

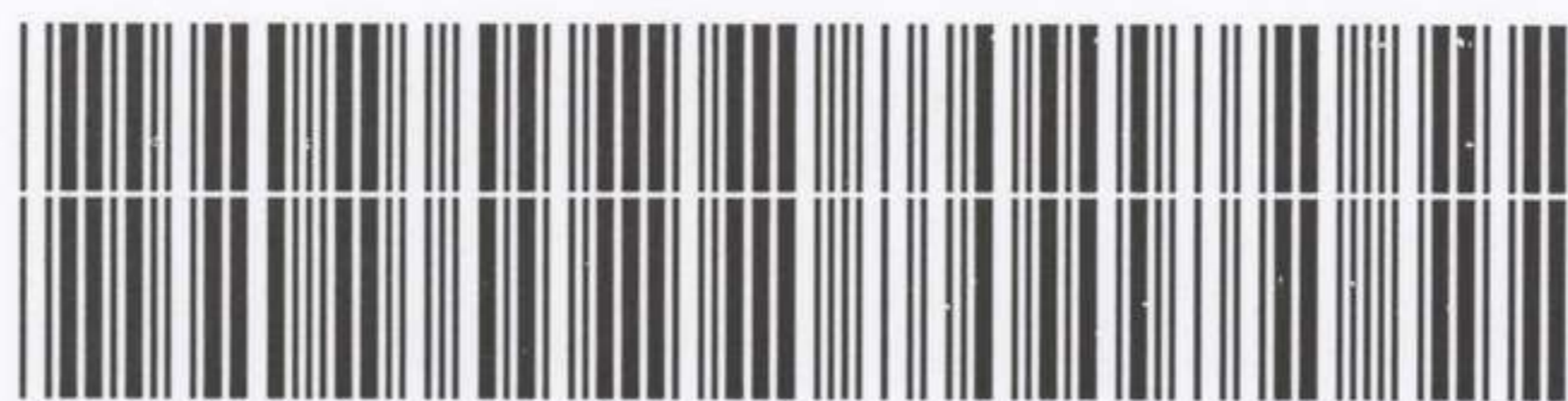
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Artillery

Item number: 13/29/37

Title: Headquarters, 1st Australian Field
Artillery Brigade

December 1917



AWM4-13/29/37

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2418.

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

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

200

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1917.			
	Dec.	1.	2nd/Lieut. H. L. BOWRING reported for duty and was posted to 3rd. Battery.	
		2.	Lieut. J. R. ROBERTSON reported for duty and was posted to 1st. Battery.	
		5.	Brig-General W.A. COXEN. D.S.O. - B.G.R.A. 1st. ANZAC Corps - inspected the Brigade.	
			Major R. M. THOMPSON. M.C. awarded D.S.O. for gallantry and devotion to duty during operations.	
		13.	2nd/Lieut. C. V. WICKENS rejoined from hospital.	
		16.	1st. Aust. Div. Arty. Routine Order No. 114 received giving instructions for move and relief by 1st. A. F. A. Brigade of 13th. A. F. A. Brigade in the line on the 18th. and 19th. Decr. Orders issued to each Battery.	
			Major H. R. BYRNE (2nd. Battery) temporarily transferred to 2nd. F. A. Brigade to command while Lieut.-Colonel D. H. MOORE is on leave.	
			Major H. L. EDMONDS transferred temporarily from 2nd. F. A. Brigade to command 101st. How. Bty. while Major J. C. Selmes. D.S.O. is on leave.	
			Captain J. E. STALEY. M.C. transferred temporarily from 2nd. F. A. Brigade to command 2nd. Bty. vice Major H. R. BYRNE.	
		11.15 a.m.	Major EDMONDS and Captain STALEY reported for duty.	
		10.00 p.m.	Major EDMONDS transferred back to 2nd. F. A. Brigade to resume command of 102nd. How. Battery. Captain J. DOHERTY transferred temporarily to 1st. F. A. Brigade to command 101st. How. Battery while Major J. C. SELMES. D.S.O. is on leave.	
		17.	8.15 a.m. Brigade and Battery Commanders went forward in motor lorry to reconnoitre positions of Batteries we are to relieve.	
		18	Brigade Signal Sub-section and 2 Sections per Battery left DOULIEU at 8 a.m. arriving at new wagon lines at NEUVE EGLISE at 10.30 a.m.	
			Major J. C. CHRISTIE reported from Corps Headquarters for duty and was posted to 3rd. Battery to command.	
			Captain W. S. LAIDLEY appointed Acting-Adjutant vice Captain R. A. LITTLE about to proceed to attend Battery Commanders' Course of Instruction at SHOE BURYNESS - England.	
		19.	2 p.m. Relief completed by 1st. F. A. Bde. from 2nd 13th. F. A. Bde.	
			1st. F. A. Brigade Zone - Right Sector covering MESSINES - called MESSINES GROUP. Line held by 3rd. Aust. Inf. Brigade - 2 Battalions in the line; one in support 1 one in reserve.	
			Location of Brigade as follows :- <u>Ref. Sheet. 28 S.W. and S.E. (parts of) BELGIUM.</u>	
			<u>Unit.</u> <u>Guns.</u> <u>Map. Ref.</u> <u>Wagon Lines Map Ref.</u>	
			(See over).	

A7092). Wt. W12839/M1292 750,000. 1/17. D. D. & L., Ltd. Forms/C2118/14.

W. S. Laidley
Adjutant. 1st. F.A. Brigade.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

200

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information				Remarks and references to Appendices	
	1917.							
	Dec.	19.	<u>Unit.</u>	<u>Guns.</u>	<u>Map Ref.</u>	<u>Wagon Lines</u>	<u>Map Ref.</u>	Ref. Sheet:- 28. S.W. & S.E. (Parts of) <u>Belgium</u>
			Headquarters.	-	T.6.c.15.75.	T.20.a.8.0.		
			1st. Battery.	2	0.32.b.05.00.			
				4	U.1.a.70.50.	T.20.a.8.0.		
			2nd. Battery.	1	U.3.c.80.25.			
				5	U.13.a.80.80.	N.21.c.6.3.		
			3rd. Battery.	2	0.31.b.90.30.			
				4	0.31.a.55.05.	T.20.c.2.2.		
			101st. Battery.	2	U.2.a.25.65.			
				4	U.7.d.00.70.	T.26.b.5.5.		
			2nd/Lieut. L. SAMUELS reported from O. T. C. and was posted to 101st. Battery.					
			7.40 p.m. Liaison Officer with Left Batt. asked for retaliation on target 0.36.a.60.80. 1st. and 3rd. Batteries each fired 30 rounds. Operation Order No. 41 carried out.					
	20.	1.50 a.m.	Right Batt. Liaison asked for retaliation on target U.6.b.25.30. 2nd. and 101st. Battery each fired 25 rounds on this target. At 3.15 a.m. a further 30 rounds by 1st. and 3rd. Batteries each were expended on same target. Day very quiet. Thick fog prevented any observation.					
		3.30 p.m.	All batteries of group fired 30 rounds on tracks and roads in rear area of Group zone.					
		6.30 p.m.	Left Liaison Officer asked for retaliation on target 0.30.d.40.10. 20 rounds each fired by 1st. and 3rd. Batteries.					
		8.45 p.m.	2nd. and 101st. Batteries each fired 20 rounds on KIWI FARM 0.36.c.55.50. in retaliation at request of Infantry Liaison Officer.					
		11.20 p.m.	30 rounds each by 1st. and 3rd. Battery fired on KINGSCLERE U.6.b.25.30. in retaliation. Operation Order No. 42 carried out					
	21.		C. O. inspected O.P.'s. and forward gun positions and Right Infantry Battalion H.Q.					
		1.30 a.m.	1st. and 3rd. Batteries fired 30 rounds each in retaliation on 0.36.c.55.50.					
		6.50 p.m.	Left Batt. Liaison asked for retaliation on 0.30.d.40.10. and 1st. and 3rd. Batteries fired 20 rounds each. Operation Order No. 2 carried out.					

A7092). Wt. W12839/M1297 40,000. 7/17. D. D. & L. Ltd. Forms C2118/11.

W. S. Lewis Captain. 2
Adjutant. 1st. F.A. Brigade.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

200

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1917.			
	Dec.	22.	<p>Very clear day. All Batteries carried out registration shoots.</p> <p>3.00 p.m. C.R.A. visited Group Headquarters.</p> <p>3.30 p.m. General Bingham inspected 1st. Battery.</p> <p>6.50 p.m. 1st. Battery reported Gas shell falling at rate of about 3 per minute from 77 mm. Gun. Direction of fire - COMINES. Shell falling in O.32.a. Brigade Major notified and heavies retaliated.</p> <p>7.3 p.m. Gas shelling stopped.</p> <p>9.00 p.m. Left Batt. Liaison Officer reported heavy shelling of MESSINES Ridge by 4.2's and 5.9's.</p> <p>9.5 p.m. 1st. Battery reported about 100 rounds of 4.2" shell fell in O.32.d.</p> <p>9.10 p.m. 3rd. Battery reported about 100 rounds of 5.9" shell fell in O.32.a.</p> <p>1st. Battery report fire coming from True Bearing of 50° from O.32.b.05.50.</p> <p>3rd. Battery report fire coming from True Bearing of 103° from O.31.a.55.05.</p> <p>10.35 p.m. 3rd. Battery reports a Hostile 4.2" Battery firing on a True Bearing of 113° and a 5.9" Battery on a True Bearing of 95° taken from O.31.a.55.05. Shells of both Batteries falling in O.32.a.</p> <p>10.40 p.m. Rang Counter-battery Group and asked for retaliation. Operation Order No. 3. carried out.</p>	<p>Ref. Sheet.</p> <p>28. S.W. & S.E.</p> <p>(part of)</p> <p>Belgium.</p>
		23.	<p>8.55 a.m. Left. Batt. Liaison Officer asked for retaliation on O.30.d.40.10. 1st. and 3rd. Batteries replied with 15 rounds each. At same time forward gun of 2nd. Battery fired short bursts on KKIWI FARM O.36.c.55.50.</p> <p>Captain H. SYMONDS. A.A.M.C. reported for duty as R.M.O. from 1st. Aust. Fld. Amb. vice Captain H. L. BEALE returned to duty with 6th. Aust. Fld. Amb.</p> <p>1.00 p.m. German miniature paper balloon fell at 1st. Battery position. Nothing attached to it. This was forwarded to 1st. Aust. Div. Artillery H.Q.</p> <p>11.00 a.m. 70th. Battery R.G.A. commenced a destructive shoot on KIWI FARM O.36.c.55.50. and KINGSCLERE U.6.B.25.30. strong points. 120 rounds 8" were expended on the first-named and 10 direct hits were observed - the first shoot terminating at 12.30 p.m. KINGSCLERE target was then engaged - 80 rounds being fired and six direct hits being obtained. Shoot finished at 2.15 p.m. Visibility was indifferent for first target and good for second target. Telephone communication uninterrupted throughout. Shoot observed by an Officer of this Group.</p>	
			<p style="text-align: right;"><i>W. S. Lushy</i> Captain. Adjutant. 1st. F.A. Brigade.</p>	

A7092). Wt. W12839/M1298 750,000. 1/17. D. D. & L., Ltd. Forms/C2118/14.

WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

200

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1917.			
	Dec. 23.	7.30 p.m.	1st. Battery fired two salvos on KIWI FARM .	Ref. Sheet. 29. S.W. & S.E. (parts of) Belgium.
			3rd. " "c " " " " KINGSCLERE.	
		11.00 p.m.	Left Batt. Liaison Officer reports 5.9's falling on ridge in O.32.b. coming from direction of COMINES.	
		11.10 p.m.	Counter-Battery replied with neutralizing fire. Operation Order No. 4. carried out.	
	24.	12.45 a.m.	Right Batt. Liaison Officer asked for retaliation on KIWI FARM O.36.c.55.50. Forward gun of 2nd. Battery expended 30 rounds on this target. Captain E. MASTERS. M.C. rejoined from hospital and was posted to 101st. Battery to command temporarily to date from 26/12/1917.	
			10.00 p.m.	
	25.	2.30 p.m.	Left Liaison Officer reported 4.2's falling in U.4.c. coming from COMINES. Counter-Battery asked for retaliation.	
			11.30 p.m.	
	26.		Chaplain H.D. Peel - Brigade Chaplain - proceeded on leave to England. Captain J. DOHERTY relinquished temporary command of 101st. How. Battery and rejoined 2nd. A. F. A. Brigade.	
			8.15 p.m.	
			9.35 p.m.	2nd. and 101st. Batteries fired 20 rounds each on O.36.a.60.80. in retaliation.
			10.25 p.m.	2nd. and 101st. Batteries fired 20 rounds each on U.6.b.25.30.
			11.00 p.m.	At further request 101st. Battery expended 30 rounds on U.6.b.25.30. Operation Order No. 7. carried out.
	27.		2nd/Lieut. W. M. McKENZIE reported for duty from R.B.A.A. and was temporarily attached to B. H. Q. as Orderly Officer.	
			6.55 p.m.	Right Batt. Liaison Officer asked for retaliation on KINGSCLERE and at 7 p.m. 101st. Battery fired 15 rounds. Operation Order No. 8. carried out.

W. Lewisby Captain.
Adjutant, 1st. F.A. Brigade.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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200

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1917. Dec.	28.	<p>The Corps Commander (General Sir William Birdwood, K.C.B. &c.) and C. R. A. inspected Battery positions of the Brigade.</p> <p>8.30 a.m. 3rd. Inf. Bde. H.Q. reported hostile working parties in V.7.a. and b.</p> <p>8.35 a.m. 2nd. and 101st. Batteries fired bursts at intervals on above points. BASSEVILLE Group informed.</p> <p>1.00 p.m. Hostile 4.2" Battery shelled forward section of 1st. Battery at O.32.b.05.00. from direction of COMINES. Rang Counter-Battery Group and asked for retaliation.</p> <p>2.00 p.m. C. O. had conference with Battery Commanders at Group H.Q.</p> <p>9.35 p.m. Left Batt. Liaison Officer reported M. G's. active at O.36.d.2.4. and at 9.40 p.m. the 101st. Battery fired 20 rounds on them.</p> <p>10.15 p.m. 1st. Battery fired 16 rounds on O.35.b.4.4. in retaliation.</p> <p>11.55 p.m. 1st. Battery report a hostile 4.2 Battery shelling roads in U.7.b. and U.2.a. Advised Counter-Battery and asked for retaliation.</p> <p>Operation Orders Nos. 9 and 11 carried out.</p>	<p>Ref. Sheet.</p> <p>28. S.W. & S.E.</p> <p>(part of)</p> <p>Belgium.</p>
		29.	<p>4.45 a.m. Left Batt. Liaison Officer reported M.G. active at O.35.b.20.57. and the 1st. Battery was instructed to engage this target with occasional bursts.</p> <p>12.20 p.m. Left O.P. reports 5.9" Battery shelling U.8.a. and b. at a rate of about 6 rounds per minute. Direction of fire Grid bearing of 98° from O.32.a.2.2. Rang Counter-Battery and asked for retaliation. Firing ceased at 1 p.m.</p> <p>6.00 p.m. Left Batt. Liaison Officer reported M.G's. active at O.35.b.3.2. and O.35.b.75.18. 1st. Battery fired 20 rounds on each. Liaison Officer further reported shoot to be satisfactory.</p> <p>C.O. selected forward O. P's. at O.34.c.60.28. and U.4.a.15.65.</p> <p>8.50 p.m. Left Batt. Liaison Officer asked for shoot on M. G. at O.35.b.3.2. plus 50 yards; also shoot on T.M. between pin-points O.35.b.60.35. and O.35.b.70.35. 1st. Battery fired 20 rounds on each target.</p> <p>11.15 p.m. Left Liaison reports T.M. active at O.35.b.60.35. 1st. Battery fired 20 rounds. Operation Order No. 10. carried out.</p>	

A7092). Wt. W14839/M1293 750,000. 1/17. D. D & L., Ltd. Forms/C2118/14.

W. D. L. M. S.
Adjutant. 1st. Captain!

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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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200

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices									
	1917. Dec.	30.	2.8 a.m. Left Liaison Officer reports M.G's. at 0.35.d.85.90. and 0.35.b.60.45. 3rd. Battery fired 20 rounds on each. Major J. C. SELMES. D.S.O. reported back from furlough and was temporarily attached to B. H. Q. Very quiet day. Visibility bad. Practically no hostile shelling. Operation Order No. 12. carried out.	Ref. Sheet. E28 SW & S.E. (parts of) Belgium.									
		31.	9.15 p.m. Left Battalion Liaison Officer reports hostile 4.2" Battery shelling 0.34.b. from direction of WARNETON. Counter-Battery informed and asked for retaliation. 10.30 p.m. 101st. Battery reports slight gas shelling but unable to say from where. Operation Order No. 13. carried out.										

<p>Ammunition expended from 19th. Dec. 1917 to 31st. Dec. 1917 :-</p> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">1899</td> <td>rounds</td> <td>"A".</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">5624</td> <td>"</td> <td>"AX"</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">2692</td> <td>"</td> <td>"BX"</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Total - 10215 Rounds.</u></p>					1899	rounds	"A".	5624	"	"AX"	2692	"	"BX"
1899	rounds	"A".											
5624	"	"AX"											
2692	"	"BX"											
<p>Casualties - Nil. 53 Other Ranks evacuated to hospital sick.</p>													
<p><i>W.S. Laidley</i>. Captain. Adjutant. 1st. Brigade.</p>													

MESSINES GROUP ARTILLERY ORDER No.41.

Copy No. 5

SECRET.Headquarters,
17th. December 1917.

Reference sheet 28 S.W. 1-20,000

1. Harassing fire will be carried out by batteries of this Group by day on the 19th. December and by night on the 19th/20th. December 1917.
2. Bursts of fire are to be directed on targets allotted between the hours of 4.45pm and 8pm, and 4.30am - (7.am.)
3. Tasks are as follows :-

50th. Bty	X	Search and sweep Chateau GHESQUIERE area from U.12.b.4.4. to U.12.b.4.8. to a distance of 300 yards.
51st. "		2 Sections search area from U.6.d.1.7. to U.6.d.10.95 to U.6.d.20.98 to U.6.d.25.75.
49th. "	X	1 Section Track and road at V.1.a.1.7.
	X	2 " sweep OTIRA TRENCH from 0.36.a.2.1 to 0.36.a.60. 85
		1 Gun T.M. at 0.36.c.7.2.
		1 " T.M. at 0.36.a.7.7.
113th. "	X	1 How T.M. at V.12.a.05.62.
		1 " 0.36.c.55.70.
	X	1 " U.6.b.0.7.
		1 " 0.36.d.85.65.
		1 " 0.36.c.7.2.
		1 " 0.36.a.7.7.
4. Ammunition to be used - 150 rounds per battery. 25% A and 75% AX for 18pdrs.
5. ACKNOWLEDGE.

60 A, AX.
20 BX.Sgd. G.H. MILLER. Lieut & Adjt.,
MESSINES Group Artillery....

Distribution	
No.1	No.2
49th. Bty	50th. Bty
3 51st	4 113th
5 File	6 5th. D.A.
7, 8 and 9.	War Diary
10 Inf. Bde	11 and 12. Spare.

200

MESSINES GROUP ARTILLERY ORDER No. 42.

Copy No. 5

SECRET.Headquarters,
18th December 1917.

Reference sheet 28 S.W. 1-20,000

1. Harassing fire will be carried out by batteries of this Group by day on the 20th. December and by night on the 20th/21st December 1917.
2. Bursts of fire will be directed on objectives shown in Task Table at irregular intervals throughout the following periods at B.Cs' discretion
4.p.m to 7.p.m and 5.am to 7.am.
3. Tasks are as follows :-

50th.Bty.	Search from U.12.a.4.4. to U.6.c.75.80. to a depth of 300 yards.
51st. "	Search from U.6.a.5.5. to 0.36.c.25.70. to a depth of 500 yards.
49th. "	Search OTIRA TRENCH from 0.36.c.25.90 to 0.36.a.60.95. to a depth of 300 yards.
113th. "	1 Section search from 0.36.b.30.45 to 0.36.b.25.65.
	1 How. search 0.36.a.75.65. ANGLE FARM
	1 " " KIWI FARM
	1 Section search 0.36.d.2.5.
4. Ammunition to be used - 200 rounds per battery. 25% A and 75% AX for 18pdrs.
5. ACKNOWLEDGE.

Distribution.

No.1	49th.Bty	No.2	50th.Bty
3	51st	4	113th
5	File	6	5th.D.A.
7,	8 and	9.	War Diary
10.	Inf Bde		11 & 12 Spare.

R. M. M. M.
Lieut & Adjt.,
MESSINES Group Artillery.

by
Lieut.- Colonel E.T.DEAN, D.S.O. Commanding.

Headquarters,
18th. December 1917.

1. LIAISON. The following duties will be carried out as under :-

- (a). LEFT DAYLIGHT O.P. For 1st. and 3rd. batteries. To be manned throughout the hours of daylight by an Officer and 2 telephonists at O.33.a.45.24. @
- (b). RIGHT DAYLIGHT O.P. For 2nd. and 101st. batteries. To be manned throughout the hours of daylight by an Officer and 2 telephonists at O.33.c.4.4. @
- (c). BRIGADE NIGHT O.P. To be manned throughout the hours of darkness by 1 Officer, 1 N.C.O. (Sergeant if possible), 2 telephonists and 1 linesman at O.33.c.4.4.
- (d). RIGHT BATTALION. To be manned throughout the hours of darkness by 1 Officer and 1 telephonist at U4c44.
- (e). LEFT BATTALION. To be manned throughout the hours of darkness by 1 Officer and 1 telephonist at O34b1515

@ The Officer who mans the O.P. in daylight will go to Battalion at night, sending back to battery one of his telephonists from O.P. with the O.P. report, to reach the battery by 3.30pm daily in time to meet runner from Group Headquarters.

2. The following will be the Roster by batteries :-

		"A"	"B"	"C"	"D"	"E"
19th. December.	Battery.	1st.	2nd.	101st.	2nd.	1st.
20th.	"	3	101	2	101	3
21st.	"	1	2	3	2	1
22nd.	"	3	101	2	101	3
23rd.	"	1	2	2	2	1
24th.	"	3	101	1	101	3
25th.	"	1	2	101	2	1
26th.	"	3	101	2	101	3
27th.	"	1	2	3	2	1
28th.	"	3	101	2	101	3
29th.	"	1	2	2	2	1
30th.	"	3	101	1	101	3
31st.	"	1	2	101	2	1
1st. January.	"	3	101	2	101	3
2nd.	"	1	2	3	2	1
3rd.	"	3	101	2	101	3
4th.	"	1	2	2	2	1
5th.	"	3	101	1	101	3

3 Acknowledge

Distribution.

Copy No.1 File No.2 D.A.
3 W.D. 4 1st. Bty
5 2nd. Bty. 6 3rd. "
7 101st.

W.S. Lawley
Adjutant MESSINES Group Artillery. Captain,

MESSINES GROUP OPERATION ORDER No. 2.By Lieut.-Colonel E. T. DE H. D.S.O. - Commanding.

Headquarters

19th. December 1917.

Reference : Sheet 28 S.V. 1/20000.

1. Harassing fire will be carried out by Batteries of this Group by day on the 21st. December; and by night on the 21st/22nd. December 1917.
2. Batteries will fire on undermentioned targets in bursts at irregular intervals between following times :- 4.15 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. and 4.30 a.m. to 7.30 a.m.
3. Targets :-

<u>1st. Battery</u>	-	Search roads and communications in squares O.36.A & B. and 31.A. and C.
<u>2nd. Battery</u>	-	Search and sweep enemy trenches roads and communications in squares U.6.C. and D. and northern half of U.12.A & B.
<u>3rd. Battery</u>	-	Search and sweep enemy roads tracks and trenches in squares O.36.C. and D. and U.6.A. and B.
<u>101st. Battery</u>	-	1 Gun ANGLE FARM O.36.A.75.65. 1 Gun KINGSCLERE U.6.B.25.25. 2. * Guns ANGLE FARM O.36.A.75.65. 1 Gun CROSS ROADS U.6.D.00.05. 1 Gun Search around U.1.A.15.60. 1 Gun " " U.6.D.26.15.
4. Expenditure :- 150 rounds per Battery.
Nature :- (18-pdrs.) - 25% "A"; 75% "AX".

In these harassing shoots all ammunition which cannot be set is to be fired percussion.

5. ACKNOWLEDGE.

W. S. L. S. L. S. L.
 Captain.
 A/Adjutant Messines Group Arty.

Distribution.

- Copy No. 1. Retained.
 2. War Diary.
 3. 5th. D. A.
 4. 1st. Battery.
 5. 2nd. Battery.
 6. 3rd. Battery.
 7. 101st. Battery.

MESSINES GROUP ARTILLERY.

11

Operation Order No. 3.By Lieut.-Colonel E. T. DEAN. D.S.O. - Commanding.Headquarters:
20th. December 1917.

1. Harassing fire will be carried out by Batteries of this Group by day on 22nd. December and by night on the 22nd/23rd. December 1917.
2. Batteries will fire on tasks as per table in bursts at irregular intervals between following times :- 3.30 p.m. to 8 p.m. and 5 a.m. to 8 a.m.
3. Task Table :- Targets.
- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 1st. Battery - | Search road - tracks and trenches in O.36.A. and B. |
| 2nd. Battery - | Search roads - tracks and trenches in U.6.C. and D. and with forward gun search road from EUREKA in V.1.A. to DEE FARM in P.32.C. |
| 3rd. Battery - | Search roads - tracks and trenches in O.36.C. and D. and U.6.A. and B. |
| 101st. Battery - | (Forward Section) - CIRCLE FARM P.31.A.50.85. BONDI HOUSE and Cross roads at V.1.D.45.35 |
| | (Rear Sections) - 1 Section sweep KINGSCLERE U.6.B.25.30.
1 Section sweep KIWI FARM O.36.C.60.50. |
4. Expenditure :- 150 rounds per battery. One-third to be expended by day and two-thirds by night.
- Nature - 18-Pdrs. 25% "A"; 75% "AX".
5. ACKNOWLEDGE.

W. L. L. L. Captain.
A/Adjutant Messines Group Arty.

Distribution.

- Copy No. 1. Retained.
2. War Diary.
3. 1st. Aust. D. A.
4. 1st. Battery.
5. 2nd. "
6. 3rd. "
7. 101st. "
8. Bde. Mjr. 3rd. Inf. Bde.

SECRET.

Copy No. 2

MESSINES GROUP ARTILLERY.

12

Operation Order No. 4.By Lieut.-Colonel E. T. DEAN. D.S.O. - Commanding.

Headquarters;

21st. December 1917.

- 200
1. Harassing fire will be carried out by Batteries of this Group by Day on 23rd. December and by night on 23rd/24th. December 1917.
 2. Batteries will fire on tasks as per table in bursts at irregular intervals between following times :- 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. to 7.30 a.m.
 3. Task Table :-

<u>Task Table :-</u>	<u>Targets.</u>
1st. 2nd. and) 3rd. Batteries)	Search and sweep roads - tracks and communications opposite S.O.S. Zones in lanes running due West West to East.
101st. Battery -	(Forward Section) - Roads and Pill-boxes in square P.31. (Rear Sections) - Trenches - tracks - roads and buildings in U.6.B. and D. and O.36.B. and D.
 4. Expenditure :- 150 rounds per Battery. Half to be expended by day and half by night.
Nature - 18-pdrs. - 25% "A"; 75% "AX".
 5. ACKNOWLEDGE.

W. S. Lindsay
Captain.
A/Adjutant Messines Group Arty.

Distribution.

- Copy No. 1. Retained.
2. War Diary.
3. 1st. Aust. D. A.
4. 1st. Battery.
5. 2nd. Battery.
6. 3rd. Battery.
7. 101st. Battery.
8. Bde. Major 3rd. Inf. Bde.

MESSINES GROUP ARTILLERY.Operation Order No. 5.By Lieut.-Colonel E. T. DEAN. D.S.O. - Commanding.Headquarters;
22nd. December 1917.

- 200
1. Harassing fire will be carried out by Batteries of this Group by Day on 24th. December and by Night on 24th./25th. December 1917.
 2. Batteries will fire as per Task Table in bursts at irregular intervals between the following times :- 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. and 5 a.m. to 7 a.m.
 3.

<u>Task Table :-</u>	<u>Targets.</u>
1st. Battery -	(Forward Section) EUREKA FARM and roads V.1.A. (1 Section) KINGSCLERE U.6.b.20.30. (1 Section) Search square O.36.B. and D.
2nd. Battery -	Sweep roads and tracks in squares U.6.B. and D.
3rd. Battery -	Sweep roads in square P.31.
101st. Battery -	(Forward Section) BUSSCHE FARM V.1.B.70.25. <i>B.40.60.</i> (Rear Sections) GARDE DIEU O.36. A.35.90. Strong points; Pill Boxes; Trench Junctions in U.6.B. and D.
 4.

<u>Expenditure :-</u>	200 rounds per Battery. Half to be expended by day and half by night.
<u>Nature -</u>	All "AX".
 5. **ACKNOWLEDGE.**

W. S. Lindsay
A/Adjutant Messines Group Arty. Captain.

Distribution.

- Copy No. 1. Retained.
 2. War Diary.
 3. 1st. Aust. Div. Art.
 4. 1st. Battery.
 5. 2nd. Battery.
 6. 3rd. Battery.
 7. 101st. Battery.
 8. Bde. Major 3rd. Inf. Bde.

MESSINES GROUP ARTILLERY.

14

Operation Order No. 6.By Lieut.-Colonel E. T. DEAN. D.S.O. - Commanding.Headquarters;
23rd. December 1917.

1. Harassing fire will be carried out by the Batteries of this Group by Day on the 25th. December 1917 and by night on the 25th/26th. December 1917.
2. Batteries will fire as per Task Table in bursts at irregular intervals between the following times :- 4.30 p.m. to 9 p.m. and 4 a.m. to 8 a.m.

<u>Task Table :-</u>	<u>Targets.</u>
1st. Battery -	Search and sweep roads - tracks and communications in Squares O.36.D. and P.31.C.
2nd. Battery -	Search and sweep roads - tracks and communications in squares U.6.D. and V.1.B.
3rd. Battery -	Search and sweep roads - tracks and communications in squares U.6.B. and V.1.A.
101st. Battery -	Strong Points; Pill Boxes and road junctions in O.36.D. U.6.B. - P.31.C. and V.1.A.

4. Expenditure :- 200 rounds per Battery. $\frac{1}{3}$ by day $\frac{2}{3}$ by night.
Nature (18-pdrs) - 25% "A". 75% "AX".

5. ACKNOWLEDGE.

W. S. Linsley
Captain.
A/Adjutant Messines Group Artillery.

Distribution.

- | | | |
|-------------|---|---------------------------|
| Copy No. 1. | - | Retained. |
| 2. | - | War Diary. |
| 3. | - | 1st. Aust. D. A. |
| 4. | - | 1st. Battery. |
| 5. | - | 2nd. Battery. |
| 6. | - | 3rd. Battery. |
| 7. | - | 101st. Battery. |
| 8. | - | Bde. Major 3rd. Inf. Bde. |

SECRET.Copy No. ².....

15

MESSINES GROUP ARTILLERY.Operation Order No. 7.By Lieut.-Colonel E. T. DEAN. D.S.O. - Commanding.Headquarters;
24th. December 1917.

1. Harassing fire will be carried out by the Batteries of this Group for 24 hours ending 8 a.m. 27th. December 1917.
2. Batteries will fire as per Task Table in bursts at irregular intervals throughout the 24 hours. One-third of allotted ammunition to be expended during hours of daylight; the remainder throughout hours of darkness.

3.

<u>Task Table :-</u>	<u>Target.</u>
1st. Battery -	Search and sweep roads - tracks and communications in O.36.C. & D. and P.31.A. and C.
2nd. Battery -	Search and sweep roads - tracks and trenches in U.6.C. and S.D. and V.1.C. and D.
3rd. Battery -	Search and sweep roads - tracks and trenches in U.6.A. and B. and V.1.A. and B.
101st. Battery -	Roads - trench junctions and strong points in O.36.D. U.6.A. and B. and northern half of U.12.B. Cross Roads in rear of Group Front.

4.

<u>Expenditure :-</u>	200 rounds per Battery.
<u>Nature -</u>	25% "A". 75% "AX".

5. ACKNOWLEDGE.

W. S. Laidley
Captain.
A/Adjutant Messines Group Arty.

Distribution.

- | | |
|----------|------------------------------|
| Copy No. | 1. Retained. |
| | 2. War Diary. |
| | 3. 1st. Aust. Div. Art. |
| | 4. 1st. Battery. |
| | 5. 2nd. Battery. |
| | 6. 3rd. Battery. |
| | 7. 101st. Battery. |
| | 8. Bde. Major 3rd. Inf. Bde. |

SECRET.Copy No. ²...

16

MESSINES GROUP ARTILLERY.Operation Order No. 8.By Lieut.-Colonel E. T. DEAN. D.S.O. - Commanding.Headquarters;
25th. December 1917.

1. Harassing fire will be carried out by the Batteries of this Group throughout the hours of darkness on night of 27th/28th. December 1917.
2. 18-Pdr. Batteries will fire in bursts at irregular intervals starting on their S. O. S. Lines and searching and sweeping back in lifts of 200 yards.
- 4.5" Hows. will fire on Cross Roads - trench junctions and strong points opposite Group Zones.
3. Expenditure :- 150 rounds per Battery.
- Nature - (18-Pdrs) 25% "A"; 75% "AX".
4. ACKNOWLEDGE.

W. S. Laidley Captain.
A/Adjutant Messines Group Arty.

Distribution.

- Copy No. 1. Retained.
2. War Diary.
3. 1st. Aust. D. A.
4. 1st. Battery.
5. 2nd. Battery.
6. 3rd. Battery.
7. 101st. Battery.
8. Bde. Major 3rd. Inf. Bde.

200

SECRET.Copy No. 2....MESSINES GROUP ARTILLERY.Headquarters;
26th. Dec. 1917.Reference Operation Order No. 8.

Para 2 is cancelled for 18-pdrs. and the following substituted :-

18-Pdr. Batteries will fire in bursts at irregular intervals.

- (a) Starting 200 yards East of their S. O. S. Lines searching and sweeping back for three lifts.
- (b) Starting 600 yards East of their S. O. S. Lines and dropping back in three drops of 100 yards each.

ACKNOWLEDGE.

W. S. Lindsay Captain.
A/Adjutant Messines Group Artillery.

Distribution.Copy to all recipients
of Operation Order No. 8.

MESSINES GROUP ARTILLERY.Operation Order No. 9.By Lieut.-Colonel E. T. DEAN. D.S.O. - Commanding.Headquarters;
26th. December 1917.

1. Harassing fire will be carried out by the Batteries of this Group for 24 hours ending 7 a.m. on 29th. December 1917.
2. Bursts of fire will be fired at irregular intervals as per Task Table.

3. Task Table :-

	<u>Targets.</u>
3rd. Battery -	Search road from O.36.A.45.23 to P.31.A.00.70 Tracks in O.36.D. and P.31.C.
2nd. Battery -	Search and sweep tracks and road in U.6.C. and D. and V.1.C.
1st. Battery -	Search and sweep roads and tracks and trenches in U.6.A. and B. and V.1.A.
101st. Battery -	Track junction; cross roads and strong points in area opposite Group Zone.

(Tracing of track map attached hereto).

4. Expenditure :- 150 rounds per Battery.
Nature :- (18-Pdrs.) 25% "A". 75% "AX".
One-fourth to be expended during daylight and three-fourths during hours of darkness.
5. ACKNOWLEDGE.

W. S. Linsky
A/Adjutant Messines Group Arty. Captain.

Distribution.

- Copy No. 1. Retained.
2. War Diary.
3. 1st. Aust. Div. Art.
4. 1st. Battery.
5. 2nd. Battery.
6. 3rd. Battery.
7. 101st. Battery.
8. Bde. Major 3rd. Inf. Bde.

SECRET.

Copy No. 2

19

MESSINES GROUP ARTILLERY.Operation Order No. 10.By Lieut.-Colonel E. T. DEAN. D.S.O. - Commanding.Headquarters;
27th. Dec. 1917.

1. Harassing fire will be carried out by the Batteries of this Group by day on 29th. December and by night on 29th/30th. December 1917.
2. Batteries will fire as per Task Table in bursts at irregular intervals between the following times :- 4.45 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. and 3.30 a.m. to 7 a.m.

3. Task Table :- Targets.

1st. Battery	-	Search and sweep trenches and tracks in U.6.A. and B. and V.1.A. Especially roads from U.6.B.75.50 to V.1.A35.90 to 70.25.
2nd. Battery	-	Search and sweep trenches - roads and tracks in U.6.C. and D. and V.1.C. and northern half of U.12.A. and B.
3rd. Battery	-	Search and sweep trenches - roads and tracks in O.36.D. and southern half of O.36.A. and B. and cross roads at O.36.B.20.58.
101st. Battery	-	Cross Roads at V.1.D.45.40 and U.12.B.20.70. Road and Track junction U.6.B.75.50. and P.31.D.35.05. EUREKA V.1.A.38.90. ESPERANCE CAB. O.36.B.30.50.

4. Expenditure :- 200 rounds per Battery.
Nature - (18-Pdrs) 25% "A". 75% "AX".

One fourth to be expended during daylight and three-fourths during hours of darkness.

5. ACKNOWLEDGE.

W. S. Lewisley Captain.
A/Adjutant Messines Group Arty...

Distribution.

- Copy No. 1. Retained.
2. War Diary.
3. 1st. Aust. D. A.
4. 1st. Battery.
5. 2nd. Battery.
6. 3rd. Battery.
7. 101st. Battery.
8. Bde. Mjr. 3rd. Inf. Bde.

SECRET.Copy No. 2.....MESSINES GROUP ARTILLERY.Operation Order No. 11.By Lieut.-Colonel E. T. DEAN. D.S.O. - Commanding.Headquarters;
28th. Dec. 1917.

1. The Batteries of this Group will fire from their rear guns the following Bursts of Fire at times stated below in U.6.b.20.17 to U.6.d.4.9.
2. Rates of Fire - 4 Rounds per gun at 4.45 p.m. and 5.30 p.m. and each Battery one Burst of 2 rounds per gun once an hour until 10 p.m.
3. ACKNOWLEDGE.

W. L. Linsky Captain.
A/Adjutant Messines Group Arty.

Distribution.

Copy No. 1.	Retained.	No. 5.	2nd. Battery.
2.	War Diary.	" 6.	3rd. Battery.
3.	1st. A.D.A.	" 7.	101st. Battery.
4.	1st. Battery."	8.	Bde. Mjr. 3rd. Inf. Bde.

SECRET.Copy No. *2*

200

MESSINES GROUP ARTILLERY.Operation Order No. 12.By Lieut.-Colonel E. T. DEAN. D.S.O. - Commanding.Headquarters;
28th. December 1917.

1. Harassing fire will be carried out by the Batteries of this Group for 24 hours ending 8 a.m. on 31st. December 1917.

2. Batteries will fire as per Task Table in bursts of fire at ~~frequent~~ irregular intervals throughout both day and night.

3. Task Table :-

Target.

1st. Battery -	Search and sweep Roads - Tracks and Communications in O.36 (lower half) A. and B. - C. and D.
2nd. Battery -	Search and sweep all Communications in U.6.c. and D. and V.1.C. Forward gun search roads and railway in V.1.D.
3rd. Battery -	Search and sweep Roads and Tracks in U.6.A. and B. and V.1.A. & B.
101st. Battery -	Pill Boxes U.6.D.23.35. Cross Roads and Railway V.1.D.45.35. Search and sweep Tracks and Roads in northern half of U.6.B. & V.1.A.

4. Expenditure :- 200 Rounds per Battery.

Nature - (18-Pdrs.) 25% "A". 75% "AX".

One-fifth to be expended in daylight and four-fifths during hours of darkness. $\frac{1}{5}$.

5. ACKNOWLEDGE.

W. S. Lindsay
A/Adjutant Messines Group Arty. Captain.

Distribution.

Copy No. 1. Retained.
2. War Diary.
3. 1st. Aust. D. A.
4. 1st. Battery.
5. 2nd. Battery.
6. 3rd. Battery.
7. 101st. Battery.
8. Bde. Mjr. 3rd. Inf. Bde.

SECRET.Copy No. ².....MESSINES GROUP ARTILLERY.

22

Operation Order No. 13.By Lieut.-Colonel E. T. DEAN. D.S.O. - Commanding.Headquarters;
29th. December 1917.

1. Harassing fire will be carried out by the Batteries of this Group for 24 hours ending 8 a.m. on 1st. January 1918.

2. Batteries will fire as per Task Table in bursts of fire at irregular intervals throughout both day and night.

3. Task Table :-

Targets.

- | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|---|---|-------|---|-----------------------------|-------|---|----------------------------|--------|---|--|-------|---|-----------------------------|-------|---|--------------------------|
| 1st. Battery | - | Search and sweep Tracks - Roads and Communications in O.36. Southern half of Squares A. and B. Also P.31.a. and Squares O.36.C. and D. and P.31.C. with one concentrated shoot around area at O.36.D.15.58 and 90.55. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2nd. Battery | - | Search and sweep Trenches - Tracks and Roads in U.6.C. and D. and V.1.C & D. Also in northern half of square U.12.A. and B. and V.7.A. with two concentrated shoots on area around U.6.D.22.35. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3rd. Battery | - | Search and sweep Trenches - Tracks and Roads in U.6.A. and B. and V.1.A. and B.
At dusk concentrated shoot on U.6.B.20.17 to U.6.D.40.90. and again after 10 p.m. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 101st. Battery | - | <table border="0"> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">1 Gun</td> <td style="padding-left: 10px;">-</td> <td>Track junction U.6.B.75.45.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">1 Gun</td> <td style="padding-left: 10px;">-</td> <td>Pill Boxes at U.6.D.25.70.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">2 Guns</td> <td style="padding-left: 10px;">-</td> <td>Sweep trees from U.6.B.20.17 to U.6.D.4.9.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">1 Gun</td> <td style="padding-left: 10px;">-</td> <td>Cross Roads at V.1.D.45.35.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">1 Gun</td> <td style="padding-left: 10px;">-</td> <td>Dugouts at O.36.D.95.73.</td> </tr> </table> | 1 Gun | - | Track junction U.6.B.75.45. | 1 Gun | - | Pill Boxes at U.6.D.25.70. | 2 Guns | - | Sweep trees from U.6.B.20.17 to U.6.D.4.9. | 1 Gun | - | Cross Roads at V.1.D.45.35. | 1 Gun | - | Dugouts at O.36.D.95.73. |
| 1 Gun | - | Track junction U.6.B.75.45. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 Gun | - | Pill Boxes at U.6.D.25.70. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 Guns | - | Sweep trees from U.6.B.20.17 to U.6.D.4.9. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 Gun | - | Cross Roads at V.1.D.45.35. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 Gun | - | Dugouts at O.36.D.95.73. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

4. Expenditure :- 200 Rounds per 18-pdr. Battery
150 Rounds per 4.5" How. Battery.

Nature - (18-Pdrs) 25% "A". 75% "AX".

One-fourth to be expended during daylight and three-fourths during hours of darkness.

5. ACKNOWLEDGE.

W. S. Lewisby
Captain.
A/Adjutant Messines Group Arty.

Distribution.

Copy No. 1.	Retained.	No. 5.	2nd. Battery.
2.	War Diary.	6.	3rd. Battery.
3.	1st. A. D. A.	7.	101st. Battery.
4.	1st. Battery.	8.	Bde. Mjr. 3rd. Inf. Bde.