

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

Artillery

**Item number:** 13/33/7

**Title:** Headquarters, 5th Australian Field  
Artillery Brigade

June 1916



AWM4-13/33/7



ref. map.  
Bois GRENIER 10,000

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.

# WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

74

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
L'ARREE.	June 1 <sup>st</sup>	2 p.m.	Details of this Brigade were inspected by Prime Minister Hon. W. H. Hughes Prime Minister of Australia accompanied by Right Hon. Andrew Fisher. High Commissioner for Australia at COIX. do. BAC.	
"	"	12.30 pm to 8 p.m.	Enemy 5.9 Battery shelled our 15 <sup>th</sup> Battery very heavily at times & intermittently throughout mentioned time The shooting was very accurate, resulting in damaging 3 guns very much; leaving only one gun intact. The gun of 3 damaged was repaired and 2 replaced by new ones.	
"	"	6 p.m.	Enemy shelled 20 <sup>th</sup> Battery out of its position but this time shooting not so accurate, only one gun damaged which was repaired within 24 hrs. Both the above Batteries took up new positions Casualties were 1 killed 3 wounded all from 15 <sup>th</sup> Battery.	
"	4 <sup>th</sup>		Weather very dull rendering observation difficult. 60 rounds fired in Group. Salvos, on trenches intermittently in retaliation for enemy shelling.	
"	"	6.20 7.20 pm	Heavy bombardment of trenches mostly concentrated on trench 61. Our retaliation was directed at varying rates on enemy parapets & approaches firing ceasing after 403 rds. had been fired.	
"	"	11.20 pm	Heavy bombardment on our right.	
"	5 <sup>th</sup>		Quiet throughout day; raining mostly & very dull. Op. Order No 13. Will show instructions of Group in conjunction with 7 <sup>th</sup> Inf Bde No 12. After battalions had stood to for some considerable time orders were received to stand down hence nothing was done by Artillery whatever.	



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L. Amel	June 6 <sup>th</sup>		Enemy mine was fired on at particular spot where raiders of previous night had cut it this was to mislead the enemy and also lessen his cause for suspicion this <del>first</del> fire was covered by batteries firing "along parapet".	
	7 <sup>th</sup>		O.O. 1st attached cancelled 13. This operation was carried out very successfully. Fire commenced 11.15. pm (2490 TIME) and at 11.25 the preliminary bombardment commenced, lasting for 20 mins after which time, <sup>fire was lifted</sup> a barrage placed round point of raid. This fire continued until raiding party signalled "All Clear" on receipt of which, named batteries dropped their fire onto enemy parapet remainder continuing the barrage. until order to "cease fire" was given at 12.10. Am about 1 hour after cease fire, also when news was received of raiding party having safely returned, all batteries at 1.37 am did an intense bombardment of raided spot for one minute. The scheme was most successfully carried out; in spite of all the main communication being cut during enemy retaliation. A more detailed account is attached. Slight rain <sup>fell</sup> at intervals throughout day. Very quiet on both sides.	
	8 <sup>th</sup>		Some rounds fired to cover T.M. registration, also some in retaliation.	
	9 <sup>th</sup>		Certain batteries told off in conjunction with Amoplane Scheme against enemy balloons but weather was most unfavorable.	
	10 <sup>th</sup>		Raining hard.	
	11 <sup>th</sup>		The 6 <sup>th</sup> Battalion, 1 <sup>st</sup> Australian Division made a raid on enemy trenches two batteries of this group and one battery of right group all under command of O.C. Centre Group. carried at the direction. Zero time was 12 o'clock midnight. The operation lasted from 12.50 am to 1.19 am. O.O. 11 <sup>th</sup> 216 attached.	
	12 <sup>th</sup> /13 <sup>th</sup>		Still wet & dull. A few rounds fired for registration purposes in connection with raids to take place at a later date.	
	13 <sup>th</sup> /14 <sup>th</sup> /15 <sup>th</sup>			



# WAR DIARY

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## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
1. Amel	16 <sup>th</sup>	12.15 PM	Too alarm given on our left but no gas in this sector; although it reached our wagon lines two houses being slightly gassed. <del>Although it reached</del>	
	17 <sup>th</sup>	1.15 AM	Enemy put 150 to 200 shells in an alternative position of 14 <sup>th</sup> Battery. This position was held by 20 <sup>th</sup> Battery until night previous to the shelling.	
	18 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	Raid by 7 <sup>th</sup> Brigade took place raiders entered enemy trench at 1.22. a. 5.2. 8.2. zero time being 12 PM.	
	20 <sup>th</sup>	12.30 PM	105 <sup>th</sup> Bata fired 115 rounds at a section of a 5.9" battery with good effect. From observation two guns were hit. The ranging was carried out by cross intersection. This was the battery liaison as O. 10. b. 8. 8.	
	21 <sup>st</sup>		Enemy were very active all along our trenches with all kind of guns & howitzers. Apparently registering at times it was very heavy. Our howitzer retaliated with 300 rounds which had a damaging effect on enemy parapet and supports. The 13 <sup>th</sup> Battery was shelled with 5.9" but the shooting was not very accurate one gun was slightly damaged, 50 rounds were fired at this battery. 10 <sup>th</sup> Battery took a forward section of a duty section for the group, the shooting of this section was very satisfactory. 5 bad breaches were made in enemy parapet as well as demolishing 2 machine gun positions & two sniper's posts.	
	30 <sup>th</sup>		A minor operation was carried out by 2. 18 <sup>th</sup> Bata 1, 4.5" how Bata. & 4, 2" trench mortars on enemy trench at 1.21. c. 8.2. 4.5. (O. O. No 20 attached) The parapet was much damaged & the mine successfully cut & broken about.	



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# WAR DIARY

or

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

74

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
F. Armer	22 <sup>nd</sup>		Again at 3 p.m. to-day enemy started a bombardment of trenches 57 to 60, some very heavy shells were fired bombardment lasted about 3/4 of an hour. We retaliated with shrapnel along enemy approaches and his parapet <del>of 5<sup>th</sup> battery</del> <del>and on 18 pdr battery</del> . The howitzer was used to counter their artillery with effective results.	
		11 p.m.	A. mine bombardment of enemy trench at I. 26. C. 9 1/2. 1 1/2 was done with 1 batt. 2" trench mortars & 2. 18 pdr. batteries parapet was breached in several places mine very badly damaged. The stores were all blown away.	
			For the last week enemy aircraft has been very active.	
			A. S. 9" battery shelled our 1st battery this afternoon for 1 1/2 hours no guns were damaged as enemy range was a little short about 150 yds were fired.	
		11 p.m.	13 <sup>th</sup> , 14 <sup>th</sup> , 105 <sup>th</sup> fired in conjunction with left Group Scheme 1. left Group. O.O. N <sup>o</sup> 18.	
	23 <sup>rd</sup>		O.O. N <sup>o</sup> 22 was successfully carried out, report of which is attached.	
	24 <sup>th</sup>		O.O. N <sup>o</sup> 23 was carried out by 13 <sup>th</sup> battery. This was done to prevent enemy repairing damage done to mine on the previous night.	
	25 <sup>th</sup>		Between hours of 3 p.m. & 4 p.m. all this group fired Salvoes at fixed times (O.O. N <sup>o</sup> 25) on their right sectors for protection of aircraft.	
			An operation N <sup>o</sup> 19. was carried out in support of Raid by 5 <sup>th</sup> Inf Bde (account attached)	
	26 <sup>th</sup> / 27 <sup>th</sup>		The diversion in conjunction with Raid on enemy trench at I. 21. C. 7. 2; I. 21. C. 3. 1/4. I. 26. B. 10. 8 1/2 was carried as per account attached.	



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
L. Ponce	June 26 <sup>th</sup>		Enemy bombarded our trenches very heavily from 9.15. to 10.15 am barrage was placed across no. 1000s land, parapet, and supports opposite bombarded position, but enemy fire ceased off after an hour, it is thought that the barrage prevented a raid.	
	29/30 <sup>th</sup>		Operation N° 28. for the cover of raid by the 6 <sup>th</sup> Inf Bde was successfully carried out.	
	30 <sup>th</sup>		Throughout the month several machine gun & emplacements have been blown out also numerous snipers & observation posts.	
<p style="text-align: right;">J. Mayfair Lt. Adj. 5<sup>th</sup> F.A. Bde 2<sup>nd</sup> Aust. Div.</p>				



# APPENDIX.

6

OPERATION ORDER No.14.

Reference Trench Map BOIS GRENIER 1.A.1/10,000 .  
Co-ordinates refer to trench Map.

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- .1. Operation Order No 13 is cancelled
- .2. A raid will be made on enemy trenches by a party from the 7th. Infantry Brigade on the night of the 6th and 7th June 1916.  
The Infantry will not advance beyond the area enclosed by I.21.c.5 $\frac{1}{2}$ .2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ., 6.1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ., 7.2., 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ .3 $\frac{1}{4}$ ., 8.4..  
INFANTRY ACTION.
- .3. The Centre Artillery Group reinforced by the 11th, 18th, and 104th. Batteries and 1 section of the 10th Battery for the operation will be the supporting Artillery and will be commanded by the O.C. Centre Group .
- .4. The action of the Artillery including trench Mortars and Diversion of Right and Left Artillery Group will be as laid down in "TABLE OF ARTILLERY TASKS " attached hereto.  
ARTILLERY ACTION.
- .5. All time will be calculated from zero which is the time for the commencement of Right Group Diversion. The hour of Zero will be decided upon by the G.O.C. 7th Infantry Brigade and will be passed from this office to all concerned .  
WATCHES will be synchronised from this office one hour before commencement of operation.  
TIME.
- .6. O.C. Centre Group will arrange for a Liaison Officer (Lieut. Thompson) to be with the O.C. Attack. This officer will be provided with a substitute (Capt) Hatton to act in case of necessity  
LIAISON
- .7. The Group Liaison Officer will be interphonic communication with the O.C. Centre Group. O.C. Groups will arrange that batteries engaged in the main operations are telephonically connected to Centre Group Headquarters.  
COMMUNICATIONS.
- .8. Zero Time will be communicated to all concerned by the following code message PATON WILL ISSUE PERMITS AT .....P.M. or A.M. "  
CODE SIGNALS.  
  
When our Infantry leave the enemy trenches the O.C. attack will pass back the word "all clear" flank batts as detailed in Task Table for phase.2. will drop their fire .  
2 mins. after all clear the batteries detailed in Phase 111. will drop their fire. When the assaulting party are reported back in our trenches the order "CEASE FIRE" will be given by the G.O.C. 7th. Infantry Brigade . At about  $\frac{1}{2}$  an hour after "CEASE FIRE" is given 1 MINS. INTENSE bombardment of the raided trenches will be carried out .  
  
The time for this Phase . Will be ordered by O.C. Centre Group as follows : X.....a.m. or p.m.  
(Sgd). E.S. Playfair. Lieut.  
Adjutant 5th. F.A. Bde.



OPERATION ORDER No.16.  
=====

CENTRE GROUP ARTILLERY 12-6-16.

Map.Ref. BOIS GRENIER- SECRET 36 N.W.4. EDITION .6. re-drawn .B.

- .1. The 6th Battalion, 1st Australian Division will make a raid on the enemy's trenches on the night of the 12th/13th. June ----- and will commence at 00.50.
- .2. The raid will be carried out under cover of an Artillery Bombardment. The 2nd. Australian Division Artillery will assist by making a diversion as per. Task Table attached.
- .3. "Cease Fire" will be passed from C.O. Right Group to C.O. Centre Group .
- .4. All batteries of the 2nd. Australian Division Artillery not engaged in diversions will stand by to as counter batteries and will open fire on any batteries which may be located .
- .5. Watches will be synchronised by Adjutant Centre Group at 7.15.p.m. 12th. June.
- .6. C.O. Centre Group will be in command of this diversion and will issue all necessary instructions.

*War Diary**a/* Adjutant Centre Group Artillery  
2nd. Australian Division.

Lieut.



# APPENDIX. Headquarters,

8

Centre Group Artly.

11-6-16.

- .1. The 1st Australian Division require an artillery diversion on the night of the 12/13th June.
- .2. The following batteries of the 2nd. Australian Division will carry out this diversion .
- .3. 105th. Howitzer. )  
13th. )  
21st. )  
10th. Enfilading section )
- .4. 2 T. Mortars.
- .4. The following are points to be registered as soon as possible :

105th. Howitzer	I.26.d.2.4. )	Enemy's
	to )	
	I.26.d.3½.7. )	Front trench.
13th. Battery	I.32.a.8½.9¾ )	
	to )	
	I.26.c.9½.1½. )	Enemy's parapet
21st. Battery	I.26.c.9½.1½. )	
	to )	
	I.26.d.½.2. )	Enemy's parapet.
10th. Battery	I.26.d.5.5. )	
	to )	
	I.26.d.3½.2. )	
Trench Mortars	I.32.a.9½.7. )	
will register	I.26.d.3½.2. )	

Further instructions re diversion will be issued later.

C.O's Groups will please make arrangements with



-2-

D.T.M.O. as to the time these registrations are to take place.

(Sgd) H. Beasley. Major.

Brigade. Major.

Instruction re time of registration will be notified later

*C. H. Playfair* Lieut.  
a/ Adjutant Centre Group Artillery.

APPENDIX.

9



ARTILLERY TASK - LEFT DIVERSION.  
PHASE .1.

BATTERY	TIME	TASK	AMMUNITION	REMARKS
105th	00.50.to. "CEASES FIRE"	I.26.d.2.4.to I.26.d.3½.7.	one round per.gun per.min.H.E.	ENEMY'S PARAPET
20th.	00.50.to. 01.00	I.32.a.8¼.9¾.to I.26.c.9½.1½.	X.F. 20 secs.H.E.	PARAPET
21st.	00.50.to. 01.01.	I.26.c.9½.1½.to. I.26.d.½.2.	X.F. 20 secs .H.E.	PARAPET

PHASE .2.

105th	As in Phase.1.			
20th	01.00.to "CEASE FIRE"	I.32.a.9½.7½. to I.26.d.1½.0.	X.F. 20 secs. T.S.	Support Trench.
21st.	01. 01.to. "CEASE FIRE"	I.26.d.1½.0. to. I.26.d.4.2.	X.F. 20 secs T.S,	Support Trench.



CENTRE

GROUP

ARTILLERY

OPERATION ORDER No.19.

AMENDED

(Reference) Trench Map 36 N.W.4. Edition 6.B. (redrawn) BOIS GRENIER  $\frac{1}{10,000}$

INFANTRY .1.  
ACTION

At a time and date to be notified later, after a preliminary bombardment, raid will be made on the enemy's trenches at I.26.c.9 $\frac{1}{2}$ .1 $\frac{1}{2}$ . for the purpose of:

- (a) Obtaining prisoners
- (b) Inflicting Casualties.
- (c) Capturing Machine Gun etc.
- (d) Destroying M.G. Emplacements.
- (e) Gaining information of the enemy's method of constructing and holding trenches.

ARTILLERY .2.  
ENGAGED.

The Centre Group Artillery, reinforced by 1 section 16th. Battery. 1 section 17th. Battery, 1 section 18th. Battery. 21st Battery and 106th. Battery will be the supporting artillery, and will be commanded by the C.O. Centre Group.

TRENCH  
MORTARS. .3.

Two medium Trench Mortar Batteries will be grouped under the command of the D.T.M.O. for this operation.

DIVERSIONS. 4.

Diversions will be made by the Right and Left Artillery Groups each supported by 2 (two) 2" Mortars, and Stokes Mortars of the 5th, and 6th. Infantry Bdes. Lieut. C.O. Left Group will command the Left Diversion and C.O. Right Group will command the Right Diversion.

ARTILLERY .5.  
ACTION

The action of the Artillery, including Trench Mortars and the Artillery of the Diversions, will be as laid down in Artillery Task Tables.  
Anzac Heavy Artillery will co-operate .

TIME .6.

All times will be calculated from Zero .  
At Zero Right and Left Diversions commence .  
At 0.10. the Main Bombardment commences.  
At 0.15. the Barrage at Point of Assault is completed .

LIAISON. .7.

The O.C. Centre Group will arrange for a Liaison Officer (Lieut. Thompson) to be with the O.C. Attack . This Officer will be provided with a substitute (Lieut. A.T. Hatton) to act in case of necessity

COMMUNICATIONS  
.8.

The Liaison Officer will be in Telephonic communication with the C.O. Centre Group .  
C.Os. Groups will arrange that batteries engaged in the main operations are telephonically connected to Centre Group Headquarters .



ZERO  
TIME

.9.

Zero Time will be communicated to all concerned by the following Code Message "HOLMES LEAVES FOR PARIS AT .....p.m. to-night.acknowledge"

This message if possible ,will be sent by D.R.L.S.

PHASE.III. 9a.

When our Infantry are clear of the enemy's trench the C.O.attack will pass back the word "PARAPET" .

This will be communicated to all batteries .

Batteries will then direct their fire as laid down in PHASE.III.

In case of a breakdown in telephonic communication between the O.C. attack and O.C. Centre Group,the signal for PHASE.III. of Artillery Action will be "TWO BLUE ROCKETS" fired from trench 53 to-wards BOIS GRENIER LINE and will be repeated immediately from trenches 50 and 57 .

"CEASE FIRE" .10.

"CEASE FIRE" will be given by the O.C.Attack .

This order will be immediately passed to C.O. Centre Group ,who will warn all concerned.

"TIME TABLE" .11.

O.O.	Right and Left Diversion commences.
O.10.	Right and Left Lift Commences.
O.10.	Main Bombardment.
O.13.	Right and Left Barrage placed
O.13.	Main Lift Commences.
O.15.	Main bombardment barrage placed ,and assault.

WATCHES.

.12.

Watches will be synchronised, 1 hour before Zero Time ,by Adjutant Centre Group Artillery.

*P. H. P. P.* Captain.  
a/Adjutant Centre Group Artillery.  
2nd.Australian Division.

Copy.

- .1. File. ✓
- .2. War Diary.
- .3. C.O.Left Group
- .4. C.O.Right.Group.
- .5. 13th.Battery.
- .6. 14th.Battery.
- .7. 15th.Battery.
- .8. 20th.Battery.
- .9. 105th.Battery.
- .10. 106th.Battery.
- .11. 17th.Battery.
- .12. 16th.Battery,
- .13. 21st.Battery.
- .14. 10th.Battery.
- .15. 18th.Battery.



## CENTRE GROUP ARTILLERY.

## TASK AND TIME TABLE.

BATTERY	TIME	TASK	AMMUNITION H.E. T.S.	RATE OF FIRE	REMARKS.
105th	0.10.to. 0.15.	I.26.d.2.4.to. I.26.d.3 $\frac{1}{4}$ .7.	68	One rd.per. How.per.min	Enemy's front trench
106th.	0.10.to. 0.14.	.1.I.32.a.9.8 $\frac{1}{2}$ . .2.I.32.a.9 $\frac{1}{4}$ .7 $\frac{3}{4}$ . .3.I.26.d.1 $\frac{1}{4}$ . $\frac{1}{4}$ . .4.I.26.d.2 $\frac{1}{4}$ .1 $\frac{1}{2}$ .	68	Do	Enemy's support trench. Pt. I.26.d.1 $\frac{1}{4}$ . $\frac{1}{2}$ . Particularly
17th. 2 guns.	0.10.to. 0.15.	I.32.a.7 $\frac{1}{2}$ .7 $\frac{1}{2}$ .to. I.32.a.6 $\frac{1}{2}$ .6 $\frac{1}{4}$ .	51	X.F.20 sec.	Search & sweep trenches
16th. 2 guns	0.10.to. 0.15.	I.32.a.9.7 $\frac{1}{2}$ .to. I.32.a.9 $\frac{1}{4}$ .8 $\frac{1}{4}$ .	51	X.F.20 secs	Search and sweep commun- ication trench close in rear of parapet.
20th.	0.10.to. 0.13.	I.26.c.9.1.to. I.26.d.1.2.	102	Do	Enemy's parapet and search communication trenches in rear
21st.	0.10.to. 0.14.	I.32.a.8.9 $\frac{3}{4}$ .to I.26.c.9.1.	108	Do	Do.
15th .	0.10.to. 0.15.	I.26.d.1 $\frac{1}{4}$ .2 $\frac{1}{2}$ .to. I.26.d.2.5.	96	Do.	Do.
10th. enfil- ading	0.10.to. 0.15.	I.26.d.5.5.to. I.26.d.3 $\frac{1}{4}$ .2.	51	Do.	Search Support trench.
13th.	0.10.to. 0.15.	I.26.d.1 $\frac{3}{4}$ .5.to I.26.d.3 $\frac{1}{4}$ .7.	102	Do	Enemy's front line and search communication trenches in rear
18 th. (1 Sec)	0.10.to. 0.15.	I.32.b.1 $\frac{1}{4}$ .5 $\frac{3}{4}$ .to. I.32.a.9 $\frac{1}{4}$ .8.	51	Do	Communication trench .Pt. I.32.b.1 $\frac{1}{4}$ .6. particularly.



## TASK AND TIME TABLE PHASE II.

				PHASE.
BATTERY	TIME	TASK	AMMUNITION	REMARKS.
21st.	0.14.to. "PARAPET"	I.32.a.9 $\frac{1}{2}$ .7 $\frac{1}{2}$ .to. I.26.d.1 $\frac{1}{2}$ .0.	3 rds.per.gun. per.min.T.S.	Search support trenches.
20th.	0.13.to. "PARAPET"	I.26.d.1 $\frac{1}{2}$ .0.to. I.26.d.2 $\frac{1}{4}$ .1 $\frac{3}{4}$ .	3 rds per.gun per.min.T.S.	Search support TRENCHES
13th.	0.15.to. "PARAPET"	I.26.d.2.5.to. I.26.d.3 $\frac{1}{2}$ .7.	Do Do	Search enemy's front line.
15th.	0.15.to. "PARAPET"	I.26.d.1 $\frac{1}{2}$ .2 $\frac{3}{4}$ .to. I.26.d.2 $\frac{1}{8}$ .1 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do Do	Search communication trench
10th. ) 16th. ) 17th. ) 18th. ) 105th. )	0.15.to. "PARAPET"	Same as in Prel- iminary bombard- ment.	18 pdrs 3 rds. per.gun.per. min.T.S, How.s.2.rds.per. gun.per.min.H.E.	
106th	0.14.to. "PARAPET"	.1. I.32.a.9.8 $\frac{1}{2}$ . .2. I.32.a.9 $\frac{1}{4}$ .7 $\frac{3}{4}$ . .3. I.32.b.1 $\frac{1}{4}$ .6. .4. I.32.a.9 $\frac{3}{4}$ .7.	2 rds.per.How. per.min.	) ) Trench ) ) Junction.

## PHASE. III.

17th.	"PARAPET" to "CEASE FIRE"	As in preliminary Bombardment	2 rds per.gun. per, min	Sweep parapet.
20th.	"PARAPET"to. "CEASE FIRE"	Do Enemy's Parapet as in prelimin. bombardment	2 rds per.gun. per.min.	Do.
21st.	"PARAPET" to "CEASE FIRE"	Do	Do	Do.
15th.	Do	I.26.d.o.2.to. I.26.d.2.4.	Do	Do.
13th.	Do.	I.26.d.2.4.to. I.26.d.3 $\frac{1}{2}$ .7.	Do.	Do.
10th.	Do.	I.26.b.8.7 $\frac{1}{2}$ .to. I.26.d.6.9 $\frac{3}{4}$ .	Do.	Do.



Headquarters,

Centre Group Artly.

June 24th.1916.

REFERENCE OPERATION ORDER No.19. AMENDED .  
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Substitute attached ammunition expenditure for that  
laid down in Task Tables ( PRELIMINARY BOMBARDMENT )

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## BATTERY

## AMMUNITION

H.E.

T.S.

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20th		20.
21st.	26.	
15th.	32	
10th (2 guns)		16.
13th.		32.
18th. (.1.sec)/		16.
105th	20.	
106th	16	
17th. (2 guns)	16.	
16th. ( 2 guns)	16.	

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*C. P. Ray*  
A/Adjutant Centre Group Artly.  
2nd. Australian Division.

Lieut-  
Captain.



CENTRE GROUP ARTILLERY.

20-6-16.

OPERATION ORDER N<sup>o</sup>.20.

.1.

A Minor Artillery Operation (X.6.). (time table and tar at allotment attached) for bombardment of enemy parapet between I.21.c.84.5. and I.21.c9.54., will take place on 21st inst.

.2.

Zero time will be 3.a.m.

.5.

Artillery engaged will be 13th and 14th 18 pdrs batteries and 105th Howitzer Battery of the Centre Group Artillery and 1 battery 2" trench Mortars.

.4.

Matches will be synchronised by Adjutant Centre Group at 2.30.a.m. 21st inst.

.5.

If retaliation is required it will be communicated to all concerned by the following "Repeat ..... a.m. Batteries will then direct their fire as laid down under "Retaliation (attached) if required"

•LENDERS  
Captain.

Adjutant Centre Group Artillery

APPENDIX.



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COPIES .1. Left Group.  
.2. Right Group.  
.3. File.  
.4. War Diary ✓  
.5. 13th.  
.6. 14th.  
.7. D.A.M.C.  
.8. D.T.M.O.  
.9. 105th. Batt.  
.10. 15th. Batt.  
.11. 20th. Batt.  
.12. 7th. Inf. Bde.



CENTRE

GROUP

ARTILLERY

OPERATION .NO.X6.  
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REFERENCE: Trench Map .BOIS CRENIER 36 N.W.4. Edition 6.B.1/10,000 corrected  
to 5-5-16.

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BATTERY	TIME	TASK	H.R. T.S.	REMARKS
13th	00.01.	I.21.c.8 $\frac{1}{2}$ .5.to.I.21.c.9.5 $\frac{1}{2}$ .	20	Batt fire 3 secs. PARAPET.
"	01.05.	" " "	60	Batt fire 4 secs. PARAPET.
1.sec. 14th	00.05	" " "	50	Batt.Fire 6 secs. PARAPET.
1.sec. 14h	03.05	I.21.c.9.5 $\frac{1}{2}$ .to.I.21.c.9 $\frac{3}{4}$ .3 $\frac{1}{2}$ . I.21.c.8 $\frac{1}{2}$ .5.to.I.21.d.2.2 $\frac{1}{2}$	20	Sec.fire 12 secs. APPROACH.
105th. HOW.	00.05	I.21.c.8 $\frac{1}{2}$ .5.to.I.21.c.9.5 $\frac{1}{2}$	60	Sec.fire 10 secs PARAPET.
2.T.Ms.	00.05.	" " "	10	Gun fire 1 min. PARAPET
2 T.Ms.	00.to. 05.	Wire at I.21.c.9 $\frac{1}{4}$ .5.	10	Gun fire 1.min. WIRE.

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RETAILLIATION  
if  
required

105th.  
How. 25 rounds at bombarded spot  
for 2 mins.duration.

13th.  
BATT 34 rounds at I.21.d.2.6 $\frac{1}{2}$ .to.I.21.d.2.4 $\frac{1}{2}$ ,for 2mins  
duration; in battery salvos at 15 secs interval.

" 34 Rounds I.21.d.2.2 $\frac{1}{2}$ .to.I.21.d.2.4 $\frac{1}{2}$ . do do  
do do do do

=====



~~XXXXXXXXXX~~OPERATION ORDER NO.22. 23-9-16.  
-----

## INTENTION .1.

It is intended to cut enemy's wire and  
damage his parapet at the following points.

I.21.c.7.2.  
I.21.c.3.4.  
I.26.b.10.8½.

## ARTILLERY .2.

The Artillery to take part will be :

4 18 pdr. Batteries } Centre Group  
1 4.5" How Battery }  
&

2 Batteries less 1 section of Trench Mortars

## TIME. .3.

The operation will take place 23rd/24th, inst  
commencing at 12 mid-night which hour will  
be zero time (O.O) ; firing will then continue  
as laid down on time table and tasks attached.

## REPORTS. 4.

All reports on operation must reach B.HQ.  
(by orderly) not later than 7.a.m. 24th.inst.  
O.C. 20th.battery will detail an Officer  
to ascertain extent of damage done to parapet  
and wire.

(Sgd) E.S.Playfair. Lieut.  
Adjutant 5th.F.A.Brigade.  
2nd.Australian Division.



Headquarters,

Centre Group Artillery,

2nd. Australian Div.

24-6-16

D.A.H.Q.

In accordance with D.A.O.O. No. 29. and C.G.O.O. 22.  
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.1.

At 12.30.a.m. on the 24th. inst., An Artillery operation was carried out by Centre Group Artillery and 2 batteries, less 1 section, of Trench Mortars .

The Fire was directed on three different points of the enemy's parapet and wire at: (a) I.21.c.7.2., (b) I.21.c.3.4., and (c) I.27.a.0.8½. Shrapnel was also fired along support trench from I.27.a.8.9½. to I.27.a.½.5½.

.2.

Observation from the front this morning was very difficult owing to the dense mist and rain but it could be seen that the parapet was very much damaged and in several places very deep breaches had been cut particularly at I.27.a.0.8½. .

The full extent of damage to wire is not yet possible to obtain but it can be seen that it has been cut in the three particular spots named above.

.3.

Four Red rockets were sent opposite trench 58 and two opposite 60.

.4.

Rounds fired were 230.18.pdr. , 40 4.5" How. and 30. Trench Mortars

.5.

Enemy retaliated intermittently from 12.40. a.m. to 12.55.a.m., it was never intense and was mostly directed towards trench 58 .



-2-.

.6.

Zero Time was 12.30.a.m., events occurred thus:

- 0.0. Fire opened
- 0.2. White rockets going up freely
- 0.4. Two double Red Rockets opposite Trench 58
- 0.10. Fire ceased on I.21.c.7.2.
- 0.12. Two Red Rockets observed.
- 0.13. Enemy retaliation commenced.
- 0.15. All firing ceased .
- 0.35. Retaliation died off.

*W. N. Lloyd*  
Lieut-Col.  
Commanding Centre Group Artillery  
2nd. Australian Division.



Centre Group Artly.

24-6-16.

## OPERATION ORDER No. 23.

The section of the 13th. Battery at present occupying the alternative position will carry out the following tasks on enemy wire at the following Positions.

TIME	POINT	AMMUNITION.
11.p.m.to.11.1.p.m.	I.21.c.7.2.	8 rds.T.S.
11.1.p.m.to.11.3.p.m.	NO FIRING	
11.3p.m.to.11.4.p.m.	I.21.c.3.1.	8 Rds.T.S.
11.4p.m. to 11.5.p.m.	NO FIRING	
11.5.p.m.to 11.6.p.m.	I.26.b.10.8½X	

The operation will be repeated again at 1.a.m.  
At 1.6.a.m. the firing will cease and the guns will be returned to their normal positions namely : H.24.c.2½.9.

(Sgd ).E.S.Playfair.  
Lieut. Adjutant 5th.F.A.Bde.



Headquarters,

Centre Group Artly.

2nd.Aus.Div.

D.A.H.Q.

- .1. The Artillery action in conjunction with 5th. Infantry Brigade raid, was carried out by Centre Group Artillery, reinforced by 3 batteries and 1 sec. 18 pdr. battery, 1,4.5". How. Battery and two medium trench mortar batteries, on the 25th/26th. inst.
- .2. The shooting was carried out by the batteries with precision, and from all observations the shooting was particularly accurate and well grouped and maintained an even and solid pressure throughout.
- .3. Communication was maintained between Liaison Officer and O.C. Centre Group up till cease fire after which time the wires were cut and communication came through on an F.O.O.s company wire to a battery and transmitted through Group Headquarters.
- .4. The wire was ~~not~~ effectively cut by the Trench Mortars, but was somewhat heaped making slight detours necessary.
- .5. The rounds fired in this operation were 1768 by 18 pdrs. and 389 by the 4.5". Hows.
- .6. The flares were not as numerous as is usually the case but Red Rockets were sent up frequently also an occasional Green one.
- .7. The enemy's retaliation was very quick, one battery of 77mm opened 2 mins. after commencement of diversions. Machine Guns were very active particularly one on the right of point of entry. The retaliation ceased about the same time as our operation and was never very intense or well directed.



.8.

Zero time was 11.30.p.m. and events occurred  
as follows :

0.0. Right and Left Diversion commenced.  
0.10. Right and Left Lift commenced.  
0.10. Main Bombardment opened  
0.13. Right and Left Barrage placed  
0.13. Main Lift commenced.  
0.15. Main bombardment barrage placed, assault  
0.7.to.0.15. Red rockets at intervals from  
trenches opposite 53 to 55  
0.39. Parapet.  
0.40. Cease Fire.  
2.15.a.m. STAND DOWN.

Lieut-Col.  
Commanding Centre Group Artillery.  
2nd. Australian Division.