut-Colonel,
 General Staff,
 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Distribution :-

	copies
8th Infantry Brigade	7
14th Infantry Brigade	7
15th Infantry Brigade	7

Copy to:-

Divisional Bomb Officer.

Notes on Intelligence in Recent Operations
carried out by 5th Australian Division on
26th September 1917.

1. The general value of Intelligence was especially great on this occasion and called forth express appreciation from Corps and Army Headquarters.
2. Since the action a great number of the documents captured, and prisoners evidences have been republished by higher formations in Intelligence Summaries.
3. Identifications were made very early. The earliest was sent to Divisional Headquarters at 7.55 a.m. One was sent by "Power Buzzer" from the front line at 8 a.m., others at 8.30 and 9 a.m. and continually thereafter. They were passed back by all ranks and found to be correct.
4. Several new identifications were made, most of which known to be in FLANDERS but not in line; one especially valuable was made of a Division in line which was thought to be in RUSSIA.
5. The work of Intelligence Police and Battalion Intelligence personnel was especially good. Papers, letters, documents, maps etc. began to arrive at Brigade Headquarters early and in large quantities. At least 10 sand bags, four wallets and many other odd parcels and packets were sent back.
6. Among the documents received were complete orders, Divisional down to Company for the German attack on the 25th, the day before our attack. Others were secured giving enemy dispositions, intentions, and assembly places for counter attack. One particular document taken was a defence scheme of the 9th Reserve Corps. Although this document did not effect our own front, it will be invaluable to those to whom it does concern.
7. Captured maps showing every complete trench systems, Headquarters, machine gun positions, dugouts, dumps, tracks used and assembly places, also one map showing battery positions. Other papers captured gave the complete wireless system, and instructions of the Army opposite our front; also the codes with the latest corrections. These were immediately used by the Army for decoding intercepted wireless.
8. The instances related above are only some of many other important letters and documents captured.
9. Every endeavour is being made to return to the Battalions post cards, maps, papers etc. which are no further use for intelligence purposes.
10. It is desired that all ranks know of the good results obtained and further impressed on the importance of collecting and returning all papers, letters etc. no matter how small or unimportant they may appear.
11. As regards personnel used for searching, it is considered that two searchers instead of four be allotted to the Divisional Intelligence Police men attached to Battalion Headquarters.

- 12. It is again impressed on all concerned that the time, map location and by which Battalion captured should be sent back with all prisoners and documents captured.
- 13. It is hoped that Battalion make as much use as possible of the Intelligence Police for securing immediate tactical information.

General Staff,
5th Australian Division.
5th Oct. 1917.

EXTRACT from a report of a Division on the British Gas attack on night of 12/13th September 1917.

During the night of 12/13th September, the English made several attacks in the divisional sector with the 22 c.m. phosgene gas projectors long known to us. They proceeded in their usual manner by suddenly firing a great number of these projectors simultaneously.

Unfortunately a large number of casualties resulted. One of the regiments had 105 cases, of which, within 5 to 15 minutes, 15 proved fatal. One company had 11 dead and almost the whole of the remainder ill. These heavy losses were due to the fact that the projectors appeared in large numbers, and were mostly direct hits on the trenches.

The men were taken by surprise, and although they put on their masks with the greatest rapidity, the immediate heavy charging of the air with gas did not allow the men time to get on their masks before they had inhaled sufficient gas to make them casualties.

A certain percentage of the casualties was due to defects in the new leather masks. The chief defect lay in the insufficient fitting of the leather mask against the forehead, caused by the stiffness of the leather.

Besides it was observed that the forehead bands were too wide apart, which in many cases resulted in the mask crinkling up towards the centre. The men forgot, in the excitement of the moment to smooth down the space between the forehead and the mask with their hand; gas consequently penetrated into the mask and the resulting difficulty in breathing made the men raise their masks and caused sickness.

Good results were obtained from the Z mouthpiece. A test will be made of a dud from which it will be established whether a stronger gas than usual has been used (After this follows a series of suggestions and advice for the treatment of gas cases).

Troops must keep a sharp look out for gas battery emplacements. Experience has shown that the English make emplacements in suitable positions for 16 to 20 mortars, so as to be able to concentrate on to any one sector of our trenches, and in the space of a few minutes to fire off several hundred projectors.

It is therefore a prime necessity to pay the greatest attention to aerial photographs which will clearly show emplacements for gas firing M.M.'s, which must be immediately destroyed; either by artillery or by heavy and medium M.W.'s will be decided by the division.

As the enemy only load their M.M.'s at the last moment, keeping the gas shells till then in the nearest dug-outs, all dug-outs lying in the neighbourhood must be engaged by annihilating fire of heavy calibre.

As soon as the weather permits, the enemy's trenches in the immediate neighbourhood are to be gassed in the same way. A corresponding establishment of M.W.'s must be prepared along the whole front.

8th October 1917.

General Staff.
5th Australian Division.

Issued down to Companies.



REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF THE RESEARCHES...


During the night of 12/13 September, the British tanks... several attacks in the direction of the enemy... The first attack was made by a tank which was... by another tank which was... The second attack was... The third attack was... The fourth attack was... The fifth attack was... The sixth attack was... The seventh attack was... The eighth attack was... The ninth attack was... The tenth attack was...

General Staff
23rd October 1917

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"C" Form Army Form C. 2123.
(In books of 100.)


MESSAGES AND SIGNALS. No. of Message..... *204*

Prefix.....	Code.....	Words..... <i>20</i>	Received..... <i>aw</i>
Charges to collect			From.....
Service Instructions.			By..... <i>aw</i>
Sent, or sent out		Office Stamp.	
At.....m.			
To.....			
By.....			
Handed in at.....		Office.....	Received.....m.

TO *5th Austn Divn*

*Sender's Number <i>4 260</i>	Day of Month <i>15</i>	In reply to Number	AAA
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Army Commander will visit your headquarters at 1.25 pm tomorrow 16th



FROM	<i>ADC 2nd Army</i>
PLACE & TIME	

* This line should be erased if not required.
(B 8188) Wk. v. 7496-M857 250,000 Pads. 1/17 F&S (E459.) Forms/C.2123/3

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A FORM. **MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.**

Army Form C. 2121. (In pads of 100.)

Prefix.....	Code.....	m	Words.	Charge.	No. of Message.....
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.				This message is on a/c of:	
.....				Recd. at..... m.	
.....				Date.....	
.....				From.....	
.....				By.....	
.....				(Signature of "Franking Officer.")	

TO {

A. W. G. to G. O. G.

Sender's Number * <i>G13/1573</i>	Day of Month. <i>6th</i>	In reply to Number.	<i>AAA</i>
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Winter time will come into use on 7th October
 at 1 a.m. summer time aaa At that hour all
 clocks will be put back one hour.

Harriet

J. J. J.

From <i>5th AUST. DIV.</i>	
Place	
Time <i>7 pm</i>	

The above may be forwarded as now corrected.

(Z)

Saturn

Censor.

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

* This line should be erased if not required.

(3796.) Wt. W 492/M1647. 650,000 Pads. 5/17. H. W. & V., Ld. (E. 1187.)

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APPENDIX.

"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.....
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.			Sent	Service	Date.....
PRIORITY.....			At.....			From.....
FULLERPHONE.....			To.....		(Signature of "Franking Officer.")	By.....
(sgd) J.H. PECK			Lieut-Col			

TO	15th Inf Bde	1st ANZAC	
	4th Aust Div	5th Div. Art.	
	23rd Div	57th H.A.G.	

Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
* G16/2388	15th		

A patrol of 4th Aust Div reports that the enemy were NOT at D.30.b.3.8 last night. AAA To confirm this report 4th Aust Div are sending patrols through north of D.30.b, 24.d, 24.b and south of 18.d in order to gain touch with enemy. AAA 15th Inf Bde will cooperate with 4th Aust Div by sending patrols towards D.30.b and d and J.b with the object of gaining touch with the enemy. AAA Result of reconnaissance to be immediately reported. AAA Addsd 15th Inf Bde reptd 4th Aust Div 23rd Div 1st ANZAC 5th Div Art and 57th H.A.G.

From	5th Aust Div	
Place		
Time	11.35 a.m.	

The above may be forwarded as now corrected.

(Z) (sgd) J.H. PECK Lt-Col.

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

* This line should be erased if not required.

(227) Wt W492/M1647. 50,000 Pads. 5/17. A.C.Ltd. (E 1187)

G9/3932

Headquarters,
1 ANZAC Corps.

The proposals in regard to the establishment and organisation of Machine Gun Companies have been considered, and afterwards discussed by the Brigade Commanders of this Division in conference with myself.

2. After full consideration, our unanimous opinion is that a change in the establishment and organisation of Machine Gun Companies is desirable, and that the reorganisation should be on the lines suggested under the heading of "Proposals for New Organisation of Machine Guns" in your memorandum.
3. It is considered that 56 guns ^{are} ~~is~~ sufficient for the Division.
4. It is suggested that the Major Commanding the four companies allotted as Divisional Troops should be also made responsible for the training of the Brigade companies, in order that uniformity may be ensured throughout the Division. He should also act as expert adviser to Infantry Brigadiers.
5. It is considered that all personnel for machine gun companies should be trained and kept for that purpose alone. The experience is that officers in machine gun companies, in this Division at all events, are quite content with the prospects of promotion that obtain in machine gun companies.
6. It is not considered that a Corps Machine Gun Officer is necessary. It is thought that whatever co-ordination of divisional machine gun companies may be necessary, can very well be arranged by the Corps Staff in consultation with the D.M.G.O's concerned.

Sgd

J. T. HOBBS.
Major-General,

30th October 1917.

Commanding 5th Australian Division.

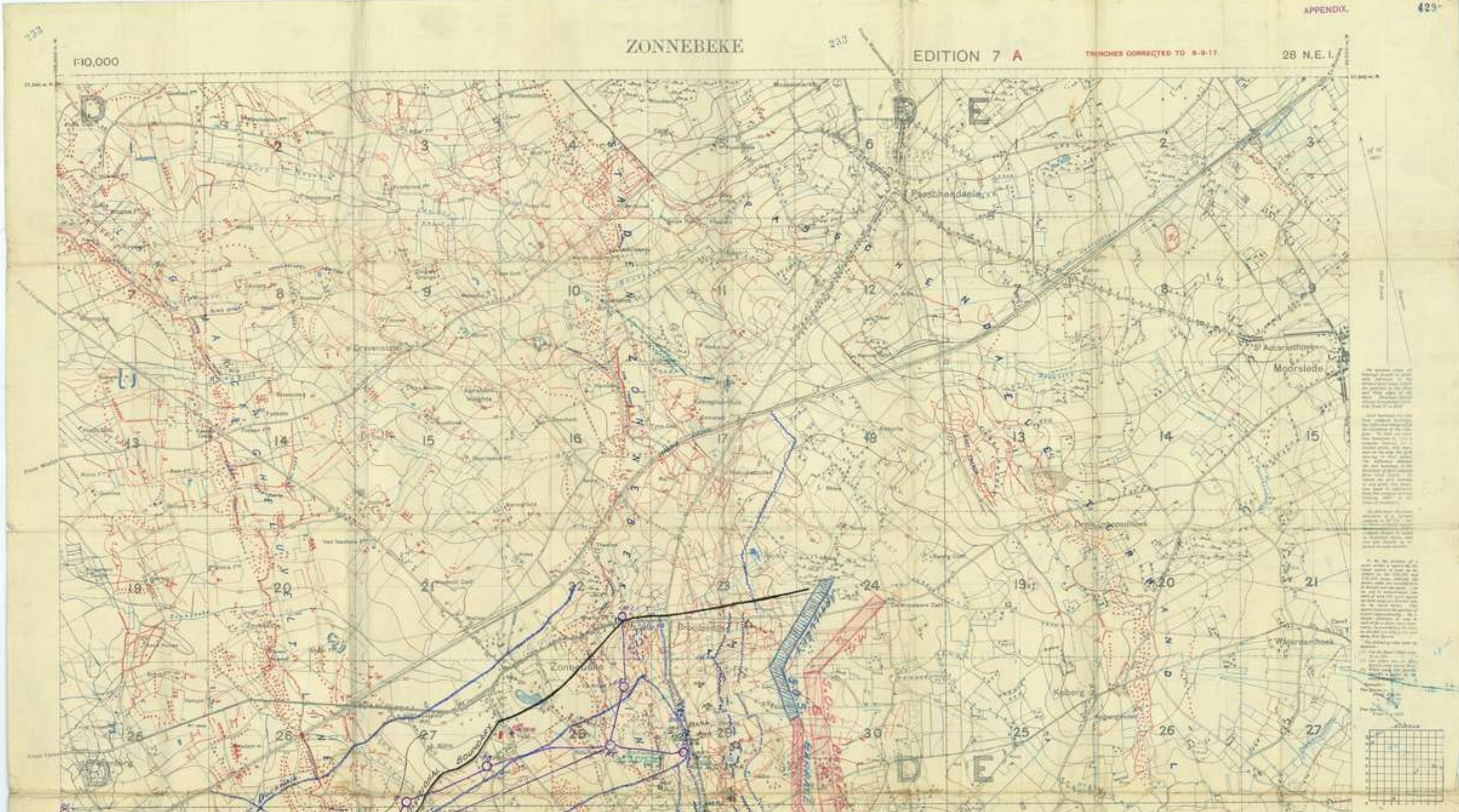
ZONNEBEKE

EDITION 7 A

TRENCHES CONNECTED TO B-9-17

28 N.E. I

1:10,000



YPRES

EDITION 3

28 N.W. 4

1:10,000

