

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

Artillery

Item number: 13/14/14

Title: Headquarters, 5th Australian
Divisional Artillery

March 1917



AWM4-13/14/14

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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.

HEADQUARTERS
5th AUSTRALIAN
DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY.

Army Form C. 2118.

No. Vol 13.
Date 3/3/1917.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field	1917 Feb. 28th.		<p>Right Group co-operated with the 20th. Division on our right in minor operation. Left Group shelled BAPAUME CHURCH about mid-day, this being the first occasion on which the Divisional Artillery has been near enough to do this.</p> <p>11.40 p.m. "Gas Alarm" was passed round; Centre Group opened their gas barrage. On the whole our activity during the day somewhat above normal. Enemy activity below normal.</p> <p>Visibility bad.</p> <p>During the night 28th.Feb./1st.Mch. X.5.A. Trench Mortar Battery cut the wire opposite Sunray Trench.</p> <p>CASUALTIES: AMMUNITION EXPENDED: 1250 rounds</p>	
	March 1st.		<p>Active day.</p> <p>Organized bombardment carried out by Right Group on new work in HEAVEN TRENCH. Left Group reported train standing on the line between BEAULENCOURT and REINCOURT, and engaged it with one gun of the 23rd. H.A.G.</p> <p>Several tracks engaged with Balloon observation.</p> <p>Visibility very good. Several large parties seen during the day and effectively engaged.</p> <p>110th. Battery in FLERS heavily shelled from 5 to 6 p.m.; no damage done.</p> <p>X.5.A. Trench Mortar Battery carried out an operation against the hostile portion of SUNRAY TRENCH from 5.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. and was heavily shelled in retaliation during the last half hour. This operation was very successful.</p> <p>CASUALTIES: AMMUNITION EXPENDED: 2580 rounds</p>	
	2nd.		<p>Average day.</p> <p>Centre Group co-operated in attack on portion of SUNRAY TRENCH with 8th. Infantry Brigade at 4 a.m. with success. 14 Prisoners taken. X.5.A. Trench Mortar Battery also took part.</p> <p>"S.O.S." signal sent up by 8th. Inf. Brigade at 8.5 p.m. Centre Group replied very</p>	

A5834 Wt. W4973 M687 750,000 8/16 D. D. & L. Ltd. Forms/C.2118/13.

(over)

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118. 3

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.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field.	1917 Mch. 2nd.		<p>(Continued)</p> <p>promptly. Right and Left Groups also joined in the operation. At 8.15 p.m. a strong attack developed against SUNRAY TRENCH, but was severely dealt with by our guns and machine guns, the enemy failing to reach our trench and leaving 50 dead. Our Infantry as a result gained another 30 yards of trench. Everything quiet again by 8.25 p.m. Observation difficult, but not impossible.</p> <p>CASUALTIES: <i>NIL</i> AMMUNITION EXPENDED: <i>1440 mds</i></p>	<i>Ed Maj</i>
	3rd.		<p>Activity normal. Visibility conditions bad all day.</p> <p>CASUALTIES: <i>NIL</i> AMMUNITION EXPENDED: <i>1241 mds</i></p>	<i>Ed Maj</i>
	4th.		<p>Activity slightly above normal. Observation good all day.</p> <p>CASUALTIES: <i>NIL</i> AMMUNITION EXPENDED: <i>1603 mds</i></p>	<i>Ed Maj</i>
	5th.		<p>The 6th. (Army) F.A. Brigade was taken over at 9 p.m., forming a fourth Group. Groups re-named "A" "B" "C" and "D" Groups from right to left. Medium Trench Mortars were in action against ATOM TRENCH between 4 and 5 p.m.; successful operation. Enemy particularly active on SUNRAY TRENCH sector, necessitating constant Counter-Battery work. Visibility hazy in the morning; better in the afternoon.</p> <p>CASUALTIES: <i>NIL</i> AMMUNITION EXPENDED: <i>1407 mds</i></p>	<i>Ed Maj</i>

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field.	1917 Mch. 6th.		<p>14th. F. A. Brigade moved up from BEHENCOURT to MAMETZ.</p> <p>Both our own and enemy artillery very active, SUNRAY TRENCH again coming in for a considerable amount of hostile attention, apparently in retaliation for our activity.</p> <p>FLERS also subjected to intermittent heavy shelling during the day.</p> <p>Observation very good.</p> <p>Considerable aerial activity.</p> <p>CASUALTIES: <i>NIL</i></p> <p>AMMUNITION EXPENDED: <i>2376 rounds</i></p>	<i>Plm</i>
	7th.		<p>14th. F. A. Brigade relieved 11th. F. A. Brigade in the line, 11th. F. A. Brigade withdrawing to MAMETZ. Relief completed by 1.30 p.m.</p> <p>Our activity normal. Enemy activity above normal, SUNRAY TRENCH and vicinity again coming in for heavy shelling. 8" Shell were used by the enemy against FLERS.</p> <p>Visibility conditions poor.</p> <p>CASUALTIES: <i>NIL</i></p> <p>AMMUNITION EXPENDED: <i>1406 rounds</i></p>	<i>Plm</i>

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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

or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field.	1917 Mch. 8th.		<p>Normal day on both sides. Visibility indifferent. High wind prevailed with frequent snowstorms. Enemy section (77mm.) was located by flashes near SUGAR FACTORY in N.24 d.; 113th. Howitzer Battery engaged and neutralized it.</p> <p>CASUALTIES: <i>NIL</i> AMMUNITION EXPENDED: <i>2447 rnds</i></p>	<i>Palmer</i>
	9th.		<p>Both our own and enemy artillery very active than usual. The principal feature of our operations was an intensive bombardment of enemy front line system between 3.12 p.m. and 3.32 p.m. along the whole Divisional front. Very little retaliation. Observation fair in the morning. Scattered snowstorms in the afternoon.</p> <p>CASUALTIES: <i>NIL</i> AMMUNITION EXPENDED: <i>7888 rnds</i></p>	<i>Palmer</i>
	10th		<p>Nothing unusual to record. NEEDLE DUMP and FLERS were fairly heavily shelled during the afternoon and evening. Visibility very poor, a heavy fog prevailing during most of the day.</p> <p>CASUALTIES: <i>100 killed 100 wounded</i> AMMUNITION EXPENDED: <i>5704 rnds</i></p>	<i>Palmer</i>
	11th.		<p>Very active day. Our artillery carried out a heavy bombardment of enemy front line system from 12 noon to 12.25 p.m. as a diversion in connection with operations on another Divisional front. "C" Group Batteries were heavily shelled during the afternoon in retaliation for our bombardment, the 53rd. Battery being the chief sufferer. FLERS was bombarded with 16 c.m. and 10.5 c.m. during the morning. Visibility extremely good all day. Aeroplanes on both sides very active.</p> <p>CASUALTIES: <i>100 killed 140 wounded</i> AMMUNITION EXPENDED: <i>5690 rnds</i></p>	<i>Palmer</i>

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118. 5

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.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field.	1917 Mch. 12th.		<p>Our activity slightly above normal.</p> <p>Desultory bombardment of ATOM, BOOMERANG and MOONRAY Trenches carried out during the morning.</p> <p>Further intensive bombardment of enemy front line system carried out between 4.25 p.m. and 4.35 p.m. as a diversion in connection with operations elsewhere.</p> <p>Enemy also fairly active. FLERS, GUN VALLEY and NEEDLE DUMP bombarded throughout the day, mostly with 5.9's and 4.2's.</p> <p>Observation poor during the day.</p> <p>CASUALTIES: <i>1 op killed 4 op wounded</i></p> <p>AMMUNITION EXPENDED: <i>3468 mds</i></p>	<i>P. H. May</i>
	13th.		<p>Divisional front was extended at 8 a.m. as far as the LE SARRS - BAPAUME Road.</p> <p>The 2nd. A.F.A. Brigade came under the orders of the R.A., 5th. Aust. Division, at the same time forming a fifth Group, re-named "F" Group.</p> <p>Considerable activity on our left front during the night 13/14th., patrols being pushed out in the direction of BAPAUME.</p> <p>Enemy artillery fairly active during the day, especially on NEEDLE DUMP.</p> <p>Visibility conditions fair.</p> <p>CASUALTIES: <i>N/A</i></p> <p>AMMUNITION EXPENDED: <i>3378 mds</i></p>	<i>P. H. May</i>
	14th.		<p><i>artillery</i></p> <p>Our activity very active during the day. Extensive wire cutting carried out on HEAVEN, METEOR, ATOM and TILL Trenches. Bombardments also effected by our Field Howitzers and by the Heavy Howitzers of Corps Artillery in preparation for an enemy withdrawal.</p> <p>Group Commanders told off to work directly under Brigadiers during operations expected during the night 14/15th.</p> <p>Enemy activity below normal.</p> <p>Visibility fair to good during the day.</p> <p>CASUALTIES: <i>N/A</i></p> <p>AMMUNITION EXPENDED: <i>8737 mds</i></p>	<i>P. H. May</i>

WAR DIARY

Army Form U. 2118.

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

or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field.	1917 Mch. 15th.		<p>All Batteries were engaged cutting wire in preparation for a further attempt on the German front line.</p> <p>Trench Mortars active during the night from 7 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. firing on ATOM and BOOMERANG trenches.</p> <p>Enemy artillery comparatively quiet.</p> <p>Visibility: Fair in the morning; good in the afternoon.</p> <p>CASUALTIES: <i>NIL</i></p> <p>AMMUNITION EXPENDED: <i>4232 rnds</i></p>	<i>RA Major</i>
	16th.		<p>"S.O.S." sent up by Left Infantry Brigade at 2.5 a.m. "F" Group fired on barrage lines, assisted by "D" Group.</p> <p>Medium Trench Mortars in action from 8 p.m. 15th. to 12.30 a.m. 16th., firing 85 rounds on BOOMERANG, SULPHUR and ATOM trenches, under heavy shell fire most of the time.</p> <p>Enemy activity below normal.</p> <p>Visibility bad in the morning, improving after mid-day.</p> <p>CASUALTIES: <i>3 q wounded</i></p> <p>AMMUNITION EXPENDED: <i>1251 rnds</i></p>	<i>RA Major</i>
	17th.		<p>Enemy commenced to evacuate his front line at about 4 a.m., and our troops occupied his front line trenches at once and entered BAPAUME about 7 o'clock. LE TRANSLOY also occupied about the same time by the 5th. Aust. Division. Group F.O.O's. accompanied the Infantry during the whole of the advance, and reached the BEAULENCOURT - BAPAUME road during the morning. The system of "stepping up" the F.O.O's. during this advance was used with useful results. Several important pieces of information were passed through this office to "G" Branch of the Division more rapidly and accurately than from other sources.</p> <p>Batteries were very inactive as regards actual shooting owing to enemy retiring.</p> <p>Seven 18-pr. Batteries and one 4.5" Howitzer Battery moved forward to new positions during the day.</p> <p>Enemy activity slight. Visibility fair.</p> <p>CASUALTIES: <i>NIL</i></p> <p>AMMUNITION EXPENDED: <i>20 rnds</i></p>	<i>RA Major</i>

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

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

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field.	1917 Mch. 18th.		<p>Both our own and hostile activity nil, the enemy retirement having placed him beyond reach of our artillery.</p> <p>F.O.O's. continued to do useful work.</p> <p>Four 18-pr. Batteries and three 4.5" Howitzer Batteries moved forward to more advanced positions.</p> <p>Advanced Guard Infantry penetrated beyond FREMICOURT. One 18-pr. Battery ordered up in support.</p> <p>CASUALTIES: <i>NIL</i></p> <p>AMMUNITION EXPENDED: <i>NIL</i></p>	<i>John May</i>
	19th.		<p>4th. Battery joined Advanced Guard in the vicinity of FREMICOURT about 8 a.m., and was in action in the open during the day, engaging several enemy parties, and also shelling LEBUCQUIERE. F.O.O's from "A" and "B" Groups still maintain touch with the Advanced Guard Infantry and also with D.A. Headquarters by wire.</p> <p>CASUALTIES: <i>NIL</i></p> <p>AMMUNITION EXPENDED: <i>NIL</i></p>	<i>John May</i>
	20th.		<p>Only Advanced Guard Artillery in action.</p> <p>The 55th. Battery was sent up to reinforce the Advanced Guard during the afternoon.</p> <p>The country in which the Advanced Guard was operating was open, and the going for artillery was good.</p> <p>The advance of the Divisional Artillery to BAPAUME - BEAULENCOURT Ridge commenced during the forenoon, the 3rd. Brigade and half of the 14th. and 6th. Brigades succeeded in crossing the old "No man's Land" and getting into position. The previous night was wet and the weather during the day itself was bad, making the shell-hole country almost impassable.</p> <p>D.A.C. completed move to MAMETZ. A small pack train was organised from "B" Echelon for the purpose of ammunition supply across the roadless country between the old front line.</p> <p>Very windy day, with rain and sleet at intervals.</p> <p>CASUALTIES: <i>NIL</i></p> <p>AMMUNITION EXPENDED: <i>NIL</i></p>	<i>John May</i>

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118. 01

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

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field	1917 Mch. 21st.		<p>Remainder of the 14th. Brigade was sent up to reinforce the Advanced Guard, the 4th. Battery being withdrawn.</p> <p>The movement of the remainder of the Divisional Artillery to the BAPAUME - BEAULENCOURT ridge was completed. Wagon Lines left in GUN VALLEY South of GUEUDECOURT TO simplify the supply situation. Pack ammunition supply system was installed and commenced work successfully, forming a dump at BEAULENCOURT.</p> <p>Windy day without rain.</p> <p>CASUALTIES: <i>NIL</i> AMMUNITION EXPENDED: <i>742 mds</i></p>	<i>R. May</i>
	22nd.		<p>Only Advanced Guard Artillery in action.</p> <p>No particular activity.</p> <p>Observation hampered by frequent snowstorms.</p> <p>CASUALTIES: <i>NIL</i> AMMUNITION EXPENDED: <i>100 mds</i></p>	<i>R. May</i>
	23rd.		<p>Advanced Guard Artillery in action during the morning, assisting to repel counter-attack on BEAUMETZ. Several moving targets engaged during the day.</p> <p>Visibility good.</p> <p>8th. Battery moved into a position of readiness with a view to action, on ground South East of BEAUMETZ.</p> <p>CASUALTIES: <i>NIL</i> AMMUNITION EXPENDED: <i>686 mds</i></p>	
	24th.		<p>Further counter-attack on BEAUMETZ in the early morning. Advanced Guard Artillery in action.</p> <p>8th. Battery in action in the afternoon against enemy in the open just South East of BEAUMETZ. Very good effect observed.</p> <p>Observation Good.</p>	<i>R. May</i>

2449 Wt. WI4957/M90 150,000 1/16 J.B.C. & A. Forms/C.2118/12.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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

or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field	1917 25th. Mch.		<p>Advanced Guard Artillery in action again during the day. 8th. Battery withdrawn. Visibility very good.</p> <p>CASUALTIES: <i>NIL</i> AMMUNITION EXPENDED: <i>56 mds.</i></p>	<i>25th May</i>
	26th.		<p>Advanced Guard Artillery in action in the early morning covering advance by the 5th. Australian Division and 2nd. Australian Division on to and through LAGNICOURT. Operation very successful. Also in action at odd times during the day. Observation bad throughout most of the day owing to rain and sleet.</p> <p>CASUALTIES: <i>NIL</i> AMMUNITION EXPENDED: <i>452 mds</i></p>	<i>26th May</i>
	27th.		<p>Nothing unusual to record. Visibility fair.</p> <p>CASUALTIES: <i>NIL</i> AMMUNITION EXPENDED: <i>663 mds</i></p>	<i>27th May</i>
	28th.		<p>Divisional and Divisional Artillery Headquarters moved to vicinity of BEAULENCOURT (N.11 Central) at midday. 2nd. A.F.A. Brigade and 6th. (Army) A.F.A. Brigade withdrew from the line. 13th. A.F.A. Brigade moved to new positions to cover the 8th. Infantry Brigade. Operation Order No. 118 attached. The Divisional main line of resistance advanced to line O.5 Central - I.27 Central - I.14.d. Central - I.13.b.O.8. Visivility only fair.</p> <p>CASUALTIES: <i>NIL</i> AMMUNITION EXPENDED: <i>219 mds</i></p>	<i>28th May</i>

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field.	1917 Mch. 29th.		Nothing unusual to record. Observation difficult owing to rain and mist. CASUALTIES: <i>NIL</i> AMMUNITION EXPENDED: <i>53 mds</i>	<i>20 May</i>
	30th.		The Wagon Lines 3rd. (Army) and 13th. A.F.A. Brigades moved forward to vicinity of BEAULENCOURT and VILLERS AU FLOS from GUN VALLEY. Otherwise nothing to report. High wind and rain at intervals all day. Visibility sometimes good; generally bad. CASUALTIES: <i>NIL</i> AMMUNITION EXPENDED: <i>393 mds</i>	<i>20 May</i>
	31st.		5th. Aust. D.A.C. moved to vicinity of BEAULENCOURT. Re-organization of Howitzer Batteries commenced, in accordance with General Staff Circular No. 62. Visibility fair to good. High wind. One 18-pr. Battery moved forward from each of the 3rd. (Army) and 13th. A.F.A. Brigades to join the Advanced Guard Artillery early on the first of April. CASUALTIES: <i>NIL</i> AMMUNITION EXPENDED: <i>515 mds</i>	<i>20 May</i>

SECRET.

APPENDIX

Copy No 12

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY ORDER No 110.

Head-Quarters,
February 28th 1917.

- 1.- During the next phase of present operations, the action of the 5th Australian Division is to be mainly defensive.
- 2.- Sketches are attached for each Group showing the line now held by the Division and the Barrage line laid down for S.O.S. purposes.
- 3.- Groups will register, immediately the visibility conditions permit, the following barrages :- (see sketch)

(a) RIGHT GROUP.

N 35 b 6.0.- N 35 a 8065.- N 29 c 8241.- N 28 b 8877.

(b) CENTRE GROUP.

N 28 b 8877.- N 16 c 0045.

(c) LEFT GROUP.

N 16 c 0045.- N 15 b 6575.- N 8 d 7390.

No allowance for overlaps has been made above, but Groups will allow 50 yds on each flank, thus creating an overlap of 100 yds when all Groups have made the allowance .

- 4.- The following will be the arrangement for mutual support between Groups :-

(a) Divisional Right Attacked.ACTION BY CENTRE GROUP.

2, 18pr Batteries barrage line N 28 b 8877-N 29 c 8241.

1, 4.5" Howitzer Battery :-

1 Section bombard N 23 d 1085.

1 Section bombard N 23 c 7505.

CODE CALL :- " S.O.S. FIFTH RIGHT "

(b) DIVISIONAL CENTRE ATTACKED.ACTION BY RIGHT GROUP.

2, 18pr Batteries barrage line N 28 b 8877.- N 22 a 9015.

1, 4.5" Howitzer Battery :-

1 Section bombard N 22 b 5.4.

1 Section bombard N 22 b 00.65.

(c) ACTION BY LEFT GROUP.

2, 18pr Batteries barrage line N 22 a 9015.- N 16 c 0045.

CODE CALL :- " S.O.S. FIFTH CENTRE "

(d) DIVISIONAL LEFT ATTACKED.ACTION BY CENTRE GROUP.

2, 18pr Batteries barrage line N 16 c 0045.- N 15 b 6575.

2, 4.5" Howitzer Batteries :-

Bombard trenches and tracks in N 16 a and c.

(P.T.O.)

W. Diary APPENDIX

SECRET.

Copy No. *8*

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY

A D D E N D U M No 1. to 5th Aust Div Arty Order No 110.

Head-Quarters,
February 28th 1917.

1.- The following arrangements have been made with the Division on our Left for mutual support.

(a) DIVISION ON OUR LEFT ATTACKED.

Call :- "S.O.S." followed by co-ordinates.

ACTION BY LEFT GROUP 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY.

Barrage line indicated by co-ordinates with *two 18 pr.* Batteries.

Bombard suitable points in rear of above line with one 4.5" Howitzer Battery.

(b) OUR DIVISION ATTACKED.

Call :- "S.O.S." followed by co-ordinates.

ACTION BY DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY ON OUR LEFT.

Barrage line indicated by co-ordinates with two 18 pr Batteries.

Bombard suitable points in rear of above line with one 4.5" Howitzer Battery.

2.- A C K N O W L E D G E.

J. J. Lararack

Major.

B.M. R.A. 5th Aust Division.

Issued to	Copy No.
Right Group	1
Centre Group	2
Left Group	3
Copies to :-	
R.A. 1st ANZAC	4
✓ H.Q. 5th Aust Division.	5
1st Aust Div Artillery.	6
File	7
War Diary	8
Spare	9 to 12

SECRET.

Copy No 17

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY

Head-Quarters,

March 2nd 1917.

AMENDMENT to 5th A.D.A. Order No 110.
-----@@-----

- 1.- This morning our hold on S U N R A Y Trench was extended to point N 22 d 3 6.
- 2.- The following amendment to 5th Australian Divisional Artillery Order No 110 is thereby necessitated.

(A) For para 3 (b) substitute :-

" CENTRE GROUP - N 28 b 88 77. - N 22 d 7.0.- N 22 d 57 65.-
N 22 b 0.0."

(B) In para 4 (b) for :-

" 2, 18pr Batteries barrage line N 28 b 88.77.- N 22 a 90.15."

Substitute :-

" 2, 18pr Batteries barrage line N 28 b 88.77 - N 22 d 7.0.-
N 22 d 57.65.- N 22 a 90.15."

3.- ACKNOWLEDGE.

D. Lavarack
Major.
D.M. R.A. 5th Australian Division.

Issued to :-	Copy No.
Right Group	1
✓ Centre Group	2
Left Group	3
Copies to :-	
R.A. 1st ANZAC	4
H.Q. 5th Aust Div.	5
8th Inftry Bde	6
✓ 14th Inftry Bde.	7
✓ 15th Inftry Bde	8
1st A.D. Artillery	9
✓ 20th D. Artillery	10
File	11
War Diary	12

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERYSUMMARY OF OPERATIONSFrom 8 a.m. 23/2/17 to 8 a.m. 1/3/171. OUR ARTILLERY.

Activity only slightly above the average, as the stationary condition of the Divisional front has resulted in but little increase of opportunities for offensive action. There has been a greater amount of visible movement, and consequently more of the ammunition expended has been directed at genuine targets than is usually the case. Improved visibility has also reduced the amount of blind shooting usually necessary of late.

Targets engaged include railway trains, wheeled transport (at night), troops in the open, (including an infantry Battalion reported by our observers as moving in O.19 b., and engaged with the aid of the 23rd. H.A.G.,) minnenwerfer and "pineapple" gun positions etc.

The Left Group began its movement to forward positions near FLERS and GUEUDE COURT on the night 23/24th. Febry., and completed the movement of its three 18-pr. and two Howitzer Batteries at 8.45 p.m. on the 26th. Febry. The move was attended with considerable difficulty, and several guns were temporarily bogged. It was mainly carried out at night, but was helped by the mist prevailing on the morning of the 24th. Febry.

On the morning of the 28th., the Right Group, assisted by the 114th. Battery, took part in a minor operation carried out by the 20th. Division on our Right.

2. ENEMY ARTILLERY.

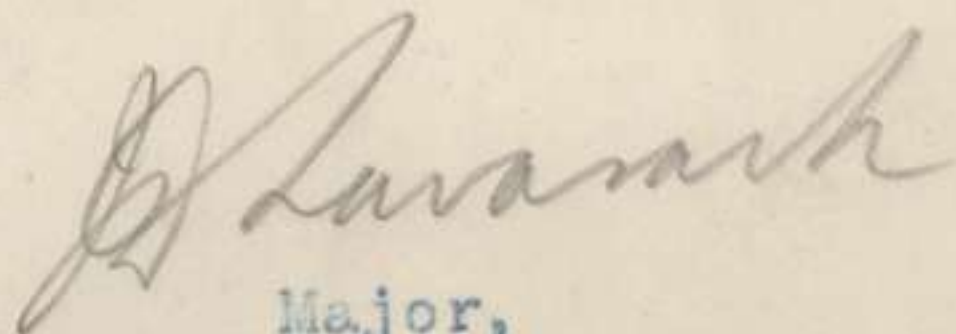
The enemy's activity has been slightly over normal.

The number of Batteries does not appear to have been greatly, if at all, reduced, and the shelling of the front line has been very consistent.

The front line about MONSOON Trench, LES BOEUFs, FLERS and GUEUDE COURT, GUN VALLEY and DELVILLE WOOD have been his favorite targets, and the usual combination of guns is still in use, 7.7 c.m., 4.2" guns and Hows. and 5.9" guns and Hows.

A few 8" shells were reported to have fallen in T.7 d. on the evening of the 27th. Febry., but no other report has been made. It seems possible that these were 5.9's. and that the 8" have been removed.

None of the usual shelling from the direction of BAPAUME has been reported during the week.



Major,
B.M.R.A., 5th. Australian Division,
For C.R.A.

APPENDIX

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY.INTELLIGENCE REPORT.From 6 p.m. 28/2/1917 to 6 p.m. 1/3/19171. OUR ARTILLERY.

Our activity was normal.

At 8.15 p.m. M.23 d. 1.8 to M.23 b 7.7 was shelled, searching and sweeping fire being employed.

The Trench salient M.23 b. also came in for our fire.

The Cross Roads fronting our Right Sector were shelled at intervals from 7.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m.

During the day MOONRAY and METEOR Trenches were bombarded. ATOM Trench also received a considerable amount of our attention. Headquarters in M.16 b. and d. were fired on between 8.30 p.m. and 9.30 p.m.

Early this morning heavy fire was brought to bear on SUNKEN ROAD M.24 c.

KILL Trench from M.9 d. 7.3 to M.9 c.9.8 came in for a share of our activity at 10 a.m.

BRAULENCOURT was subjected to our fire at 2.10 p.m. and again at 3.45 p.m..

We carried out a minor operation on the new work in HEAVEN Trench at 3.35 p.m.

At 5.30 p.m. we again engaged machine gun posts at M.29 a.6.6 and M.29 a. 8.2, with very satisfactory results.

Enemy dug-outs at M.11 Central were shelled at 2.30 p.m.

A considerable amount of registration was carried out today.

2. HOSTILE ARTILLERY.

At periods enemy artillery has been particularly active.

During the night T.8 d. and vicinity of NEEDLE Trench was shelled by 4.2" guns.

In the early hours of the morning DELVILLE WOOD and T.8 c. were targets for enemy fire. At 10 a.m. battery positions in T.7 b. and d. received attention from 4.2" guns firing from direction of LE TRANSLOY.

Intermittently throughout the day a 77 mm. battery fired salvoes on to M.22 c.40.75 from a position behind BRAULENCOURT.

LBS BOHEPS was fired on during the afternoon by 5.9" guns from direction of VILLERS AU FLOS.

One of our batteries in the vicinity of FLERS was heavily shelled with 5.9"s from 5 p.m. to 5.55 p.m.; no damage done.

At 4.30 to 4.40 p.m. enemy guns were seen firing from LUBDA COPSE and ROCQUIGNY; the shells fell in GUN VALLEY.

3. MATTERS OF GENERAL INTEREST

Observation very good.

Aircraft were very active on both sides today, several duels being fought, but no planes were brought down.

An aeroplane target target at M.36 c.8.9 was engaged by one of our batteries.

Several registrations were carried out by our batteries in conjunction with the Balloon Section.

Two enemy Balloons were seen during the afternoon behind BRAULENCOURT and REINCOURT.

A train was observed at 1.30 p.m. at right rear of REINCOURT

APPENDIX

- 2 -

travelling towards VILLERS AU FLOS. We registered heavies on this target, and obtained good results.

Working party was seen at N.6 c.4.4. and dispersed by our fire at 11.15 a.m.

This afternoon large parties were seen at N.24 a.3 5.8, N.18 c.4.4 and N.18 c.3.6. All these were engaged by our artillery with effective results.

Lieut.,
For B.M.R.A., 5th. Australian Division.

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERYINTELLIGENCE REPORT.From 6 p.m. 1/3/1917 to 6 p.m. 2/3/19171. OUR ARTILLERY.

During the period just past our activity was above normal. From 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. we harrassed with intermittent fire the roads and trenches in M.18 c.

The LE TRANSLOY and BEAULENCOURT Road from M.30 b.95.50 to M.24 a.63.95 was subjected to considerable shell fire at intervals from 11.30 p.m. to 5.45 a.m.

At intervals throughout the night and again during the day ATOM Trench came in for a good deal of our shelling.

During the combined attack this morning at 4 a.m. our artillery placed a barrage on ATOM and METEOR Trench from M.22 b 0.6 to M.23 c.4.4, also on MOONRAY Trench from M.22 d.75.20 to M.23 c.05.20.

Fire was directed on BEAULENCOURT at 11.30 a.m.

At 12.20 p.m. dugouts in M.17 b. and emplacements in M.11 Central were fired on.

The RESERVOIR and PUMPING STATION in M.4 b. and M.11 a. were also attended to during the afternoon. HEAVEN Trench from M.29 a. 4.8 to M.29 d.9.5 was particularly heavily shelled from 2.30 p.m. to 5.15 p.m.

Roads, Tracks and Cross Roads especially were continually fired on during the past 24 hours.

Our Medium Trench Mortars carried out an Operation on SUNRAY Trench from 5.30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Enemy retaliation during the last half hour was very heavy.

2. HOSTILE ARTILLERY.

Enemy activity normal.

About 3.40 p.m. GUN VALLEY was shelled with salvoes of shrapnel and one salvoe of Gas Shells.

At 9.15 p.m. a number of 5.9" shells from gun in action in vicinity of VILLERS AU FLOS were put into the front line trenches and supports of our Centre Sector. Later on in the night 4.2" and 77 mm. guns firing from direction of BEAULENCOURT and LE TRANSLOY bombarded this sector.

Gas shells were again fired into GUN VALLEY just before midnight.

Battery positions in T.8 c. were shelled at a late hour last night and again at 3 p.m. with 77 mm. and 4.2's. FLERS and GUEUDE-COURT were shelled at intervals by guns of all calibre.

Intermittent shelling of back areas has taken place throughout the day.

3. MATTERS OF GENERAL INTEREST.

Observation difficult owing to mist.

Aerial activity practically out of the question.

At 1.47 p.m. a train was observed at M.6 c. travelling towards VILLERS AU FLOS; the mist thickened and prevented further observation.

At 6 p.m. a party of about 50 infantry was observed on road between BEAULENCOURT and SUGAR FACTORY. Our artillery employed sweeping fire on the road with good effect.

The greater portion proportion of the ammunition used by the enemy in the last few days operations has been shrapnel.

Lieut., for E.M.R.A., 5th. Aust. Division.

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERYINTELLIGENCE REPORT.From 6 p.m. 2/3/1917 to 6 p.m. 3/3/19171. OUR ARTILLERY.

Activity normal.

At 8.5 p.m. the enemy attacked our line in R.22 d. In response to the "S.O.S." signal our Batteries immediately came into action and continued to fire until 8.26 p.m. when, at the request of the G.O.C., the 8th. Infantry Brigade, it was stopped.

Throughout the day at irregular intervals ATOM Trench was subjected to a considerable amount of shell fire.

MYTOR Trench also came in for a share of our activity during the afternoon.

Our guns fired on REINCOURT at 12.5 p.m.

The BEAULINCOURT-VILLERS AU FLOS Road was searched at 2 p.m.

At 3.45 p.m. the relief track in R.16 a. was attended to.

Early in the evening and again this afternoon LE TRANSLOY and roads in vicinity were shelled.

Some registration was carried out in the afternoon.

2. HOSTILE ARTILLERY.

Activity below normal.

During the period enemy artillery has been intermittently active on the forward lines and supports, but relatively quiet on the back areas.

The vicinity of LES BOHUPS was shelled at 9.30 p.m. with 4.2's. and at 1.15 p.m. with 5.9's.

The enemy fired 77's. into REHELE Dump at 10.40 p.m.

REINCOURT came in for a certain amount of attention today.

At 6.15 p.m. enemy opened brisk bombardment on our front.

Our batteries at once engaged HEAVEN and SUB Trench. Enemy sent up three flares. No further hostile action noticeable. Hostile fire quickly slowed down and ceased.

3. MATTERS OF GENERAL INTEREST.

Visibility has been bad all day, though at noon it looked promising.

There has been no aerial activity.

A Trench Mortar was seen firing from the vicinity of R.23 c.

2.6.

Large bursts of flame were observed at 9.55 p.m. from T.8 a.1.8, X.R.335 degrees. No explosion heard.

At 4 p.m. movement was noticeable in R.18 c. Fire was immediately brought to bear.

Lient.,

For B.M.R.A., 5th. Australian Division.

HT

Copy No. 7

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY ORDER No 111.S E C R E T.

Head-Quarters,

March 4th 1917.

- 1.- The 13pr Batteries of the 14th Field Artillery Brigade will relieve those of the 11th Field Artillery Brigade at an early date.
- 2.- In the meantime the following personnel will be sent up by the 14th F.A. Brigade to 11th F.A. Brigade Gun Lines, to make all necessary preparations before the actual exchange of detachments.

Officers 8, Other Ranks 24.

This personnel will include the necessary telephonists and will be distributed among Bde Hd-Qrs and Batteries as required.

- 3.- Bus transport has been arranged for the above party and baggage as far as FRICOURT.

Busses will report at 14th Field Artillery Brigade Head-Qrs, BEHENCOURT, at 9am tomorrow the 5th inst.

- 4.- Arrangements for the journey from FRICOURT to Battery positions are being made.

- 5.- A C K N O W L E D G E. by wire.

Major:

Brigade Major 5th Aust Div Artillery.

Issued to	Copy No.
14th F.A. Brigade	1
11th F.A. Brigade	2

Copies to :-

R.A. 1st ANZAC	3
H.Q. 5th Aust Division.	4
CENTRE Group.	5
File	6
War Diary	7.
Staff Captain	8.

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERYINTELLIGENCE REPORT.

From 6 p.m. 3/3/1917 to 6 p.m. 4/3/1917.

1. OUR ARTILLERY.

For the past 24 hours our activity was slightly below normal. Particular attention was paid to HEAVEN and SUN Trenches between the hours of 6.15 p.m. and 7 p.m. At 10.40 a.m. HEAVEN Trench was again shelled.

The junctions of roads leading into the main BEAULNECOURT - LE TRANSLOY Road were fired on at irregular intervals between 7.30 and 10.30 p.m. From 1 p.m. to 1.40 p.m. we engaged the same targets.

LE TRANSLOY was subjected to rapid bursts of fire from 8 p.m. to 9.10 p.m.

The SUGAR FACTORY and CEMETERY CIRCLE were also included in our operations to-day.

At irregular periods throughout the day afternoon ATOM Trench was exceptionally heavily shelled by our guns.

A minenwerfer in Brimstone Trench was fired on from 12 to 12.30 p.m.

Registration was carried out.

2. HOSTILE ARTILLERY:

Enemy artillery very active in forward areas throughout the day, SUBRAY Trench in particular being marked out for more than usually heavy fire from guns of all calibre, shells coming from the direction of BEAULNECOURT Church and LE TRANSLOY. An 8" H.V. Gun was enfilading the left sector of the trench from the right. We were, however, unable to locate its position.

At 10.20 p.m. the Longueval-Fiers Road was shelled with 4.2's; direction T.B. 47 degrees from T.8 a.l.s.

Shrapnel, H.E. and a few Gas Shells were put into GUN VALLEY this afternoon.

The enemy has been very active with pineapple bombs on the front line throughout the day.

Gas Shells were fired into T.9 c.4.3 last night at 10 p.m.

FLERS was shelled with 5.9's. xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx at 4.50 p.m.

3. MATTERS OF GENERAL INTEREST.

Observation has been good all day.

Aeroplanes of both sides were very active to-day. At 10.30 a.m. an engagement took place between ours and Hostile planes. Three machines were seen to come down in German territory, one of which was identified as an enemy plane.

A hostile balloon was observed T.B. 49 degrees from T.8 a.l.s. at 8.15 a.m.

At 10.12 a.m. a train was seen moving from REINCOURT to VILLERS AU FLOS. Our 60-prs. engaged it.

A volume of smoke was observed issuing from BAPAUME at 3.25 p.m.

Lieut.,

For Brigade Major, 5th. Aust. Div. A.

APPENDIX

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY ORDER No 112.

SECRET.Head-Quarters,
March 5th 1917.

- 1.- The Divisional Front is to be extended to the left as far as a line from LUISENHOF Fme - CATAPULT ROAD.
- 2.- It is intended to hold this front as follows :-
 14th Infantry Brigade from present Divisional Right to N 22 c 1.9.
 15th Infantry Brigade from N 22 c 1.9. to line LUISENHOF Fme - CATAPULT ROAD (inclusive)
 8th Infantry Brigade in reserve.
 Each Infantry Brigade in line is to have two Battalions in front system; there will thus be four Battalion Sectors.
- 3.- The 6th (Army) Field Artillery Brigade has been allotted to 5th Aust Division and will be taken over at 5pm to day. It will form a 4th Group and will remain in its present position to cover the Left Battalion front.
- 4.- The 14th F.A. Brigade will relieve the 11th F.A. Brigade at a date to be notified later.
- 5.- At 5pm to day, the following re-organization of Groups and Barrages will come into force :-

Present designation of Group.	New Designation of Group.	Barrage lines allotted.
RIGHT GROUP	"A" GROUP, 5th Aust Div.A.	N 35 b 6.0.- N 35 a 80.65.- N 29 c 82.41.-N 29 a 15.40.
CENTRE GROUP.	"B" GROUP, 5th Aust Div.A.	N 29 a 15.40.- N 22 d 7.0.- N 22 d 57.65.- N 22 a 50.55.
LEFT GROUP.	"C" GROUP, 5th Aust Div.A.	N 22 a 50.55.- N 15 b 8.3.- N 9 c 55.10.
RIGHT GROUP, 1st A.D.A. (6th Army F.A. Brigade)	"D" GROUP, 5th Aust Div.A.	N 9 c 55.10.- N 9 c 0.4.- N 2 d 65.30.- N 2 b 2.0.

6.- LIAISON BARRAGES.

Within the Division each Group will register for Liaison purposes the whole front of adjoining Groups. Detailed orders for mutual support will be issued later. For the present each Group will employ, two 18prs and one 4.5" Howitzer Battery on fronts covered by neighbouring Groups if the " S.O.S. " call is received.

(P.T.O.)

(2)

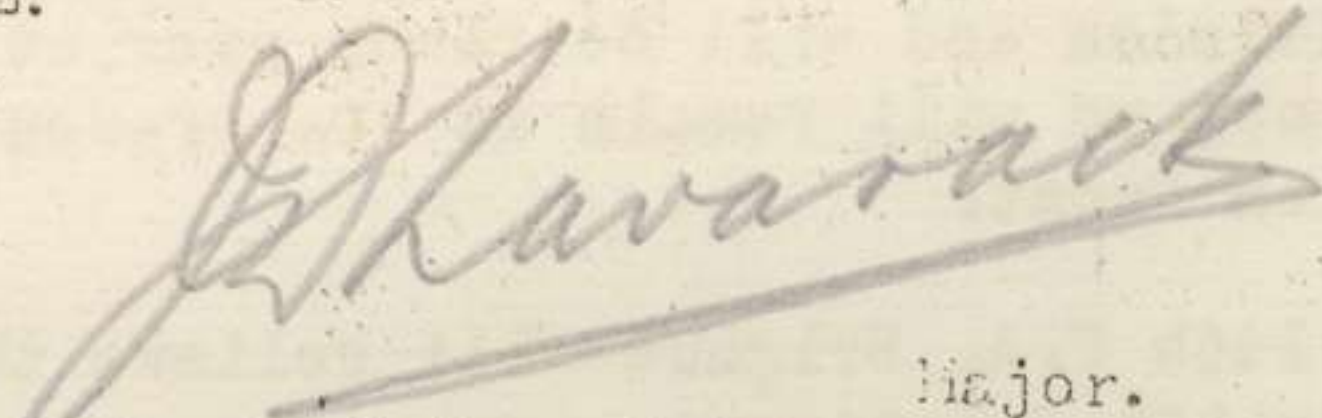
5th A.D.O. No 112 continued.

7.- Code Calls will be as follows :-

- (A) RIGHT GROUP ATTACKED :- " S.O.S. " - " Ack " FIFTH "
- (B) RIGHT CENTRE " :- " S.O.S. " - " Bere " FIFTH "
- (C) LEFT CENTRE " :- " S.O.S. " - " Cee " FIFTH "
- (D) LEFT GROUP " :- " S.O.S. " - " Don " FIFTH "

8.- Liaison with the Division on our Right remains the same.
Liaison with the Division on our left will remain as already
arranged between new " Don " Group and the Battalion on its left.

9.- A C K N O W L E D G E.



Major.

Brigade Major, 5th Aust Divisional Artillery

Issued to :-

Copy No.

"A" Group	1
"B" Group	2
"C" Group	3
"D" Group	4

Copy to :

R.A. 1st ANZAC	5
5th Aust Div	6
1st Aust Div Arty	7
2nd Aust Div Arty	8
20th Div Arty	9
14th H.A. Group	10
Counter Btys XIV Corps	11
8th Infty Bde	12
14th Infty Bde	13
15th Infty Bde	14
D.T.M.O.	15
5th D.A. Column.	16
File	17
War Diary	18.
Spare	19 to 21.

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY ORDER No 113.SECRET.Head-Quarters,
March 5th 1917.REFERENCE SHEET :- ALBERT COMBINED 1 : 40 000.
and.

5th Aust Divisional Artillery Order No 112 dated 5th inst.

-----@-----

- 1.- The 14th Aust Field Artillery Brigade will march in the 6th March at 8am from BEHENCOURT via BAIZIEUX - HENENCOURT - MILLENCOURT - ALBERT - and BECORDEL, to the 11th Field Artillery Brigade Wagon Lines near MAMETZ, in X 29 d.
- 2.- The relief of the 11th A.F.A. Brigade will take place on the 7th inst in daylight. The 14th F.A. Brigade will take over the 18pr guns of the 11th F.A. Brigade in the Battery positions and will hand over their own guns in the Wagon Lines, at BEHENCOURT.
Guns will be handed and taken over stripped with the exception of sights, Dial Sights Aiming posts and Breech and muzzle covers.
- 3.- The relieving personnel will be marched up to the Battery positions complete on the morning of the 7th inst. Times etc to be arranged between Brigade Commanders.
- 4.- The 110th and 111th Howitzer Batteries will not be replaced in the line and will withdraw under 11th F.A. Brigade arrangements.
- 5.- The 103rd Howitzer Battery becomes attached to 5th A.D.A. from 9pm to day (5th inst) and is allotted to the 6th A.F.A. Brigade (D Group, 5th Aust Div Artillery).
- 6.- The 14th F.A. Brigade will take over all 18pr ammunition on charge of the 11th F.A. Brigade ; which will march out with echelons empty.
The 103rd Howitzer Battery will take over all ammunition on charge to 110th and 111th and 112th Howitzer Batteries.
- 7.- The 103rd Howitzer Battery will take over all ammunition on the charge of 110th, 111th and 112th Howitzer Batteries ; which are to be withdrawn with echelons empty.
- 8.- No 1 Section, 1st D.A.C. will be attached to the 5th Aust Div Artillery for supply of ammunition, and will remain in its present position.
- 9.- All transfers of ammunition will be made on ANZAC Form D.A, provided for the purpose.
- 10.- The 11th F.A. Brigade will march on the 8th March, under Brigade arrangements to BEHENCOURT via BECORDEL - ALBERT - MILLENCOURT - HENENCOURT and BAIZIEUX.
Quarters in BEHENCOURT will be allotted by the Area Commandant (P.T.O.)
" T & " Area.

APPENDIX

(五)

11.- A C K N O W L E D G E.

Major.

Major.
Brigade Major, 5th Aust Div Artillery.

	Issued to	Copy No.
C.O.	14th F.A. Brigade	1
C.O.	11th F.A. Brigade	2

Copies to	
R. A. 1st ANZAC	3
5th Aust Div	4
A. Group	5
B Group	6
C Group	7
D Group	8
1st Aust D. A.	9
5th D. A. C.	10.
Staff Captain	11.
File	12
War Diary	13
Spere	14 to 18.

INTELLIGENCE REPORT.FIFTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY.From 6am 4th to 6am 5/3/1917.OUR ARTILLERY.

Activity below normal.

Special attention was paid to ATOM and METEOR TRENCHES which were shelled at irregular intervals during the past 24 hours.

SUN and HEAVEN Trenches also came in for a considerable share of our activities.

Junctions of roads on the main BAPAUME Road from LE TRANSLOY to BEAULENCOURT were fired on at 8pm and once more at 5pm. At 4.55pm the road between these points was swept.

The SUGAR FACTORY and trench Salient were included in our operations to day.

At 5.30pm all our Right Group Batteries simultaneously engaged CEMETERY CIRCLE for one minute.

This afternoon our fire was brought to bear on track from N 9 c 2.4. to N 9 c 9.3.

BEAULENCOURT was shelled at 2.30pm.

Tracks and Sunken Road fronting our left sector were paid particular attention to this afternoon.

A little registration was carried out.

HOSTILE ARTILLERY.

Below normal.

The enemy has been relatively quiet to day except for occasional bursts on front line trenches.

The back areas have suffered very little during the period just past.

As usual GUN VALLEY was marked down for hostile activity. Intermittent bursts of shrapnel and H.E. were fired into it to day.

At 5.10pm a 5.9" How Battery (2 Guns) fired about 20 rounds into T 7 b from a true bearing of 65 ° from T 8 c 6.8.

DELVILLE WOOD was shelled with 4.2s at 9.12pm and at 7.30am GUEUDECOURT was fired on with the same calibre shell.

MATTERS OF GENERAL INTEREST.

Visibility was extremely hazy this morning owing to the snow and mist, but at midday it cleared and permitted successful observation.

Our aeroplanes were very active this afternoon, after 1pm. Enemy A.A. Guns were particularly energetic against them. Hostile Aerial activity practically nil.

Late yesterday afternoon enemy planes were observing. One was sending out flares as signals.

ATOM Trench at point N 22 b 5.4. to N 22 b 7.2. was bombarded by our medium Trench Mortars from 4.5pm to 4. 45pm.

W. Chushta

2. Lieut.

for Bde Major 5th Aust Div Artillery.

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY ORDER No 114.S E C R E T.Head-Quarters,
March 6th 1917.REFERENCE 5th A.D.O. No 112, para. 6, dated 5th March 1917.

1.- The following will be the detailed liaison arrangements within the Division between adjoining Groups :-

"A"

- (a) "A" GROUP Battalion front attacked
CODE CALL - " S.O.S " " ACK FIFTH "

Action by "B" GROUP.

Two 18pr Batteries barrage line N 25 a 30 65.- N 29 c 8241
- N 29 a 15 40.
One 4.5" Howitzer Battery bombard N 23 d 10.85 and
N 23 c 75.05.

- (b) "B" GROUP Battalion front attacked.
CODE CALL - " S.O.S. " BERE GROUP "

Action by "A" GROUP.

Two 18pr Batteries barrage line N 29 a 15.40.- N 22 d 7.0
- N 22 d 57.65.
One 4.5" Howitzer Battery bombard N 22 b 5.4. and
N 22 b 05.65.

Action by "C" GROUP.

Two 18pr Batteries barrage line N 22 d 57.65 to
N 22 a 50.55.

- (c) "C" GROUP Battalion front attacked.
CODE CALL - " S.O.S. " CEE GROUP "

Action by "B" GROUP.

Two 18pr Batteries barrage line N 22 a 50.55 to
N 15 b 8.3.
One 4.5" Howitzer Battery bombard N 22 b 05.65 and
N 16 a 15.75.

Action by "D" GROUP.

Two 18pr Batteries barrage line N 15 b 8.3. to
N 9 c 55.10.
One 4.5" Howitzer Battery bombard vicinity of N 16 a 4.0.

- (d) "D" GROUP Battalion front attacked.
CODE CALL - " S.O.S. " DON GROUP "

Action by "C" GROUP.

Two 18pr Batteries barrage line N 9 c 55.10.- N 9 c 0.4.-
N 2 d 65.30.- N 2 b 2.0.

(P.T.O.)

APPENDIX

(2)

A.D.O.. No 114 continued.

2.- The following will be the liaison arrangements with the Division on our Right.

(e) 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION ATTACKED.

CODE CALL - " S.O.S. " A.N.Z.A.C. "

Action by Division on our Right.

The Left Group of this Division will barrage -

N 35 d 8.5.- N 35 a 8.0. - N 35 a 6.5.- N 35 a 6½.8½.

1 Section 4.5" Howitzers - MOON Trench N 36 a 7.8.

1 Section 4.5" Howitzers - CEMETERY CIRCLE N 29 d 6.1.

(f) DIVISION ON OUR RIGHT ATTACKED.

CODE CALL " BARRAGE S.O.S. XIV ".

Action by "A" GROUP.

Two 18pr Batteries barrage line N 35 d 2.9. to N 35 a 9.9.

One Section 4.5" Howitzers - CEMETERY CIRCLE N 29 d 6.1.

One Section 4.5" Howitzers - MOON TRENCH N 36 a 7.8½.

3.- The following will be the liaison arrangements with the Division on our ~~Right~~. LEFT.

The Division attacked will send out the S.O.S. Call accompanied by the co-ordinates of the line on which the barrage is required to fall.

"D" Group on receipt of above call will barrage line indicated with two 18pr Batteries and bombard suitable points in rear of enemy lines with a 4.5" Howitzer Battery.

Similar arrangements have been made for our support by 1st Aust Division on receipt of S.O.S. followed by Co-ordinates.

4.- A C K N O W L E D G E by wire.

D. Ravarack
Major.

Brigade Major 5th Australian Divisional Artillery.

Issued to :-	Copy No.
"A" Group	1
"B" Group	2
"C" Group	3
"D" Group	4
Copies to :-	
R.A. 1st ANZAC	5
5th Aust Div	6
1st Aust Div Artillery	7
Left Artillery XIV Corps	8
File	9
War Diary	10
Spare	11 to 14.

SECRET.Copy No. 13....FIFTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERYHead-Quarters,
March 7th 1917.AMENDMENT to 5th A.D.A.O. No 114 of 6th inst.

- 1.- For,
CODE CALLS - S.O.S. " BERE, CEE and DON GROUP "
- read,
CODE CALL - " S.O.S." BERE, CEE and DON " FIFTH ".

- 2.- For,
ACTION BY "B" GROUP.
Two 18pr Batteries barrage line N 25 a 80.65 etc,
- read,
Two 18pr Batteries barrage line N 35 a 80.65 etc.

W. Lavarack

Major.

Brigade Major, 5th Aust Div Artillery.

Issued to	Copy No
-----------	---------

"A" Group	1
"B" Group	2
"C" Group	3
"D" Group	4

Copy to	
R.A. 1st ANZAC	5
5th Aust Div	6
1st Aust Div Artillery	7
File	8
Left Arty XIV Corps	9
8th Infty Bde	10
14th Infty Bde	11
15th Infty Bde	12
War Diary	13

APPENDIX

HT

Copy No 9

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY.AMENDMENT No 2 to 5th A.D.A. Order No 114.

Head-Quarters,

March 8th 1917.

1. Delete para 3 and substitute the following :-

(3) The following will be the Liaison arrangements with the Division on our Left.

(g) 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION ATTACKED.
CODE CALL " S.O.S. " DON FIFTH "Action by Division on our Left.Two 18pr Batteries barrage on line N 2 b 2.2. - N 2 d 6530.-
N 2 c 0.9.

One Section 4.5" Howitzers bombard N 9 a 25.65.

One 4.5" Howitzer bombard communication trench
N 9 a 25.40.

One 4.5" Howitzer bombard communication trench N 2 b 95 07.

(h) DIVISION ON OUR LEFT ATTACKED.
CODE CALL " S.O.S. " " MOH ".Action by "D" GROUP.Two 18pr Batteries barrage line from N 8 b 6.2.-
N 2 d 65.30.- N 2 b 2.2.- N 2 a 60.45.

Four 4.5" Howitzers distributed as follows :-

1 Howitzer - Trench Junction N 2 b 6.5.

1 Howitzer - Trench Junction H 32 d 3.2.

1 Howitzer - Trench Junction N 2 b 95.07.

1 Howitzer - Cross Roads N 3 c 45.00.

(j) This arrangement will come into force from 6pm today
8th March 1917.2. ACKNOWLEDGE by wire.

Major,

Bde Major, 5th Aust Div Artillery.

Issued to :-

Copy No.

Copies to

Copy No.

"A" Group

1

R.A. 1st ANZAC

5

"B" Group

2

H.Q. 5th A. Div

6

"C" Group

3

2nd Aust Div Arty

7

"D" Group

4

File

8

War Diary

9

Spare

10 to 14.

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERYINTELLIGENCE REPORTFrom 6 p.m. 5/3/1917 to 6 p.m. 6/3/1917.1. OUR ARTILLERY.

More than usual activity was maintained throughout the past 24 hours.

During the night a heavy searching fire was sustained along the BAPAUME - LE TRANSLOY Road from Fbg. de PERONNE to RESERVOIR.

At 3.15 p.m. the Fbg. de PERONNE was again shelled. Considerable activity was displayed in sweeping sections of main BAPAUME Road and junctions from LE TRANSLOY to BRAULENCOURT. The Relief Track N.23 d. to N.17 d. was fired on at 8.40 p.m.

Throughout the night particular attention was given to the shelling of tracks and roads leading to enemy front line.

The SUGAR FACTORY, CEMETERY CIRCLE and the Trench salient were amongst the well known targets included in our operations.

At 11.30 a.m. HEAVEN TRENCH from N.29 a.7.6 to N.29 d.45.70 was heavily shelled, and enemy post at N.29 d.65.70 completely demolished.

We bombarded H.Qrs. N.22 b.55.40 at 1.15 p.m.

During the afternoon we fired on suspected dug-outs at N.4 c.0.4

At frequent intervals throughout the whole period ATOM and METEOR Trenches were subjected to particularly heavy shelling.

The Minenwerfer position at N.22 d.80.95 was engaged early this morning.

Registrations were also carried out during the day.

2. HOSTILE ARTILLERY.

Enemy activity above normal.

Our front line system again came in for a considerable amount of hostile attention, SUNRAY Trench and vicinity being a favourite target.

FLERS has been subject to intermittent shelling during the whole day; this at times was very heavy, 5.9's and 4.2's being used, the former from FREIMCOURT and the latter apparently from behind BAPAUME.

At 3.50 a.m. GINCHY was shelled by 5.9" guns firing from direction of T.B.35 degrees. 77's were dropped into the vicinity of GUEUDECOURT at 5.50 a.m. from direction T.B.60 degrees, both observed from T.3 a 1.3.

NEEDLE DUMP was shelled this afternoon at 1.17 p.m.

Back areas have been consistently shelled throughout the day with 5.9's, both H.E. and shrapnel.

3. MATTERS OF GENERAL INTEREST.

Observation has been very good all day.

Aeroplanes on both sides have taken advantage of the good weather conditions.

Several aerial engagements took place. One of our planes while engaged in ranging for one of our batteries on the left of our sector was brought down by a hostile machine, the pilot being killed, but the observer was unhurt. A little later this enemy aeroplane was in its turn shot down by our A.A. guns.

A train was observed moving east to west in rear of VILLERS AU FLOS; our guns successfully engaged this target.

The use of "Pigeon" bombs has increased very much of late, and caused our infantry a considerable amount of annoyance.

A new line of telegraph posts with wires has been laid running from N.2 c. in direction of RESERVOIR at N.4 b.

Movement was observed at RESERVOIR; this vicinity was engaged at intervals with battery salvos.

W. Christian

Lieut.,

For Brigade Major, 5th. Aust. Div. Arty.

INTELLIGENCE REPORT.FIFTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY.From 6am 6/3/1917 to 6am 7/3/1917.OUR ARTILLERY.

Activity normal.

The principle feature of our operations was the shelling of ATOM Trench, which we heavily engaged at frequent intervals throughout the past 24 hours.

The BAPAUME Rd and junctions from LE TRANSLOY to BEAULENCOURT was once more included in our activity to day.

On several occasions new works in CEMETERY CIRCLE was ranged on by our guns. HEAVEN TRENCH and the SUGAR FACTORY were also shelled.

From 12pm to 4am and again from 3.15 to 4.15pm TILL Trench was subjected to bursts of fire.

Fbg. de PERONNE was also bombarded in the early hours of the morning.

Between 2pm and 6pm the RESERVOIR in N 4 b and vicinity came in for a considerable amount of our fire.

The road junctions in RIENCOURT N 5 d 8.6. received attention from 3 to 5pm.

Enemy Dugouts N 4 c 0.4. were heavily shelled from 4.30pm to 5.10pm. MINNENWERFER positions in ATOM Trench were on many occasions special targets for our guns during the day.

HOSTILE ARTILLERY.

Enemy activity above normal on front line system, but comparatively quiet in the back areas. SUNRAY Trench and vicinity has as usual been subject to frequent bursts of fire from 5.9s, 4.2s and 77mm shell all coming from the direction of LE TRANSLOY.

In the early hours of the night, several 5.9s and Gas Shells were put into GUN VALLEY.

At 10.30am and again at noon THILLOY was fired on, LUISENHOF Pse, BAYNET Trench and the road in N 13 d were shelled by 77mm Guns. These guns seemed not to be further away than BAPAUME. At 4.15pm about 18 rounds of 5.9s and 4.2s were dropped on the DUCKBOARDS in N 31 d. During the day GUEDECOURT and FLERS were intermittently shelled with 77mm and 4.2s.

MATTER OF GENERAL INTEREST.

Visibility poor. There was an absence of aeroplane activity. Our medium Trench Mortars were unable to fire to day owing to their positions in SUNRAY Trench being blown in. New positions are being built. During the shelling of FLERS yesterday, 8" shells were among the calibre used.

The command of "C" Group passed at 1.30pm to day to our 14th F.A. Brigade.

W.S. Christie
Lieut.
for Brigade Major 5th Aust Div Artillery.

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERYSUMMARY OF OPERATIONSFrom 8 a.m. 1/3/1917 to 8 a.m. 8/3/19171. OUR ARTILLERY.

The salient features of the week have been the counter-attack by the 8th. Bav. Regt. on the night 2/3rd. March, the extension of the Divisional front to the right, and the relief of the 11th. A.F.A. Brigade by the 14th.

The counter-attack began at 8.5 p.m. on the 2nd., when the "S.O.S." signal was sent up from SUNRAY Trench. The Centre Group Batteries, covering this Sector, opened fire within less than half a minute. A special message of thanks was received from the Infantry Brigadier-General for the promptitude and accuracy with which the barrage was put down. The counter-attack developed at 8.15 p.m., was repulsed and all fire ceased by 8.26 p.m. The Right and Left Groups also opened fire for a few minutes.

The 6th. (Army) F.A. Brigade and 103rd. Howitzer Battery were taken over at 9 p.m. on the 5th. inst. and formed a fourth Group. Groups were re-named A.B.C. and D. Groups from right to left.

On the 6th. the 14th. A.F.A. Brigade moved up from BEHENCOURT to MAMETZ, and took over from the 11th. A.F.A. Brigade on the 7th.; taking over completed by 1.30 p.m.

Our routine activity has been somewhat above normal, and has consisted mainly in irregular and spasmodic shelling of trenches (especially ATOM Trench) and main communications. REINCOURT and BANCOURT villages, suspected of being enemy billeting areas, have been occasionally subjected to bursts of fire at night. A few attempts at Counter-Battery work have also been attempted, but targets within reach are few, and observation difficult to obtain. Several shoots of enemy train movement in his back area were carried out by our Left Group F.O.O., using guns of the 23rd. H.A.G.

2. ENEMY ARTILLERY.

The enemy put in four days of unusual activity in the middle of the week. His fire was mainly concentrated on SUNRAY Trench, which came in for a concentrated bombardment from 15 c.m., 10.5 c.m. and 77 mm. at irregular intervals. This was generally countered successfully by counter-battery work and counter-shelling of his front line trenches and "tender" spots. Occasional bursts of fire from a 21 c.m. Howitzer were also put in.

FLERS was the only other part of this area to receive particular attention, being subjected to irregular bombardment from 21 c.m. How., 15 c.m. How. and 10.5 c.m. How.

Otherwise enemy activity was below normal. He seems to have fewer guns.



Major,

Brigade Major, 5th. Aust. Divnl. Artillery.

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERYINTELLIGENCE REPORTFrom 6 p.m. 7/3/1917 to 6 p.m. 8/3/19171. OUR ARTILLERY.

For the past 24 hours our activity has been normal.

ATOM and METEOR Trenches again engrossed a considerable amount of our attention.

Machine Gun emplacement and strong point N.29 a.9.9. was shelled at 7.30 and 8 p.m. At 7.35 p.m. Trench Salient in N.23 b. was searched.

BAPAUME Road from LE TRANSLOY to BEAULENCOURT was included in our list of activities.

HEAVEN and SUN Trenches and the new work in CEMETERY CIRCLE were subjected to heavy fire this afternoon from 3 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.

The junction of BAR ALLEY and SULPHUR Trench N.23 d. came in for some attention at 3.10 p.m.

BRIMSTONE, BOOMERANG and FIRE Trenches were intermittently shelled.

Heavy fire was brought to bear on targets in H.33 and 34 between 4.40 and 5 p.m.

On three different occasions HEINCOURT was heavily shelled by our artillery.

The trench H.33 c.1.8 to H.34 c.5.4 was fired on at intervals during the night, and again between 3.30 and 4.30 p.m.

At 3 p.m. the suspected battery at H.35 b.6.6 was subjected to a sharp bombardment.

2. HOSTILE ARTILLERY.

Enemy activity normal.

Between 12.30 a.m. and 4 a.m. about 40 rounds of 5.9" shell were fired into T.9 c.

From 10 a.m. to noon 77 mm. in small bursts were fired on N.19 a., N.19 c. and N.25 a. In the afternoon the same calibre gun shelled N.19 b., N.19 d., N.20 a. and b.

About 20 rounds 5.9" were put into FLERS this afternoon between 2.30 and 3 p.m.

At 4.30 p.m. the enemy shelled the vicinity of T.2 a. with 30 rounds of 5.9" calibre.

Neighbourhood of N.32 c. and d. was intermittently fired on with 4.2" and 5.9" shells throughout the day.

3. MATTERS OF GENERAL INTEREST.

Visibility indifferent. A high wind prevailed and frequent snowstorms.

Aerial activity nil.

At 10 a.m. three waggons were observed moving along the road from direction of LE TRANSLOY to BARASTRE at 0.14 d.1.0 to 0.15 a.3.5.

A 77 mm. gun was located by flashes near the SUGAR FACTORY in N.24 d. Our artillery engaged it and obtained several direct hits. During the action the detachment was observed running away. At 6.35 p.m. the flashes of a 4.2" battery were seen from T.8 a.1.8 T.B. 40 degrees.

W. M. Churton

Staff Lieut.,

For Brigade Major, 5th. Aust. Divnl. Artillery.

HT

Copy No.....15

W.D.

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY

ARTILLERY INSTRUCTIONS No 4.

S E C R E T.

Head-Quarters,
March 9th 1917.

- 1.- An intensive bombardment of the enemy front line system is to be carried out between 3.12pm and 3.33pm to day the 9th inst.
- 2.- The intention of the operation is to deceive the enemy as to the point of attack of operations to be carried out elsewhere.
- 3.- The line of the bombardment from Right to Left will be CEMETERY CIRCLE, HEAVEN TRENCH as far as N 29 a 40.35, METEOR TRENCH, ATOM TRENCH, TILL TRENCH.
- 4.- Group Commanders will distribute the fire of their guns along the line given with the above object in view.
Particular attention will be paid to the tender spots mentioned in Artillery Instructions No 1, para 1, sub paras (a) (b) (c) (d) and (e).
- 5.- Rate of fire - 3 rounds per gun per minute.
2 rounds per Howitzer per minute.
Proportion of "A" to "A X ", normal.
- 6.- Watches will be synchronised with D.A. H.Q. at 2pm to day.
- 7.- A C K N O W L E D G E by wire.

W. Lavarack

Major.
Bde Major, 5th Aust Div Artillery.

Issued to	Copy No.
"A" Group	1
"B" Group	2
"C" Group	3
"D" Group	4

Copies to :-	
R.A. 1st ANZAC	5
5th Aust Div	6
Left Arty XIV Corps	7
2nd Aust Div Artillery	8
8th Infty Bde	9
14th Infty Bde	10
15th Infty Bde	11
14th H.A.G.	12
Staff Captain	13
File	14
War Diary	15
Spare	16 to 19.

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

From 6 a.m. 8/3/1917 to 6 a.m. 9/3/1917

1. OUR ARTILLERY.

During the past 24 hours our activity was above normal. The principal feature of our operations today was an intensive bombardment of the enemy front line system carried out between 3.12 p.m. and 3.32 p.m. The intention of this action was to deceive the enemy as to the point of attack of operations to be carried out elsewhere. There was very little reply to our bombardment.

Throughout the period H.32 c. and d. and the communication Trench in H.3 were continually shelled in sharp bursts.

At 6.30 p.m. and again before noon today ~~the~~ central to H.10 c. C.5 was subjected to sweeping fire from our guns.

REINCOURT and vicinity on three occasions received considerable attention.

Once more ATOM Trench and trenches in its neighbourhood were the targets for a heavy systematic bombardment at frequent intervals throughout the night and day.

The new work in HEAVEN Trench was specially attended to.

The Trench Salient and the suspected headquarters in LE TRABEL-
OY were also included in our activities today.

2. HOSTILE ARTILLERY.

Enemy artillery has again been active on the forward areas, but quiet in the back country. At 9.15 a.m. eleven shells 5.9" calibre were put into H.19 b.5.0.

A number of 77 mm. and 4.2" shells fell in H.25 a. and b.

During the afternoon FLENS was shelled with 4.2's., most of which failed to explode.

About a dozen 5.9's were fired into THILLOY between 3 and 3.30 p.m.

At 11.30 a.m. H.21 d. was shelled with 4.2's., direction T.B. 31 degrees from T.8 a.l.3. This calibre shell was also fired into SEHLE DUMP and T.8 a.

Enemy signals consisting of red rockets bursting into four green stars were sent up at 4.42 a.m. Immediately a barrage of 4.2's and 77 mm. shells was placed on our front line system. This barrage lasted 15 minutes.

At 10 a.m. a concentrated bombardment of the forward areas with 5.9's and 4.2's. occurred.

GUN VALLEY was shelled with 5.9's and 4.2's at noon today.

The duckboard in T.9 c. was fired on at 3.40 p.m. about 24 rounds of 4.2" shrapnel were dropped.

3. MAITERS OF GENERAL INTEREST.

Visibility fair in the early part of the day, but scattered snowstorms in the afternoon prevented further successful observation. Aerial activity slight.

Transport on road between VILLERS AN FLOS and BEAULIEUCOURT was shelled at 6 p.m. Half an hour later a G.S. Wagon was engaged at H.18 a.50.55. A party of the enemy was observed at H.24 a.5.0. and dispersed by our guns.

Staff Lieut.,

For Brigade Major, 5th. Aust. Divn. Arty.

HT.

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY

ARTILLERY INSTRUCTIONS No 5.

W.D.

SECRET

Head-Quarters,
March 10th 1917.

1.- A series of intensive bombardments of the enemy front line system is to be carried out on the 11th, 12th and 13th March 1917, as follows.

11th March - 12 noon to 12.30pm.
12th March - 4.25pm to 4.45pm.
13th March - 2.30pm to 2.50pm.

2.- The intention of these bombardments is to deceive the enemy as to the point of attack of operations to be carried out elsewhere.

3.- The line of the bombardments from Right to Left will be CEMETERY CIRCLE, HEAVEN TRENCH as far as N 29 a 40.85, METEOR TRENCH, ATOM TRENCH, TILL TRENCH.

4.- Group Commanders will distribute the fire of their Guns along the line given, with the above object in view. The fire of Groups may be concentrated at Group Commanders discretion with the object of doing damage to enemy works or destroying his personnel in positions of his line known to be strongly held.

5.- Rate of fire :- 3 rounds per gun per minute.
2 rounds per Howitzer per minute.
The proportion used of "A" to "AX" is left to Group Commanders discretion.

6.- Brief reports on the operation will be sent by wire indicating any positive effect observed and the amount of enemy retaliation obviously resulting from the bombardments.

7.- Watches will be synchronised with D.A.H.Q. two hours before the commencement of the bombardment on each occasion.

8.- ACKNOWLEDGE by wire.

J. L. ...

Major.
Bde Major, 5th Australian Div Artillery.

Issued to :-	Copy No.	Copies to :-	Copy No
"A" Group	1	8th Inftry Bde	7
"B" Group	2	14th Inftry Bde	8
"C" Group	3	15th Inftry Bde	9
"D" Group	4	2nd Aust Div Arty	10
Copies to :-		20th Div Arty	11
R.A. 1st ANZAC	5	Sigs R.A.	12
5th Aust Division.	6	File	13
		War Diary	14.

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERYINTELLIGENCE REPORT.From 6 p.m. 9/3/1917 to 6 p.m. 10/3/19171. OUR ARTILLERY.

Our activity was normal.

At 7.30 p.m. CEMETERY CIRCLE was shelled, and again between 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. this afternoon.

HEAVEN and SUN Trenches came in for a considerable share of our fire this afternoon.

Particular attention was paid to road junctions in the vicinity of H.24, H.29, H.30.

The roads and communications in H.33 and H.34 were subjected to heavy fire on four separate occasions.

REINCOURT was included in our activities early in the morning and late this afternoon.

ATON Trench and vicinity was once more continually kept under consistent shell fire during the past 24 hours. The minnenwerfer position in this locality being paid special attention.

The Fgb. de PERONNE and the RESERVOIR in H.4 b. were shelled during the afternoon.

2. HOSTILE ARTILLERY.

Activity normal.

Between 7 and 8 p.m. NEEDLE DUMP and vicinity experienced unusually heavy shelling from 5.9's and 4.2's. This area and H.33 were again the targets for enemy action from 9 a.m. to 3.30 p.m.

FLERS, especially during the afternoon, was subjected to considerable activity from 5.9" shells from direction of FREMICOURT. A few of the same calibre were put into H.19 d. from VILLERS AU FLOS.

During the day 77 mm. 4.2" and 5.9" shells were fired into MONSOON Trench from direction of BEAULENCOURT and LE TRASSLOY.

Duckboards in GUN VALLEY were shelled at intervals with 5.9's.

About 12 gas shells were fired into T.9 d. and about 6 rounds estimated 6" Hows. at least, into T.9 c., sound bearing 66 degrees from T.9 c.30.35.

3. MATTERS OF GENERAL INTEREST.

Visibility very poor. Heavy fog during most of the day.

There has been no aerial activity.

Batteries of 77 mm. guns operating on our front line are reported as firing from H.17 b 2.0, and from road running from H.11 b 3.9 to H.11 b 8.6.

Enemy was heard working on his wire at H.9 d.3.5.

Staff Lieut.,
For Brigade Major, 5th. Aust. Div. Artillery.

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERYINTELLIGENCE REPORT.From 6 p.m. 10/3/1917 to 6 p.m. 11/3/1917.1. OUR ARTILLERY.

Our activity today was above normal.

The principal feature of our action to-day was a heavy bombardment from 12 noon to 12.20 p.m. of enemy front line system facing our sector, by way of diversion from operations to be carried out on another part of the line.

Early in the evening we shelled the road in H.11 a. and the dugouts in H.11 Central.

Besides the severe bombardment at noon to-day, CHERRY CIRCLE, SUN and HEAVEN Trenches were fired on by our guns on several other occasions.

The SUGAR FACTORY and H.Q.'s. in LE TRANSLOY were also attended to.

ESCAPE ALLEY and Trenches in H.33 a. and H.34 c. were subjected to considerable shelling during the past 24 hours.

At 1.55 p.m. and 6 p.m. the Battery Position in H.6 a. was subjected to our fire.

As usual ATOM Trench was kept under a searching shell fire, the minenwerfer positions in vicinity being particularly sought for.

2. HOSTILE ARTILLERY.

Enemy activity above normal.

About 120 rounds of 5.9" and 4.2" shells were put into FLERS H.3 a. and /c. during the morning. Late this afternoon FLERS was again shelled with 4.2"s. coming from the direction of BEAULENCOURT.

Our Batteries in H.32 d. experienced an intense bombardment of enemy 5.9" and 4.2" shells from VILLERS AU FLOS between 11.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.

Early this morning T.8 b. was shelled by 4.2" Howitzers T.8. 56 degrees from T.8 c. 65.65, about 30 rounds were fired on this occasion.

During the night the Batteries in T.9 c. were searched with a fairly large calibre gun.

Grass Lane was also included in enemy activities, about 16 rounds of 4.2" being fired into it between 2.45 and 2.58 p.m.

Our front line and supports were shelled on numerous occasions.

3. MATTERS OF GENERAL INTEREST.

Visibility has been good all day.

Aeroplanes on both sides have been extremely active to-day. Frequent duels took place and several machines on both sides were brought down.

At 2.20 p.m. a working party was observed at H.12 a 5.9; and effective fire directed upon it. An hour later a four-horse wagon was seen at H.32 d. 3.9; action was at once taken.

Trench Mortar positions have been located at H.2 a. 6.8 and H.32 c. 2.2, and machine gun at H.9 c. 5.4.

An enemy balloon up nearly all day T.8. 40 degrees from T.8 b 3.4

Staff Lieut.,
For Brigade Major, 5th. Aust. Div. Arty.

SECRET.

Copy No

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY ORDER No 115.Head-Quarters, 5th Aust Div
March 12th 1917.

- 1.- The front held by the 5th Aust Division is to be extended to the Left as far as RED CUT in N 1 a, the new front being taken over by the 8th Aust Infantry Brigade (less 1 Battalion)
- 2.- The new front is at present covered by the 2nd Aust F.A. Brigade which will come under the orders of the C.R.A. 5th Aust Division at 8am on the 13th inst, and continue to cover this front.
- 3.- The new Group will then be named "F" Group, 5th Aust Div Arty.
- 4.- The necessary adjustment in the Signalling communications will be completed before the time of taking over.
- 5.- The following will be the Barrage lines of "F" Group :-

N 2 d 75.30.- N 2 b 35.25.- H 31 c 90.20.

- 6.- Liaison with "D" Group 5th A.D.A. will be as follows :-

(a) - "D" Group Battalion front attacked
CODE CALL - " S.O.S." DON FIFTH "

Action by "F" GROUP.

Two 18pr Batteries barrage line N 9 c 0.9.- N 2 d 75.30.-
 N 2 b 35.25.

One Section , 4.5" Hows bombard N 3 c 45.00(Road Junction)
 One 4.5" How: bombard N 3 c 48.60(C.T. junction)
 One 4.5" How: bombard N 3 a 15.21(" ")

(b) - "F" Group Battalion front attacked.

Action by "D" GROUP.

Two 18pr Batteries barrage line N 8 b 82.- N 2 d 6.5.-
 N 2 b 2.2.- N 2 a 60.45.

4, 4.5" Howitzers distributed as follows :-

1, 4.5" Howitzer N 2 b 6.5. (Trench Junction)

1, 4.5" Howitzer H 32 d 3.2. do

1, 4.5" Howitzer N 2 b 95.07 do

1, 4.5" Howitzer N 3 c 45.00 (Road Junction)

(c) - This arrangement will come into force from 8am on the 13th inst . All Barrages etc will be registered where necessary , as soon as visibility conditions permit.

- 7.- Arrangements for Liaison with the Division on our Left will be published later.

- 8.- A C K N O W L E D G E by wire

J. Phavaruck
 Major
 Brigade Major, Divisional Artillery

(2)

Issued to :-	Copy No.
"F" Group.	1
Copies to:-	
"A" Group	2
"B" Group	3
"C" Group	4
"D" Group	5
R.A. 1st ALBAC	6
5th Aust Division	7
8th Inftry Bde	8
14th Inftry Bde	9
15th Inftry Bde	10
Sigs R.A.	11
15th H.A.G.	12
Counter Btys XIV Corps	13
2nd Aust Div Arty	14
30th D.A.	15
File	16
War Diary	17.
Specs	18 to 20.

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERYINTELLIGENCE REPORTFrom 6 p.m. 11/3/1917 to 6 p.m. 12/3/19171. OUR ARTILLERY.

Our activity was normal.

ATOM, BOONERANG and MOONRAY Trenches were heavily shelled throughout the period just past, considerable attention being paid to minenwerfer positions.

From 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. the BAPAUNE Road between H.11 a. and H.4 b. was searched by our fire.

Early in the evening SUB Trench, BEAMER Trench and CHERRY CIRCLE came into the sphere of our activities. SUB Trench was again shelled at 5 p.m. At 9.27 p.m. the Trench Salient was ranged on by our guns; sweeping and searching fire being employed.

HILL Trench was bombarded from 10 a.m. till noon.

From 1.30 p.m. to 3 p.m. LE TRAMBOY and approaches were shelled in short rapid bursts of fire.

The SUGAR FACTORY received more than usual attention at 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Enemy Front Line System was heavily shelled by our guns from 4.25 to 4.45 p.m.

2. HOSTILE ARTILLERY.

Activity was slightly above normal.

OUR VALLEY was again the vicinity for considerable hostile fire, about 100 shells, mostly 4.2's being put over. A few 5.9's were also included in the bombardment.

At 11.30 p.m. GINCHY CORNER was shelled with 5.9's.

The neighbourhood of our Batteries in H.32 experienced more than usually heavy shelling between 11 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. from direction of VILLERS AU FLOS.

Guns were very active on FACTORY CORNER at noon to-day.

As usual FLERS was included in enemy action, 5.9" shells from direction of PREMICOUST being the calibre fired.

On several occasions LUISSEHOF FARM was shelled with 77's.

The E. Girs. of our "A" Group in T.8 d.2.7 were fired on by a 5.9" gun, T.B.34 degrees from direction T.8 b.3.6.

3. MATTERS OF GENERAL INTEREST.

Visibility was poor during the day.

Aerial activity slight.

Movement was seen in neighbourhood of H.23 b. and our guns were at once brought to bear.

At 3.5 p.m. a thick cloud of yellow smoke was observed behind enemy lines rising to height of about 60 feet T.B. 37 degrees from T.8 b.3.8.

Staff Lieut.,

For Brigade Major, 5th. Aust. Div. Arty.

HT.

Copy No. 17

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY.
ARTILLERY INSTRUCTIONS No 6.

S E C R E T.

Head-Quarters,
 March 13th 1917.

- 1.- The 2nd Australian Division occupied WARLENCOURT Trench and GREVILLERS and have orders to make good a line running from H 31d55 through G 30 d 8.0. to their boundary about G 30 a 5.5.
 8th Aust Infantry Brigade is conforming by establishing a line of posts from N 2 d 1.9. through BRICKFIELDS to H 31 d 4.4.
 - 2.- In order to hasten the enemy's retirement from the line of HEAVEN Trench - ATOM Trench- TILL Trench, a systematic bombardment by Heavy and Field Artillery of these trenches, between N 29 a 5.6. and N 16 a 0.9. will be commenced tomorrow the 14th inst.
 - 3.- The 14th and 15th Aust Infantry Brigades have been ordered to occupy the enemy trenches within the above limits as soon as signs of his withdrawal are apparent and to establish a footing on the BEAULENCOURT SPUR to compel his retirement from TILL and SUN Trenches. The dividing line between these Brigades is to be a line from N 22 c 1.9. N.E. through K 17 b 1.9.
 - 4.- A, B, C, and D Groups, 5th Aust Division will co-operate in the bombardment in accordance with the following table :-
- | U N I T. | TASK FOR
14th/5/17. | FRONTAGE | AMMUNITION
18prs | ALLOTTED.
4.5" Hows. |
|-----------|---|-----------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| "A" GROUP | Bombard HEAVEN Trench and HEEHOR TRENCH and cut four lanes in wire. | N29a5.6.
to
N23d0.7. | 600 | 200 |
| "B" Group | Bombard ATOM Trench and cut four lanes in wire. | N23d0.7.
to
N23b1535 | 600 | 200 |
| "C" GROUP | Bombard ATOM Trench and cut four lanes in wire. | N23b1535
to
N16c7555. | 600 | 200 |
| "D" GROUP | Bombard ATOM and TILL Trenches and cut four lanes in wire. | N16c7555
to
N16a0.9. | 600 | 200 |
- 5.- Reports will be forwarded to this Office immediately on completion of the daily task.
 - 6.- Artillery Liaison Officers at Brigade and Battalion H.Qs will be notified in each case half an hour before shooting on enemy trenches and wire commences.

(P.T.O.)

(2)

7.- ACKNOWLEDGE by wire.

W. J. Marshall

Major.
Brigade Major, 5th Aust Divisional Artillery.

Issued to :- Copy to.

"A" Group	1
"B" Group	2
"C" Group	3
"D" Group	4

Copy to :-

R.A. 1st ALAC	5
5th Aust Division.	6
"F" Group	7
2nd Aust Div Arty	8
Left Arty XIV Corps	9
14th H.A.C.	10
Counter Bys XIV Corps	11
8th Infy Bde	12
14th Infy Bde	13
15th Infy Bde	14
Sigs R.A.	15
File	16
War Di. ry	17
Store	18 to 20.

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY

INTELLIGENCE REPORT.

From 6 p.m. 12/3/1917 to 6 p.m. 13/3/1917

1. OUR ARTILLERY.

Our activity was below normal.
Between 9.15 and 9.45 p.m. we shelled TILL Trench at N.9 c.2.5.
At 11.25 p.m. N.2 a. Central was made the target for our guns.
The Cross Roads in REINCOURT experienced our activity at 7 a.m.
ATOM Trench as usual came in for a considerable amount of our attention. METEOR Trench and ETHER LANE were also included in our operations. Our action on ATOM Trench to-day brought very little retaliation.

SUN and HEAVEN Trenches came in for some slight notice on several occasions.

During the afternoon N.24 a 7.5 and the suspected mobile gun in N.18 c.2.7 were subjected to sharp bursts of fire.

The Cross Roads in enemy territory fronting the extreme right of our sector were shelled and swept at irregular intervals.
searched

2. HOSTILE ARTILLERY.

Enemy artillery has been normal.

Just prior to midnight 20 rounds of 5.9" were fired into T.9 c. At 11 a.m. 30 shells 4.2" calibre were dropped into this vicinity.

A few intermittent rounds of 4.2" from direction of VILLERS AU FLOS fell in ~~direction~~ GUN VALLEY during past 24 hours.

SWITCH Trench received some slight attention from 5.9" How. shells.

Our Batteries in the neighbourhood of N.32 were again the targets for enemy artillery, about 100 rounds of 4.2" being put over.

Between 2. a.m. and 3.30 a.m. N.19 d. central was shelled with 5.9's. About 60 of the same calibre fell in N.20 b. and d. and N.21 a. and c.

A 5.9" Battery from direction of BANCOURT operated on BAYONET Trench N.13 d. 0.3 to N.13 d.5.4.

LUISENHOF FARM came in for some attention from 4.2" shells at 12.30 p.m.

About 50 rounds of 77 mm. were fired into LIGNY THILLOY from direction of BANCOURT, 40 of a similar calibre were placed in N.3 a. between 3 p.m. and 3.30 p.m.; fire in this instance came from direction of BAPAUME.

The 4.2" H.V. Gun, which has been rather active of late continued its work in our back areas last night. This gun only appears to fire at late hours of night and in the early hours of the morning.

3. MATTERS OF GENERAL INTEREST.

Observation was difficult owing to mist.

Practically no aerial activity.

Hostile Trench Mortars at N.3 c.5.5 were active during the night; there were five of these close together.

Smoke was observed going up all the afternoon East of VILLERS AU FLOS, about 0.14 a.

Staff Lieut.,

For Brigade Major, 5th. Aust. Div. Artil

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS.

From 8 a.m. 8/3/1917 to 8 a.m. 14/3/1917

1. OUR ARTILLERY:

The Divisional Artillery has been active during the week, carrying out several organised bombardments, in addition to an "S.O.S." operation, and irregular bombardment of enemy front line trenches and communications. A small amount of counter-battery work was also carried out. No zone calls affecting any of the Groups have been reported.

The organised bombardments were carried out under Corps Orders, on the 9th. 11th. and 12th. for twenty minutes in each case, commencing at 3.12 p.m., 12 noon and 4.25 p.m. respectively. Artillery and Infantry observers agreed that the shooting was accurate, and the effect apparently good. A feature of these operations was the comparative insignificance of the retaliation put up by the enemy. SUNRAY Trench and vicinity, FLERS and the batteries of "C" Group were the principal sufferers all through. NEEDLE DUMP was added to the list after the second day, and was consistently shelled for two days.

A bombardment of the enemy front line, combined with wire cutting in squares N.23 c., N.22 b. and N.16 was undertaken on the 14th. in co-operation with the Corps Heavy Artillery in preparation for patrol operations on the night 14/15th. March. The patrols in all cases reported they found the wire well cut. The trenches, however, were still occupied.

2. ENEMY ARTILLERY:

ENEMY ARTILLERY. This has been mainly confined to retaliatory work, apparently by a few guns, and in many cases by single guns. The counter work against the batteries of "C" Group and the shelling of FLERS, however, until two days ago was carried out by a 5.9" battery firing salvoes of three, and a 4-gun 10.5 c.m. battery.

During the last two days the enemy activity has declined considerably, and shelling by more than one gun has not been much reported, and has then apparently come mainly from 77 mm. guns.

Major,
Brigade Major 5th. Aust. Divnl. Artillery,
(For C.R.A.)

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERYINTELLIGENCE REPORT.From 6 p.m. 13/3/1917 to 6 p.m. 14/3/19171. OUR ARTILLERY.

Our artillery slightly above normal to-day.

At irregular intervals throughout the period just past ATOM Trench was again subjected to a consistent fire.

The SUDAR FACTORY was also shelled last night at 8.45 p.m. The I.M. emplacements at E.3 c.4.5 were attended to.

Our operations included the heavy systematic bombardment of enemy front line system with the object of cutting wire and smashing up the trenches; this was carried out by Groups at various times during the afternoon.

The QUARRY in E.24 c., the junction of tracks at E.24 c.4.5., the BAPAUNE Road at E.24 c.55.40 and the main CROSS ROADS in LE TRANSLOY came in for an amount of our action between 8.40 p.m. and midnight.

We fired on the BUNKER ROAD E.30 c.1.4 to E.29 c.4.0 at 12.30 p.m.

Between 7 and 9 p.m. the Group on extreme left heavily shelled E.32 c.0.5 to E.32 c. 2.3 and the BRICKFIELD and vicinity in E.2 c.

2. HOSTILE ARTILLERY.

Enemy artillery normal.

OUR VALLEY received more than its usual share of attention to-day, shells of all calibre including 20 rounds of 8" were put into this area; these latter came from rear of LE TRANSLOY.

At 1.30 p.m. MILLER'S SOE experienced attention from 5.9" and heavier shells.

The vicinity of E.32. once more came in for a considerable amount of shelling, 130 rounds being fired into it to-day, from direction of VILLERS AU PLOS.

The road from FLERS to FACTORY CORNER was shelled with 8" shells from direction of BAPAUNE; 100 rounds of 5.9" were also fired on this target from same place.

3. MATTERS OF GENERAL INTEREST.

Visibility has been bad all day.

Aerial activity nil.

Mineverfers have been very inactive on our front for the last few days.

A dense cloud of smoke was observed T.B. 60 degrees from T.B. c. 1.8.

At 12.45 p.m. flashes of guns seen in front of village of ROCQUIGNY T.B. 65 degrees from T.B. c.1.8.

Lieut.,
Per Brigade Major, 5th. Aust. Div. Arty.

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERYINTELLIGENCE REPORT **APPENDIX**From 6 p.m. 14/3/1917 to 6 p.m. 15/3/1917.1. OUR ARTILLERY.

Our activity was normal.

This afternoon our batteries were again engaged in cutting wire. Those of our Groups on our extreme right and left in making fresh lanes, while the others confined their attentions to tracks cut in the wire during our operations yesterday in order to clear away any repairs the enemy may have made in the night.

As usual ATOM and BOOMERANG Trenches came in for a big share of our shelling, the minenwerfer positions not being overlooked.

Late this afternoon in reply to a zone call we engaged enemy guns in action at ~~H.33 c 6.8~~. H.28 d.8.6.

Our Trench Mortars were active last night from 6.55 p.m. to 8.30 p.m., firing 23 rounds on ATOM and BOOMERANG trenches with good results.

In response to an "S.O.S." call at 2.5 p.m. our Left Group fired on its barrage lines. At 2.53 a.m. assistance was asked from the Group on its right to strengthen barrage by firing on H.3 d.6.8 to H.33 c 1.1. A further call was made at 3.17 a.m. for fire to be brought to bear on TILL TRENCH H. 3 c. and H.9 a.

2. HOSTILE ARTILLERY.

Enemy artillery comparatively quiet except on extreme left this afternoon.

MONSIEUR Trench and ETERNAL ALLEY were subjected to heavy fire from 5.9" and 4.2" shells throughout the day.

GUN VALLEY at odd intervals received some slight attention from 4.2" shells last night.

Our batteries in H.32 were fired on by 5.9" and 77 mm. guns during the day.

GUEUDECOURT was shelled with 4.2's at 1.30 p.m.

Between 3.30 to 4.45 p.m. THILLOU LIGHT, LE BAPOUX and BARELY TRENCH were fired on by 4.2 and 5.9" shells from direction of BANCOURT and behind BAPAUNE. On this occasion about 300 shells were put over.

At 4 p.m. 60 4.2" shells, a portion of which were gas, were fired into H.19 a. H.20 c. and H.25 a.

3. MATTERS OF GENERAL INTEREST.

Visibility was not good this morning, but it improved wonderfully in the afternoon.

Aeroplanes of both sides were very active in the afternoon between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. On several occasions hostile machines made excursions over our lines, but were driven back by our planes and the Anti-Aircraft guns.

During the afternoon smoke was seen rising from various points in BAPAUNE and vicinity.

W. M. Chuske

Staff Lieut.,
For Brigade Major, 5th. Aust. Div. Artillery.

APPENDIX

HT.

Copy No

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY.
ARTILLERY INSTRUCTIONS No 7.

SECRET.

Head-Quarters,
 March 16th 1917.

1.- (a) - Present indications point to the probability of a complete withdrawal on the part of the enemy from his present front, HEAVEN Trench - MOONRAY Trench - METEOR Trench - ATOM Trench - TILL Trench, to the line VILLERS au FLOS - RIENCOURT - BAPAUME.

(b) - In the event of such a withdrawal making an advance by patrols possible, the line which is to be aimed at is that of the main LE TRANSLOY - BAPAUME ROAD.

(c) - Right boundaries of Infantry Brigades for forward movement have been laid down as follows :-

14th Aust Inftry Bde - A line from N 35 c 6.6. West of CEMETERY CIRCLE and LE TRANSLOY, S.E. of SUGAR FACTORY thence to O. 30 a 0.7.

15th Aust Inftry Bde - A line drawn N.E. (true) from N 22 c 1.9.

8th " " " " " " " " N 8 CENTRAL.

The Left Divisional boundary is the main ALBERT - BAPAUME Rd (exclusive).

(d) - Infantry Brigades, in case of an advance, are to move with one Battalion in front line as an advanced Guard.

2.- The 13th, 14th and 2nd Aust F.A. Brigades have each detailed a Battery to push forward in close support of the Infantry Battalion leading the advance on their respective Brigade Sectors.

3.- The following routes are suggested for the Battery in such an advance, and should be reconnoitred at once :-

13th F.A. Brigade - T 8 CENTRAL - WINDMILL in N 33 d - N 27 d 5.4. and thence Northwards (general direction VILLERS-AU-FLOS)

14th F.A. Brigade - GUEDECOURT - MILKY WAY (general direction RIENCOURT)

2nd F.A. Brigade - FACTORY CORNER - LIGNY THILLOY, (general direction FBG de PERONNE)

4.- A trench bridge will be carried by each Battery. These are at present in the possession of the 50th Battery Wagon Lines.

5.- Ammunition supply during the initial stages of the advance will be by Battery and 1st Line Wagons from present Battery dumps. No 1 Section 5th D.A.C. will detail 12 Ammunition Wagons 18pr, to move up to BAZENTIN Rail head on short notice to /

(2)

5.- continued.

to take up the supply of ammunition to forward Batteries of the 13th, 14th F.A. Brigades.

The C.O. 2nd Aust F.A. Brigade will arrange to detail six (6) ammunition wagons 18pr, to move up as above, to take up the supply of ammunition to its own forward Battery.

6.- One day's reserve rations will be carried in bulk in addition to the unexpended portion of the days ration and forage.

7.- A C K N O W L E D G E .

J. Harwarth
Major.

Brigade Major, 5th Aust Divisional Arty.

Issued to :-	Copy No.
"A" Group	1
"B" Group	2
"C" Group	3
"D" Group	4
"E" Group	5
"F" Group	6
5th D.A.C.	

Copies to :-	Copy No.
R.A. 1st ANZAC	7
5th Aust Division.	8
8th Inftry Bde	9
14th Inftry Bde	10
15th Inftry Bde	11
No 1 Section 1st D.A.C.	12
Staff Captain	13
Spare	14 to 18
File	19
War Diary	20.

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY**APPENDIX**INTELLIGENCE REPORTFrom 6 p.m. 15/3/1917 to 6 p.m. 16/3/1917.1. OUR ARTILLERY.

Our activity was normal.

Once more our main operations were directed to cutting lanes in wire at stated places along enemy's front line.

From 8 to 12 a.m. we heavily shelled ESCAPE ALLEY. During the same period we brought considerable fire to bear on BAPAUME RAMPART at H.33 @.7.0.

Machine gun position at H.32.a.9.8 and the old FACTORY N.32 9.5 also came in for some attention.

We brought searching and sweeping fire to bear on roads and enemy territory facing our Right Group.

Trench Salient was fired on at 10 p.m.

Tracks and communications in N.9 c. and N.10 a. were carefully shelled between 7.35 p.m. and 10.48 p.m.

Our Medium Trench Mortars fired 85 rounds on BOOMERANG Sap Head and ATOM Trench, commencing at 8 p.m. and remaining in action until 12.34 a.m., throughout most of which time they were subjected to considerable enemy fire from 5.9", 4.2" and 77 mm. shells as well as heavy minenwerfers.

2. HOSTILE ARTILLERY.

Below normal.

Between 6 p.m. and 2 a.m. a considerable number of 5.9" shells were fired into SWITCH Trench and N.22 c. from direction of BEAULIEU COURT. NEEDLE TRENCH also suffered on several occasions from shells of this calibre from the same locality.

LE TRANSLOY and VILLERS AU FLOS also contributed 5.9's during the afternoon, firing on N.23 c. and N.22 c. respectively.

THILLOY and BARLEY Trench came in for a share of hostile activity.

At occasional intervals LUISENHOF FARM was shelled with 77's.

The vicinity of N.19 a. received the attentions of 77's and 4.2's fired from direction of BAPAUME and BEAULENCOURT; from this latter place N.19 b. was shelled with 5.9's and 4.2's.

3. MATTERS OF GENERAL INTEREST.

Observation bad during the morning, but improved after mid-day.

Aeroplanes were active in the afternoon, at least 6 hostile planes were over GUN VALLEY at 4.30 p.m. These were engaged and driven off by our machines and A.A. Guns. None of the enemy planes were working in conjunction with artillery.

A single red rocket went up at 1.31 a.m. No apparent action followed. At 6.40 p.m. 6 green lights fired by enemy brought retaliation to our operations.

W. Christian

Staff Lieut.,

For Brigade Major, 5th. Aust. Div. Arty.

4/15

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERYINTELLIGENCE REPORTFrom 6 p.m. 16/3/1917 to 6 a.m. 17/3/19171. Q.D.R. ARTILLERY.

Owing to enemy retirement our guns have been inactive since 11.50 p.m.

At 6 p.m. CHRISTY CIRCLE and BRINSTONE TRENCH were subjected to heavy fire.

The wire in front of TILL Trench, S.9 a.7.7, was fired on from 5.30 to 6.30 p.m., and again from 10.30 to 11.50 p.m.

Between 6.30 p.m. and 7 p.m. the wire at S.32 b.9.9. was operated on.

The old FACTORY in S.32 a. was shelled at 7.30 and 8.30 p.m.

2. S.O.S.I.L.R. ARTILLERY.

Activity very slight.

The vicinity of S.32 was shelled by S.9's at 2 a.m. During the morning BAPAUNE was also fired on by guns of this calibre.

Occasional bursts of fire were directed on S.4 b. from 77 mm. direction FAMEICOURT.

At 6.47 p.m. 77 mm. firing into SURREY and MOONRAY Trenches from direction of BEAULENCOURT. Our Counter-Batteries were informed and quickly neutralised this fire.

LARK HILL was shelled with shrapnel and H.E. at 12.55 a.m.

10.54 a.m. enemy shrapnel bursting over BEAULENCOURT.

At 4.2 p.m. S.9's were falling in front of this town, apparently fired at extreme ranges. A 4.2" gas fired into S.35 from left of BOQUICKY at 6.7 a.m.

Enemy 77 mm. shelling front of GUNDELCOURT at 12.22 a.m.

Gas shells were also put over.

3. NOTES OF GENERAL INTEREST.

Observation fair.

Our aeroplanes were active observing enemy retirement.

One of our battle planes was brought down in LOUPART WOOD.

An unusual number of white flares from enemy front lines was observed at 7.40 p.m. between 12 degrees and 63 degrees T.B. from T.3 a.1.9.

Three red flares went up at the same time.

At 10.45 p.m. enemy were working on their wire at S.9 a. and S.9 c. Our artillery removed wire cutting in this vicinity.

Fires were seen burning in BAPAUNE and BAPAUNE RIDGE at 4.23 a.m.

BAPAUNE occupied by our patrols at 7.32 a.m.

An aeroplane message received at 9.37 a.m. reported all villages in rear of enemy line were burning.

At 10.7 a.m. dense columns of smoke issuing from N. corner of LE TRANSLOY.

11.19 a.m. BEAULENCOURT occupied.

5.38 p.m. patrols in centre RHINCOURT.

Our P.O.'s accompanied reconnoitring patrols throughout infantry operations.

- 2 -

The aforementioned batteries took up the following new positions to-day:-

4th. Battery	-	B. 7 c. 3. 4
6th. "	-	B. 1 c. 40. 35
7th. "	-	B. 27 c. 0. 7
8th. "	-	B. 34 c. 20. 95
9th. "	-	B. 33 c. 5. 9 (approx.)
103rd. "	-	B. 34 c. 4. 5 (approx.)
49th. "	-	B. 27 c. 4. 2
50th. "	-	B. 27 c. 40. 35.

Staff Lieut.,
For Brigade Major, 5th. Aust. Div. Arty.

HT.

Copy No.

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY ORDER No 116.S E C R E T.Head-Quarters,
March 18th 1917.

- 1.- Yesterday the enemy retired beyond the line VILLERS-AU-FLOS, RIENCOURT, BAPAUME.
Our patrols found BANCOURT unoccupied at 11.30pm last night, and the whole front clear of the enemy to a general depth of 1500 yards.
- 2.- (a) The 5th Aust Division is occupying a line from the Eastern end of VILLERS-AU-FLOS (@ 14 CENTRAL) through RIENCOURT and Reservoir in H 34 c.
(b) The Divisional forward boundaries are :-
 RIGHT - ~~A 21~~ CENTRAL - @ 14 CENTRAL - @.5 CENTRAL.
 LEFT - H 27 CENTRAL (inclusive) - I 4 CENTRAL.
(c) A Divisional Advanced Guard has been formed, including the 54th Battery A.E.A. and has been entrusted with the duty of obtaining and maintaining contact with the enemy.
(d) The Divisional front from VILLERS-AU-FLOS to BAPAUME is to be held in two (2) Brigade Sectors. The inter-Brigade boundary is to be at a point N 6 a O.O.
 The 14th Aust Inftry Brigade is to be on the Right and the 8th Aust Inftry Brigade on the Left.
- 3.- "A" and "B" Groups will continue to cover the front of the 14th Aust Infantry Brigade, under the orders of the G.O.C., 14th Aust Inftry Brigade.
 "C" Group (less 54th Battery), "D" and "F" Groups will cover the front of the 8th Aust Infantry Brigade, under the orders of the G.O.C., 8th Aust Infantry Brigade.
- 4.- Batteries will be placed in position with a view to covering the front to a depth of 2000 yards beyond the line held by the Infantry.
- 5.- Movements will take place by Batteries in succession, those in rear remaining in the old positions covering the front until the previous Battery moving has settled into its new position.
- 6.- Changes in position of Units will be notified to this Office immediately they are decided upon and when completed.
- 7.- A report of changes which it is expected to complete by 8am on the following morning will be sent in daily by 6pm.
- 8.- A C K N O W L E D G E by wire.

Major.

Brigade Major, 5th Aust Div Artillery.

Issued to :-	Copy No.	Copies to:-	Copy No.
"A" Group	1	R.A. 1st ANZAC	7
"B" Group	2	H.Q. 5th Aust Div	8
"C" Group	3	Staff Captain	9
"D" Group	4	File	10
"E" Group	5	War Diary	11
5th D.A.C.	6	Spare	12 to 16.

HT.

Copy No.....

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY.
ARTILLERY INSTRUCTIONS No 8.

S E C R E T.

Head-Quarters,
 March 18th 1917.

- 1.- Reference 5th Aust Div Artillery Order No 116, the following is the line which is to be held by this Division and for which the Artillery Groups will be required to provide covering fire :-
 O 13 d 4.2. - N.E. side of LUBDA COPSE - N 18 b 9.9. -
 N.E. edge of RIENCOURT - N 6 c 0.8; - N 5 b CENTRAL -
 N 35 c 0.2. - N 34 CENTRAL - BRICKYARD - N 28 a 0.8.
- 2.- Batteries will be placed in position behind our old front line to cover the above front in accordance with the instructions of Infantry Brigades to which they are affiliated.
- 3.- In confirmation of verbal instructions, no registration will be carried out.
- 4.- Every endeavour must be made to improve the old road communications between our present positions and DEAULENCOURT - BAPAUME RIDGE.
- 5.- Group Commanders will give special attention to the supply of ammunition and supplies. It is probable that arrangements may be made for use of the DECAUVILLE Railway to present Railhaeds.
 From GUN VALLEY on, all ammunition must be placed on the ordinary "push" truck and hauled forward by mules, as these lines are not yet adaptable for use with tractors.
- 6.- No Batteries are to be advanced from their forward positions without instructions from C.R.A.
- 7.- All old telephone cable must be reeled in and every opportunity taken to salvage that left by other Units.
- 8.- A C K N O W L E D G E by wire.

Major.

Bde Major 5th Aust Div Artillery.

Issued to :-	Copy No
"A" Group	1
"B" Group	2
"C" Group	3
"D" Group	4
"F" Group	5
Copies to :-	
R.A. 1st ANZAC	6
5th Aust Division.	7
8th Infty Bde	8
14th Infty Bde	9
File	10
War Diary	11

APPENDIX

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY

INTELLIGENCE REPORTFrom 6 a.m. 12/3/1917 to 6 a.m. 13/3/19171. OUR ARTILLERY.

Enemy retirement continues, and for the time being is beyond range of our artillery.

2. HOSTILE ARTILLERY.

Nil.

3. MATTERS OF GENERAL INTEREST.

Observation good.

Our aeroplanes displayed some activity.

At 6.10 p.m. we received a wireless from an aeroplane reporting enemy very strong in H.22 c. and d.. Counter Batteries were asked to engage.

During the night everything very quiet.

7.30 a.m. our F.O.O. reported infantry patrol out past VILLERS AU FLOS; no enemy to be seen.

This morning one of our Light Horse patrol was wounded and taken prisoner.

Dense clouds of smoke were seen rising from BEUGNY and LEBUCQUIERIE at 11.5 a.m.

12.47 p.m. F.O.O. reported infantry well in advance of VILLERS AU FLOS and going forward.

2.33 p.m. Light Horse patrols were seen by our F.O.O 2 miles out from VILLERS AU FLOS and North of HAPLINCOURT.

At 2 p.m. F.O.O. reported infantry patrols 500 yards in front of FREMICOURT, high ground in I.27 and I.28 occupied. Parties in I.14, Patrols in I.7. Enemy still in front of BEUGNY. VAULTS smoking.

The following batteries moved into the undermentioned positions to-day:-

51st. Battery	-	H.27 d.3.	5
113th. Battery	-	H.27 d.5.	5
55th. Battery	-	H.21 c.6.	0
114th. Battery	-	H.27 a.6.	3
18th. Battery	-	H. 6.a.9.	9
5th. Battery	-	H. 3 a.5.	7
102nd. Battery	-	H. 1 b.8.	5.

Staff Lieut.,
For Brigade Major, 5th. Aust. Div. Arty.

HT

Copy No. ~~15~~ APPENDIXFIFTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY ORDER No 117.S E C R E T.Head-Quarters,
March 19th 1917.

- 1.- (a) The Divisional Advanced Guard is in contact with the enemy between LEBUCQUIERE and DELSAUX Fme and have orders to keep in touch with him.

The main body of the Division holds a line from VILLERS-AU-FLOS through RIENCOURT to the N.E. of BAPAUME.

- (b) The front of the Divisional main body is to be advanced to a line O.10 a O.2. - HALPINCOURT - BANCOURT - H 22 d O.1., generally on the line of the old German wire, which is to be occupied by 10am tomorrow the 20th March 1917.

- (c) This front is to be held by the 14th Aust Inf Bde and the 8th Aust Inf Bde (less one Battalion). The dividing line between the Brigades will be a line I 31 b O.O.- N 6 a O.O.- N 9 d 7.3.- N 19d00.

- (d) The Divisional Right Boundary will be as before, but will be continued forward towards HAVRINCOURT (exclusive).

The Divisional Left Boundary will be from H 27 d O.2.- thence N.E. along BEAUGNATRE ROAD (inclusive) to H 22 c 75 25, thence along former boundary through I 8 CENTRAL.

- 2.- The Divisional Artillery (less one Battery) will continue work directly under the orders of Infantry Brigades, "A" & "B" Groups under the 14th Aust Inf Bde, and "C", "D" and "F" Groups under the 8th Aust Inf Brigade.

- 3.- Group C.O.'s will proceed immediately to reconnoitre and select positions to cover the front HAPLINCOURT - BANCOURT - H 22 CENTRAL, as allotted by their Infantry Brigade Commanders.

- 4.- The new positions will be occupied, Battery by Battery, during the afternoon of the 20th March 1917.

- 5.- Positions selected will be reported to this Office by wire on completion of the reconnaissance, also arrival of Batteries in new positions during the afternoon of the 20th March 1917.

- 6.- Positions for new wagon Lines will be selected and occupied. Locations and occupation to be reported as for Battery positions.

- 7.- A C K N O W L E D G E by wire.

Major.

Bde Major, 5th Aust Div Artillery.

Issued to:-

"A" Group
 "B" Group
 "C" Group
 "D" Group
 "F" Group
 5th D.A.C.
 Copies to:-
 R.A. 1st ANZAC
 5th Aust Division
 D.T.M.O.

Copy No.

1
 2
 3
 4
 5
 6
 7
 8
 9

Copies to :-

8th Infy Bde
 14th Infy Bde
 Staff Captain
 Sigs D.A.
 File
 War Diary
 Spare

Copy No.

10
 11
 12
 13
 14
 15
 16 to 18

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERYINTELLIGENCE REPORTFrom 6 p.m. 18/3/1917 to 6 p.m. 19/3/19171. OUR ARTILLERY

With the exception of one Battery with the Advanced Guard our Artillery was not in action to-day.

A party of about 30 enemy seen in vicinity of I.36 b. was engaged by our Mobile Battery with Divisional Advanced Guard. Enemy retired into wood at J.31.

Our troops met with opposition, BERTINCOURT and LESUCQUERIE, our forward battery shelled the latter place.

2. HOSTILE ARTILLERY.

Enemy artillery 77's and 4.2's shelling in neighbourhood DELSAUX FARM and HAPLIN COURT. We hold BEUGNY which was also shelled.

About 3.30 p.m. 77 mm. firing into about I.28 from direction of I.5; this gun seemed to be firing at very short range. At the same time a 5.9" was ranging on I.15 from a considerable distance.

Bursts of shrapnel between BANCOURT and REINCOURT from well to North of BANCOURT.

3. MATTERS OF GENERAL INTEREST.

Very little aerial activity.

All villages in front have been wrecked and a number are burning.

Our Forward Observing Officers are still keeping up with advanced infantry and remaining in touch with us.



Staff Lieut.,
For B.M.R.A., 5th. Aust. Division.

APPENDIX

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERYINTELLIGENCE REPORT.From 6 p.m. 12/3/1917 to 6 p.m. 22/3/19171. OUR ARTILLERY

With the exception of the mobile battery with the advanced guard, our artillery was not in action to-day.

2. HOSTILE ARTILLERY.

At 11.30 a.m. our outposts who were occupying ridge I.17 b., I.11 b. I.11 d., I.11 a. were subjected to shell fire from E.E. direction.

Late this afternoon the enemy shelled in rear of LEBUCQUIERE on square I.23, I.24, I.29 and I.30 with 4.2's from T.B. 43 deg. from I.30.a.4.3, apparently at very long range. About 30 rounds fired.

A 77 mm. battery was also in action shelling with shrapnel well to the aft of LEBUCQUIERE.

3. MATTERS OF GENERAL INTEREST.

Very windy with rain and sleet, at intervals during the day. About 11.50 a.m. a train was seen moving westward along railway in C.6 d.

Enemy have destroyed railway behind them.

Roads in area occupied by our Advanced Guard are in good order. The cross roads at I.23 a., I.23 b., I.29 b. have been blown up; but can easily be avoided. The open country is fit for artillery traffic.

Staff Lieut.,
For Bde. Major, 5th. Aust. Div. Arty.

FIFTH DIVISIONAL

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONSFrom 8 a.m. 15/3/1917 to 8 a.m. 21/3/1917OUR ARTILLERY.

As regards actual artillery activity, i.e. shooting, our main operations during the week have been in the nature of wire-cutting and general bombardment during the 14th. 15th. and 16th. This was undertaken in order to facilitate the entry of infantry patrols into the enemy front line system. The shooting was reported accurate both by F.O.O's. and infantry observers, and the wire, generally, cut satisfactorily. The enemy kept his trenches manned up to the morning of the 17th., and our infantry were not able to profit by the wire-cutting, which could only be done in lanes.

Firing on the enemy front system about the junction of ATOM and BOOMERANG trenches was successfully carried out on the nights 15/16th. and 16/17th. On the first occasion 23 rounds were fired, and on the second occasion 85. This was a very good performance by the Battery concerned (Y.5.A.), and was effected in part under heavy enemy retaliation by guns and minenwerfers. Two guns were put out of action.

An "S.O.S" call was also received on the night 16/17th. on our extreme left opposite the 8th. Inf. Brigade, and just S.W. of BAPAUME. This was dealt with satisfactorily by D. & F. Groups (6th. Army and 2nd. A.F.A. Brigades respectively), and the enemy attack failed to develop. This attack was presumably one of those undertaken by the hostile rear-guard as a bluff in connection with the retreat.

Other operations have included a gradual advance commencing on the morning of the 17th., and concluding to-day 21/3/1917, in support of the advancing infantry. This advance is now temporarily at a standstill, with the Batteries disposed along the BEAULENCOURT - BAPAUME ridge, covering the Divisional main position. The advance has been effected in two bounds. The first of these took the batteries to previously selected positions roughly on the line GUEUDECOURT. This stage was completed by the evening of the 18th. inst. The second bound took the batteries to their present positions, i.e. positions assumed during 20th. and 21st. inst.

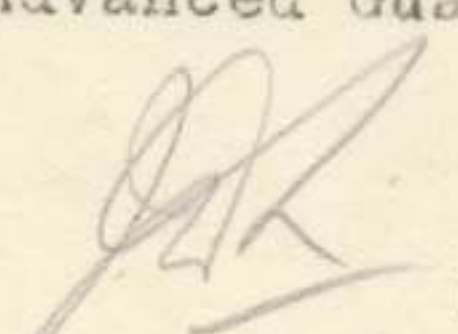
In the meantime the artillery of the Divisional Advanced Guard has been built up from one 18-jpr. Battery (the 4th. Batt. A.F.A.) on the 19th. to a complete Brigade (the 14th. A.F.A. Brigade) on the 21st. This Brigade is in action in positions in the open.

The advance to the BEAULENCOURT ridge has been attended with very great difficulty on account of the shattered and muddy condition of the roads. Teams, in most cases, have had to be doubled. The trail eyes of three guns have been broken in the process. Conditions are now improving, and the road is approaching a state of comparative repair.

ENEMY ARTILLERY.

Enemy activity during the period under review has presumably consisted chiefly in getting his batteries away. The shelling to which we were subjected during the few days before the advance began may be described as energetic, though small in quantity. Batteries had obviously been reduced to a section or even a single gun in most cases.

His activity during the last few days has been confined to long distance shelling of the Advanced Guard, which has, so far, been without effect.


Major,
Brigade Major, 5th. Aust. Div. Artillery.

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERYINTELLIGENCE REPORT.From 6 P.M. 20/3/1917 to 6 P.M. 21/3/19171. OUR ARTILLERY.

Our Mobile Battery with the Advanced Guard was again in action to-day. *and a detachment of the enemy*

A Machine Gun that was giving a good deal of trouble was located at the Farm in J.2.c. One of our guns was brought up and succeeded in silencing it; about 100 rounds were fired.

2. HOSTILE ARTILLERY.

At odd intervals during the night LEBUCQUIERE was shelled with 4.2" H.E and 77 mm. shrapnel. Between 12 a.m. and 1 p.m., enemy firing from long range dropped five rounds of 5.9" How. into LEBUCQUIERE. No damage done.

About 11 a.m. the BAPAUME - CAMBRAI road in square I.17 was shelled.

This afternoon the flash of a 4.2" gun that was firing into I.30 b. was observed in J.13 b. About 20 rounds from this gun were put over.

3. MATTERS OF GENERAL INTEREST.

Visibility good.

Aeroplanes of both sides were in evidence to-day.

At 4.15 p.m. five enemy planes attacked four of ours at about I.8 a. One hostile machine forced to land apparently in our lines, the rest retired.

Considerable activity was displayed by Hostile A.A. guns fronting our Sector. Enemy balloon observed up in vicinity of C.2. Two others in distance further West.

W. S. Christian

Staff Lieut.,

For Bde. Major, 5th. Aust. Div. Arty.

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERYINTELLIGENCE REPORT.From 6 p.m. 21/3/1917 to 6 p.m. 22/3/19171. OUR ARTILLERY.

The artillery with Advanced Guard was a in action to-day.

2. HOSTILE ARTILLERY.

At 9.30 p.m. the enemy fired about 30 rounds of asphyxiating gas shells in rear of VAUX WOOD.

Early this morning there was a little 77 mm. shelling on our front.

A 3-gun battery shelled the road in I.34 c. fairly constantly with salvoes of 4.2".

The vicinity of I.30 a. and b. and I.24 a. was subjected to some slight shelling.

Enemy artillery shelled MORCHIES with 5.9's from a distant range, and with 77 mm. from about 2000 yards. From sound bearing estimated location of battery I.35.

4.2" shrapnel was fired into BEUGHY from long range.

3. MATTERS OF GENERAL INTEREST.

Observation was hampered by frequent snow storms.

Very little aerial activity. Our machines were flying very low.

Enemy balloons were up to-day.

Railway line as far as I.30 has had the rails and sleepers taken away.

Eight enemy wagons seen on road J.35 & 9.7 moving North towards HERMIES.

Our artillery with the Advanced Guard has been increased to a Brigade.

W. C. Churston

Staff Lieut.,

For Bde. Major, 5th. Aust. Div. Artillery.

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERYINTELLIGENCE REPORT.From 6 a.m. 22/3/1917 to 6 a.m. 23/3/1917.1. OUR ARTILLERY.

The Artillery Brigade with our Advanced Guard was again in action to-day.

2. HOSTILE ARTILLERY.

During the night enemy shelled I.16 and I.17 with 5.9's and 77's. at infrequent intervals.

Between 4.30 a.m. and 5 a.m. hostile bombardment of BRAUMETZ, in preparation for counter-attack, which was duly launched by the enemy and driven off by our troops.

Intermittently throughout the day BRAUMETZ and vicinity has been shelled by 5.9" How. and 77 mm. from direction of J.17 a. and J.11 c. Fire ceased off at 4.30 p.m.

A 4.2" gun firing at long range shelled BRAUMETZ from direction of BOURSINS. About one round every three minutes between 2 p.m. and 5.40 p.m. At 6 p.m. the same gun fired on house J.21 c.

From direction of INCHE between 8 a.m. and 9 a.m. a 5.9" was shelling 200 yards short of LINDUCQUINNE; about 10 rounds fired, apparently at extreme range.

At 3.15 p.m. enemy fired twelve rounds 77 mm. into I.30 from direction of BERMIES.

3. NOTES OF GENERAL INTEREST.

Observation good.

AERIAL: 2 hostile planes flew over HAPLINCOURT at 7 a.m. at a very low altitude.

Between 5.35 p.m. to 5.40 p.m. two large clouds of dust or smoke seen to rise from J.17 a.

W. M. Chaverton

Staff Lieut.,

For Brigade Major, 5th. Aust. Div. Artillery.

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERYINTELLIGENCE REPORTFrom 6 a.m. 23/3/1917 to 6 p.m. 24/3/19171. OUR ARTILLERY.

Our artillery with the Advance Guard was in action at various times during the day.

A party of the enemy was seen in J.20 Central at 4.45 this afternoon, and was dispersed by fire from our guns.

2. HOSTILE ARTILLERY.

Early this morning BRADWERTZ was bombarded with all calibre shells from a N.E. direction. It is reported that 8" shells were fired, but this has not been confirmed.

Intermittently throughout the day BRADWERTZ and LEBUCQUIERS experienced enemy shell fire.

From 4.15 p.m. to 4.45 p.m. these places were heavily shelled with 77 mm. and 4.2" Howa. from very long range. Direction could not be obtained.

3. MATTERS OF GENERAL INTEREST.

Observation good.

AERIAL: Our aeroplanes were ~~was~~ out, but hostile machines were not in evidence.

Staff Lieut.,
For Bde. Major, 5th. Aust. Div. Arty.

HT.

Copy No

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY.
ARTILLERY INSTRUCTIONS No 9.

Head-Quarters,
March 25th 1917.

- 1.- The C.R.A. wishes to impress on all Commanding Officers the importance of a full realization of the changed conditions under which we are now fighting and shall probably continue to fight in the future.
- 2.- He further wishes the Commanding Officers to impress the fact of these changed conditions upon their Battery etc Commanders, who will pass it on throughout their commands untill all ranks are imbued with the spirit of mobile warfare.
- 3.- The first essential is that Officers shall read and commit thoroughly to mind, the principles and instructions laid down in text books, especially F.A.T. and F.S. Regs Part 1.
Battery commanders must read particularly, F.A.T. Chap VII and VIII, dealing with the employment of Artillery in War and Brigade tactics; Battery Captains and Subaltern Officers, Chap IX and X, dealing with Battery tactics and Ammunition supply. All D.A.C. Officers must be thoroughly acquainted with Chap X, Ammunition Supply, and as far as possible with Chap IX, Battery tactics, as they may be called upon at any time to replace casualties in the Field.
- 4.- Immediate steps will be taken to nominate in each Battery, train, and practice the Reconnaissance Officer with the necessary O.Rs as laid down in F.A.T. Chap XII, Sect 240. His special province is that indicated in F.A.T. Chap XII, but he must be a good all round field Gunner, able to sum up a situation from a Gunners point of view with judgement and despatch.
- 5.- F.S. Regs part 1, Chap 11 (Intercommunication and Orders), Chap V, (Protection), Chap VI. (Information) and Chap VII (The Battle) should be read by all Senior Officers in conjunction with the parts of F.A.T. indicated. Junior Officers should also be acquainted with F.S. Regs Part 1, but it is advisable that their reading of it should be guided by Senior Officers as, owing to its condensed nature, explanation is required for thorough understanding.
- 6.- Special attention is to be paid by Brigades, not for the moment in action, to the practising of Range Takers and other Specialists, especially as regards range taking on moving targets.
- 7.- Every opportunity will be taken by Brigades not actually in action, to carry out Driving Drill and Battery Manoeuvre. Batteries whose Wagon Lines are not well up can bring up teams and do a few hours drill every day.

R. Savarot
Major.

Brigade Major, 5th Aust Div Artillery.

Issued to all Units.

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERYINTELLIGENCE REPORTFrom 6 a.m. 24/3/1917 to 6 a.m. 25/3/19171. OUR ARTILLERY.

The forward batteries engaged enemy targets on several occasions during the day.

2. HOSTILE ARTILLERY.

Just before 11 a.m. a 5.9" from the direction of ISCHY or PROENVILLE, at the rate of one round per minute, shelled the farm J.S.O.7.6 which was occupied last night by our Infantry.

At 2 p.m. VELD experienced attention of 77 mm., 4.2" and 5.9" shells, from a sound bearing of 70 deg. mag. from I.24.6.40.05.

Six rounds of 5.9" were fired on LEBECQUISSE at 2.30 p.m.

VELD was again shelled at 5.25 p.m. with 4.2"s and 5.9"s, and BRANNEZ with 77 mm. from direction of BOIGERS.

Late this afternoon farm at J.S.O.7.6 was being fired on with 5.9" and 77 mm. shells, about two rounds every minute; direction not known.

There was some slight shelling of our back areas this afternoon between 1 and 2 o'clock by a heavy gun.

3. MATTERS OF GENERAL INTEREST.

Observation very good.

AIRIAL: Both sides were very active to-day. Four of our planes were brought down in vicinity of LEBECQUISSE.

Hostile balloons were also observing.

W. B. Christian

Staff Lieut.,

Per Bde. Major, 5th. Aust. Div. Arty.

HT.

Copy No

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY.
ARTILLERY INSTRUCTIONS No 10.

S E C R E T.

Head-Quarters,
March 26th 1917.

- 1.- The Divisional main line of resistance is to be pushed forward shortly to a line O 5 CENTRAL - I 27 CENTRAL - I 14 d CENTRAL - I 13 b C.S.
- 2.- This line is to be held by the 14th Aust Infantry Brigade on the Right and the 8th Aust Infantry Brigade on the left. The point of junction of these Brigades is to be I 27 CENTRAL.
- 3.- The 3rd (Army) F.A. Brigade ("A" Group), will reconnoitre and select positions to cover the front allotted to the 14th Aust Infantry Brigade, and the 13th F.A. Brigade ("D" Group), positions to cover that allotted to the 8th Aust Inf Brigade.
- 4.- Recommendations, giving map co-ordinates will be forwarded to this Office as soon as possible.
- 5.- The 2nd A.F.A. Brigade and 6th (Army) F.A. Brigade are shortly to be withdrawn.
- 6.- "A" Group will be prepared to take over, at short notice, the Artillery defence of the whole front at present held by the 14th Aust Infantry Brigade, and "B" Group that of the whole front of the 8th Aust Infantry Brigade.
- 7.- The necessary arrangements will be taken in hand at once and reported to this Office.
- 8.- Orders will be issued when this re-adjustment becomes necessary, until which time no movements in connection with it will be effected.
- 9.- A C K N O W L E D G E by WIRE.

D. Lavarack

Major.

Brigade Major 5th Aust Div Artillery.

Issued to :-	Copy No.
"A" Group	1
"B" Group	2
"D" Group	3
"F" Group	4
Copies to :-	
R.A. 1st ANZAC	5
5th Aust Div	6
14th F.A. Brigade	7
8th Inf Bde.	8
14th Inf Bde	9
Sigs D.A.	10
Staff Captain	11
File	12
War Diary	13

APPENDIX

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERYINTELLIGENCE REPORTFrom 6 a.m. 25/3/1917 to 6 p.m. 26/3/19171. OUR ARTILLERY.

Our forward artillery was in action to-day.

2. HOSTILE ARTILLERY.

During the night and up to 4 a.m. this morning BEAUMONT, LEBUC-QUIERE and VEU were intermittently shelled with 77 mm. 4.2" and 5.9" shells from direction of SUSANT. 8" also suspected from same direction.

There was very little retaliation to our bombardment supporting attack on LACHICOURT at 3 a.m. As soon as our fire ceased, however, LACHICOURT was shelled by enemy for half an hour.

Between the hours of 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m. LACHICOURT was heavily shelled by 4.2"s and 5.9"s.

From 3.45 p.m. to 4.50 p.m. about 80 shells 4.2" calibre were fired into and in the vicinity of LEBUCQUIERE from direction of LOUVERAL, where a 4-gun battery appears to be in action.

Intermittent shelling of our front area throughout the day.

3. MATTERS OF GENERAL INTEREST.

Observation, owing to rainy weather conditions, was bad.

The Hotel de Ville, RAPAHU, was blown up during the night, and to-day several dog-outs in the same town met with a like fate.

W. H. Christian

Staff Lieut.,
For Bde. Major, 5th Aust. Divnl. Artillery.

HT.

Copy No

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY ORDER No 118.

SECRET.

Head-Quarters,
March 27th 1917.

- 1.- The Advanced Guard of the Corps hold the line VELU WOOD - J 20 d O.3. - BEAUMETZ - Fme at J 8 c 6.3. - LAGNICOURT (inclusive) where they are in touch with the enemy rearguards. The enemy appear to be intending to stand on the HINDENBURG LINE.
- 2.- The forward limits of the main defensive front of the Corps is to be advanced to the line O 5 CENTRAL - I 27 CENTRAL - I 14 d - H 12 CENTRAL - H 14 d.
This line is to be taken up at 8am on the 28th inst.
- 3.- The next objective of the Advanced Guard (15th Aust Inf Bde, 14th A.F.A. Brigade and details), is to be DOIGNIES and LOUVERVAL. When these are taken the whole of the Advanced Guard is to be disposed forward of the line given in para 2.
- 4.- The remainder of the Division is to be disposed on a two (2) Brigade front which is to consist of a front system extending to a depth of 1200 yds in rear of the line given in para 2, and an intermediate system on and in rear of the line VILLERS AU FLOS - BANCOURT - H 28 b.
The inter Brigade boundary between 14th, and 8th Aust Inftry Brigades is to be a line I 23 CENTRAL - I 31 CENTRAL - N 10 CENTRAL.
- 5.- The 2nd and 6th (Army) F.A. Brigades will be withdrawn from the line and will move on the 28th inst under their own C.Os as detailed in the attached march tables.
- 6.- The 5th Aust Div Artillery and attached 3rd (Army) F.A. Bde will be re-disposed as follows :-

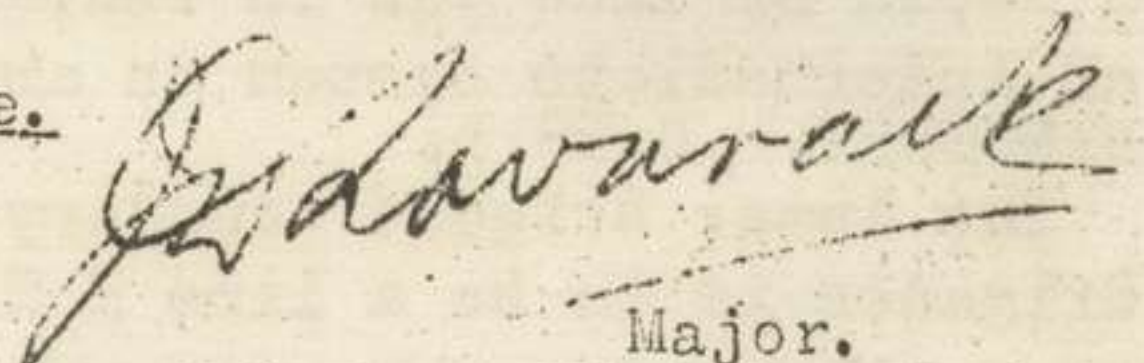
Brigade	Role	Inftry Brigade to which affiliated.	Group Letter	Date	Time.
14th F.A.B.	Advanced Guard Arty.	15th	-		Already allotted as advanced Guard Artillery.
3rd (Army) F.A.Bde.	Barrage Right Inftry Bde Sector.	14th	"A"	27th	As arranged between C.Os.
13th F.A.B.	Barrage Left Inf Bde Sector.	8th	"B"	28th	8am.

- 7.- The 115th Battery will be attached to the 13th F.A. Brigade from 8am on the 28th inst.
(P.T.O.)

(2)

5th A.D.O. No 118 continued.

- 8.- All Batteries of "A" and "B" Groups are to be in positions selected to cover the Divisional Main Defensive line by 8am on the 28th inst.
- 9.- Commencement and completion of all moves will be notified to this Office, by wire, without delay.
- 10.- Map locations of Battery positions and Group Head-Quarters will be notified to this Office by wire as soon as possible.
- 11.- The exact trace of the Infantry front line will be notified when finally settled. Groups will keep in close touch with their Infantry Brigades and ascertain their dispositions with the least possible delay.
- 12.- All ammunition held by "D" and "F" Groups on wheels will be handed over to the 5th Aust D.A.C. dump near BAPAUME on the BEAULENCOURT Road. Ammunition stored in their vacated Gun Pits will be handed over to the 5th Aust D.A.C., who will arrange to send Officers to "D" and "F" Group Head-Quarters before 8am on 28th inst to take it over.
Due warning is to be given to the O/C dump before sending up ammunition to him.
- 13.- D.A. H.Q. is moving to the vicinity of BEAULENCOURT.
- 14.- A C K N O W L E D G E by wire.



Major.

Bde Major 5th Aust Divisional Arty.

Issued to :-	Copy No.
"A" Group	1
"B" Group	2
"D" Group	3
"F" Group	4
14th F.A. Bde	5
5th Aust D.A.C.	6

Copies to :-	
R.A. 1st ANZAC	7
5th Aust Div	8
8th Aust Inf Bde	9
14th Aust Inf Bde	10
15th Aust Inf Bde	11
Staff Captain	12
Sigs D.A.	13
File	14
War Diary	15
Spare	16 to 19.

WD

MARCH TABLE.
@@

To accompany 5th Aust Divisional Artillery Order No 118.

U N I T	D E S T I N A T I O N	R O U T E.	T I M E	R E M A R K S.
2nd F.A.B.	LAVIEVILLE	LE SARS-POZIERES -ALBERT, thence by the AMIENS Road.	Head of Col to debouch on main BAPAUME Rd at 10am, 28th inst.	Intervals of 500 yds between Batteries and 200 yds between Sections will be maintained.
6th (Army) F.A.Bde	Camp at E 5 a.	BAPAUME - LE SARS - POZIERES - ALBERT.	Head of Col to pass Cross roads at H 33b27 at 11am, 28th inst.	Intervals as above. An interval of 500 yds between Brigades must be kept. The tail of the Column must clear POZIERES by 4pm.

Head-Quarters,
5th A.D. Artillery,
March 27th 1917.

HT

Copy No 11

WD

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY.
ARTILLERY INSTRUCTION No 11.

S E C R E T.

Head-Quarters,
 March 27th 1917.

" S. O. S "

1.- From 12 noon on Wednesday, March 28th 1917, the "S.O.S." signal of 1st ANZAC Corps will be altered from the present rifle grenade to a series of light signals as follows :-

1 GREEN, followed by 1 RED, followed by 1 GREEN fired in quick succession

2.- These signals will be fired, according as they are available by one or all of the following means :-

- (a) a light from 1½ inch illuminating pistol;
- (b) a light from a 1 inch VERY pistol ;
- (c) a rocket.

(a) and (b) give a better height than (c).

3.- A C K N O W L E D G E by wire.

E. J. L. L. L.

Major.

Bde Major, 5th Aust Div Artillery.

Issued to :-

Copy No.

"A" Group	1
"B" Group	2
"C" Group	3
"D" Group	4
"F" Group	5

Copies to :-

R.A. 1st ANZAC	6
5th Aust Div	7
8th Infy Bde	8
14th Infy Bde	9
File	10
War Diary	11.

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERYINTELLIGENCE REPORTFrom 6 p.m. 26/3/1917 to 6 p.m. 27/3/1917.1. OUR ARTILLERY.

Our Artillery with the Advance Guard was active during the past 24 hours engaging various targets, included in which were enemy with machine guns.

2. HOSTILE ARTILLERY.

At varying intervals throughout the day BEAUMETZ and LEB-UCQUIERE experienced enemy shelling from 4.2" and 5.9" guns, coming from direction of PRONVILLE and INCHY-RE-ARTOIS.

This afternoon VELU was subjected to occasional bursts of 77 mm.'s. from a battery firing in the vicinity of HERMIES.

SUNKEN ROAD and RIDGES in I.12 and J.7 were intermittently shelled with shrapnel.

3. MATTERS OF GENERAL INTEREST:

Observation only fair.

Aerial activity slight.

Transport was noted moving in rear of LOUVERAL during the afternoon and a working party was observed at J.3.d. and J.10.a.

W. S. Christian

Staff Lieut.,
For Bde. Major, 5th. Aust. Div. Arty.

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERYHEADQUARTERS
5th AUSTRALIAN
DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY.

No.....

Date.....

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONSFrom 8 a.m. 22/3/1917 to 8 a.m. 28/3/1917OUR ARTILLERY.

Operations during the week have been confined to the Artillery acting in co-operation with the Advanced Guard. Except during the 23rd. and 24th., when the 8th. Battery was moved out in support, the Advanced Guard Artillery has consisted of the 14th. A.F.A. Brigade.

The Batteries of this Brigade have been maintained in positions in observation behind the wire of the old BEUGNY-YTRES line within the Divisional Sector, sending roving single guns in front of the wire. The business of these single guns has been to watch for troops in the open and other fleeting opportunities, of which several have been engaged during the period under review.

The guns were in action on the mornings of the 23rd. and 24th., when the enemy launched counter-attacks on BEAUMETZ, and was repulsed with loss; and in the successful attack carried out by the Advanced Guards of the 5th. and 2nd. Aust. Divisions on the morning of the 26th. against LAGNICOURT.

The 8th. Battery was moved out on the 23rd. to a position in readiness to fire over the country immediately South East of BEAUMETZ, in anticipation of the German counter-attack on the morning of the 24th.

During the afternoon of the 24th. some enemy troops - about 150 in number - were caught retiring in the open by this battery S.E. of BEAUMETZ, and severely handled, numerous casualties being observed. These troops had apparently been brought forward to launch another counter-attack against BEAUMETZ.

ENEMY ARTILLERY.

This has consisted mainly of shelling carried out in the villages held by the Advanced Guard, and, except in the case of 77 mm. field guns, has come, apparently from very long or even extreme ranges. All shelling by 10.5 c.m. and 15 c.m. on the 5th. Divisional front has been reported as coming from the N.E. (approximately), the reports varying from the direction of INCHY-EN-ARTOIS to that of QUEANT. One 15 c.m. How., firing from this direction on a cold day, was unable to reach LEBUCQUIERE.

77 mm. calibre fire has come mainly from the East, variously estimated as from HERMIES and DOIGNIES and from between those places. The batteries have not been firing from more than medium ranges, and have paid most of their attention to BEAUMETZ.

Organized bombardments by all the usual calibres have been put into BEAUMETZ prior to the various counter-attacks attempted by the enemy, and also into the farm at J.8.c.7.3 after its capture by us.



Major,
Brigade Major, 5th. Aust. Div. Arty.

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERYINTELLIGENCE REPORTFrom 6 p.m. 27/3/1917 to 6 p.m. 28/3/19171. OUR ARTILLERY.

During the past 24 hours our artillery with the Advance Guard shelled the following enemy areas:-

3.15 p.m. to 3.35 p.m. - Road between DOIGMIES AND HERMIES.

3.40 p.m. to 4. 5 p.m. - Beet Root Factory J.9.b.5.3.

4.40 p.m. to 5.20 p.m. - Sweeping road in vicinity of machine gun emplacement, J.2.d.9.2.

2. HOSTILE ARTILLERY.

About 20 rounds 5.9" fell in J.32. between 8 a.m. and 10.30 a.m. from direction of GRAMCOURT. These shells were coming from what appeared to be extreme range.

BEAUMETZ was intermittently shelled by a 4.2" gun from direction of MOUEVRES.

At 4.45 p.m. 40 rounds of 4.2", fired at a rapid rate, were put into BEAUMETZ from direction of HERMIES.

MORCHIES was shelled at intervals with 4.2's. BUGHY came in for a small amount of attention by the same calibre shells. LEBUCQUIERE was shelled with shrapnel at 3.35 p.m.

3. MATTERS OF GENERAL INTEREST.

Visibility fair.

Aeroplane activity between 7.30 a.m. and 9 a.m. Three enemy planes were observed flying over GRAMCOURT at 11 a.m.

Hostile balloons were up all day.

A train was observed in DOIGMIES at 3.20 p.m.

W.B. Chute

Staff Lieut.,
For Bde. Major, 5th. Aust. Div. Arty.

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERYINTELLIGENCE REPORTFrom 6 p.m. 28/3/1917 to 6 p.m. 29/3/1917.1. OUR ARTILLERY.

At intervals during the day we shelled suspected machine gun emplacements J.29 d.

Early in the morning we dispersed enemy patrol in J.33 a.

In the afternoon enemy movement was observed in J.8.d.9.8 to J.9.e.2.8, and a working party between D.14.b. and D.15.a. Our artillery engaged both these targets.

Enemy O.P. in J.16.a.4.5 was fired on from 3.40 to 4.5 p.m.

2. HOSTILE ARTILLERY.

About 6.45 p.m. heavy hostile shelling of our front. Our artillery replied and enemy activity ceased immediately.

The principal enemy operation to-day was the shelling of BRAU-METZ; during the period about 100 rounds of 77 mm. from direction of BOURSIES AND DEMICOURT were fired on this village; a few 4.2's were also put in.

BEUGNY received attention from 5.9" H.E. and 4.2" shrapnel, the former coming from direction of BOURSIES.

The Farm in J.8.c. was shelled to-day with 4.2's or 5.9's., about 12 rounds being put in.

At 4.25 p.m. 77 mm. Shrapnel was fired into LEEUCQUIERE.

3. MATTERS OF GENERAL INTEREST.

Observation difficult owing to rain and mist.

Aerial activity nil.

W.B. Christian

Staff Lieut.,

For Bde., Major, 5th. Aust. Div. Arty.

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY

INTELLIGENCE REPORT.

From 6 a.m. 29/3/1917 to 6 a.m. 30/3/1917

1. OUR ARTILLERY.

Early this morning J.9.b. was subjected to searching and sweeping fire.

Suspected O.P. in J.29 b.7.2 was shelled from 2.25 p.m. to 2.50 p.m.

From 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. we put 50 rounds into enemy territory between J.3.a.3.2 to J.3.d.3.0.

50 rounds were fired on J.15.a.7.2 to J.15.a.7.7 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Between 3.30 p.m. and 4.5 p.m. a working party was engaged by our artillery near B.13.d.9.0 and B.14.c.9.8.

2. HOSTILE ARTILLERY.

At 11 a.m. 10 rounds of 5.9" How. from long range were fired into BRUGNY from direction of PRONVILLE.

LEBUCQUIERE was shelled at noon with 12 rounds of 5.9" How. coming from direction of HERMIES. During the same period and from the same way a 77 mm. Battery put 30 rounds into VELU and BRAUMETZ.

This afternoon MORCHIES was subjected to bursts of fire from 4.2" and LEBUCQUIERE with 77 mm. from long range; vicinity unknown.

At 12.55 p.m. 2 guns 4.2" calibre, firing apparently from MOEVRES, shelled L.23 b.2.8.

Late this afternoon 100 rounds 77 mm. shrapnel were fired into BRUGNY from extreme range - direction of BOURSIES.

3. MATTERS OF GENERAL INTEREST.

Observation fair to good.

AIRIAL: At 1.15 p.m. British Balloon observed adrift travelling N.E.; fired on by enemy and fell in vicinity of GRAINCOURT.

Cloud of smoke seen issuing from building in HERMIES at 10.15 a.m.

Train seen during the day near D.3 Central.

HAVRINCOURT observed to be burning.

Enemy O.P.'s. located in building in J.29.a.5.2 and in railway bank in J.28.a.3.4. The former was fired on with effect at 4.20 p.m.

Staff Lieut.

Staff Lieut.,

For Brigade Major, 5th. Aust. Div. Artillery.

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERYINTELLIGENCE REPORT.

From 6pm 30/3/1917 to 6pm 31/3/1917.

oooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooo

OUR ARTILLERY.

From 5.45 to 6.15am we shelled J 28 a 2.4. to J 28 a 3.2. and J 15 a along road to DOIGNIES. We fired on J 9 d 7.7. from 6am to 7am.

Our forward gun engaged the L.T. Mortars in D 20 b at 11am, and succeeded in silencing them.

Working parties was dispersed by our fire at C 17 b 5.0. this afternoon.

HOSTILE ARTILLERY.

At 5pm (30th inst) enemy shelled front line at J 2 a 60 95 to J 8 c 80.70. with 5.9s from direction of INCHY and MOEUVRES. Our heavies successfully engaged enemy, and by 9.30pm their fire had ceased. During the night BEUGNY was intermittently fired on with 4.2 H.E. from QUEANT. Between 11.30pm and 12.15am our front line from C 24 a to D 25 CENTRAL was shelled with 4.2 Shrap from QUEANT and PRONVILLE. A 5.9 from PRONVILLE firing H.E. put 20 rounds to the left of MORCHIES at 6am.

Enemy L.T. Mortars reported shelling our front line from C 24 d to D 26 c, direction D 20 a and ~~or~~ 8.6

Hostile shelling at 9.30am of J 14 Central from Right rear of DOIGNIES by 77 mm gun.

The farm at J 8 c was shelled by 4.2 gun from DEMICOURT between 7.50 and 8.20am - 17 rounds.

A little later J 14 c received attention from 77mm - direction BOURSIES - 22 rounds.

9.15 to 9.30am the vicinity of J 20 a was subjected to fire from 77mm 35 rounds direction of DOIGNIES. Between 9.35 and 9.50pm, 19 rds of 5.9 Howitzer, from unknown direction were put into J 24 d.

From direction of DEMICOURT at 10.40 to 10.45am - 60, 4.2 shells were fired into J 13 c, about the same time a 5.9 was shooting into J 14 a from PRONVILLE and QUEANT - long range.

At 11am L.T. Ms bombarded our front line D 25 a to D 26 c.

About 50 rds from 5.9 guns fell in vicinity N of BEAUMETZ between 11.30 and 11.50am, direction not ascertained.

BEAUGNY was shelled at 3.35pm by 5.9 Hows - over 40 rds fired.

MATTERS OF GENERAL INTEREST.

Observation only fair in the early part of the day, but improved after 11am.

AERIAL. - About 3.50pm enemy aeroplanes flew over our lines but were driven off by our A.A. Guns.

3pm large cloud of smoke seen ascending from ~~DOIGNIES~~ DEMICOURT.

Lieut.

Staff Lieutenant 5th Aust Div Arty.