

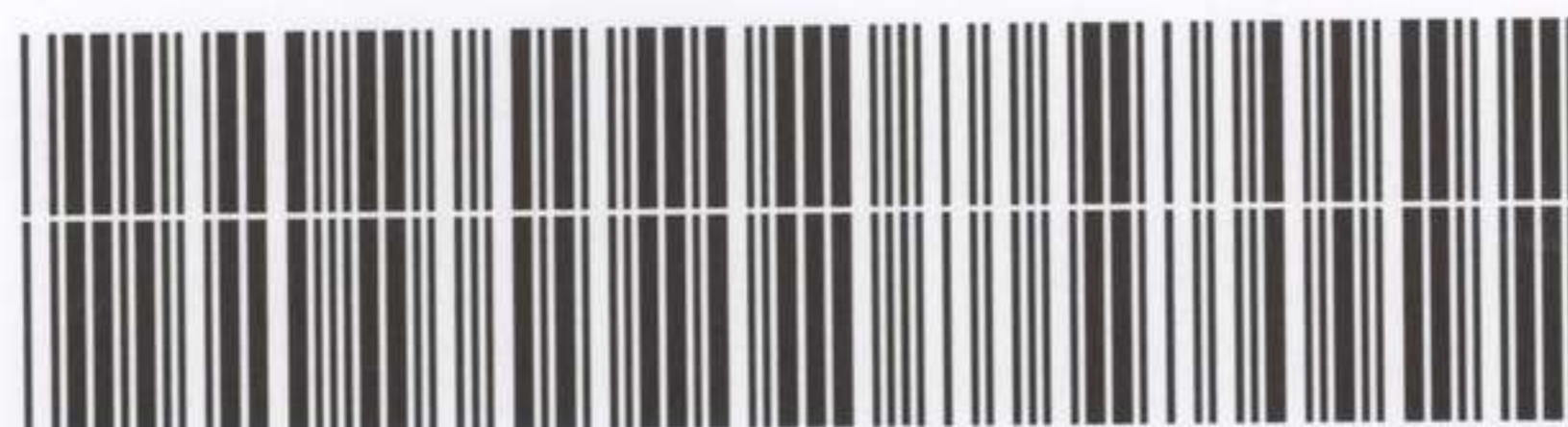
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Infantry

Item number: 23/7/20

Title: 7th Infantry Brigade

April 1917



AWM4-23/7/20

DATE.

Reference Map Sheet 57.C. & 51.B. WAR DIARY.
1/40,000.

APRIL 1917.

APPENDICES.

- Apl 1-11 7th Bgde in HELTER WOOD Camp X.16.c. Infantry training & reorganization. Weather mostly snowy and sleety.
- 2 Capt. ROWAN HAMILTON rejoins 7th A.I.Bgde. on completion Staff Course, HESDIN.
-do- takes over duties as B.M. Capt. N.WELLINGTON goes to Div.
as G.S.O.3. (tempy)
- 6 Lieut. HARRY, rejoins Bgde. as I.O., on completion Staff Course, CAMBRIDGE.
- 12 Tactical scheme for Reg. Officers (outdoor)
- 14 Bgde Group moves to BEUGNATRE area., 26th, 27th, 28th Bns. & 7th M/Gun Coy at BEUGNATRE., Bgde H.Q. and 25th Bn at FAVREUIL, in Div reserve.
- 15 5 a.m., order received to "stand to" to counter attack, enemy reported having broken through at LAGNICOURT. 25th & 28th Bns. move to places of assembly at VAULX. Enemy successfully repulsed by 5th and 6th Bgdes. 7th Bgde (less 28th) return to billets at 4-30 p.m., 28th Bn left at VAULX temporarily under orders of G.O.C., 5th Bgde.
- 17 28th Bn rejoins 7th Bgde and returns to billets in BEUGNATRE.
- 19 Orders received for 7th Bgde ^{to} relieve 5th & 6th Bgdes in the whole of the 2nd Div. front line from D.7.c.3.0. to U.28.c.1.3. same night.
Bdge H.Q. moves to NOREUIL, 28th Bn takes over right line, 27th Bn centre line.
25th Bn left line, 26th Bn in reserve in NOREUIL area. Relief complete by 2 a.m., Units on flanks - 3rd A.I.Bde on our right, 62nd Div. on our left.
- 20/22 Units engaged improving defences, salvaging, burying dead and improving accommodation. Fine.
- 22 2nd A.I.Bde relieves 28th Bn in line - right - D.7.c.3.0. to C.6.c.5.4. which moves into support in NOREUIL area SUNKEN ROAD C.16.a. & c. Fine.

No 1.

No 2.

No 3

- April 23rd Wire cutting operations on HINDENBURG wire with Bangalore Torpedoes Under supervision of S.O.E., 7th Field Coy R.E. 14 bursts obtained from 15 tubes, successfully cutting the wire. For report on operations see Appendix No 4. No 4
 - 24th 26th Bn relieves 25th Bn. in line -left - which moves into reserve. Fine. No 5
 - 26th Repeated operation on HINDENBURG wire with "Bangalore Torpedoes" 6 bursts obtained from 15 tubes. No 6
 - 27th 350 gas projectors fired into QUEANT. 1 a.m., by special Coy R.E., Fine.
 - 28th. 1,000^{4"} Stokes gas bombs fired into BULLECOURT. 10 p.m. by special Coy R.E. Fine.
 - 29th Fine. Very quiet on our front.
 - 30th 5th and 6th Bdes relieve 7th Bde (less 27th Bn) in line. 25th, 26th, & 28th Bns 7th M./Gun Coy move back to FAVREUIL district. Bde H.Q. move to new quarters in MOREUIL. 27th Bn remains in line under orders of G.O.C., 5th Bde.
- Summaries of Intelligence. No 7
 Casualties & Reinforcements. No 8

W. J. Mansfield
 Brig. Gen.
 G.O.C. ~~Brigade Major~~, 7th Australian Infantry Brigade.

S.E.C.A.E.T.

Copy No. 14

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Order No. 91.

13th April 1917.

Reference Maps: ALBERT comb. sheet 1/40,000

1. The 2nd Australian Division (less Artillery) will relieve the 4th Australian Division in the left Sector of the Corps Front on 12th, 13th and 14th instant.
2. The 7th Australian Infantry Brigade will march to the BEUGNARE AREA to relieve the 13th A.V. Brigade on the 14th inst., in accordance with attached march table.
3. The 7th Australian Machine Gun Coy now attached to the 4th Australian Division will remain in the left Sector of the Corps Front and will rejoin the 2nd Australian Division on its arrival there.
4. 1st Line Transport and baggage wagons will join their respective Units at starting point and march with Units.
5. A distance of 200 yards will be maintained between Battalions on the march, 100 yards between Companies and 200 yards between Transport of Units.
6. TRANSPORT. Train Baggage wagons will report to Units on afternoon of 13th inst. and will march with 1st Line Transport. All spare baggage will be dumped at ALBERT on 13th inst.,
7. STORES. Men will carry packs, ground sheets and one blanket, the remaining blanket will be dumped under Battalion arrangements in the present Camp (1 hut only to be utilized) from which they will be collected by Transport on 15th and 16th instant and returned to the men.
8. ADVANCED PARTIES. Advanced parties of 1 Officer and 5 O/Rks. per Battalion mounted on horses or cycles will meet Unit representatives at H. 27. 2. 6. 1. at 12 noon on 14th inst.,
9. WATER. Water carts and water bottles will be filled before leaving. As many petrol tins as possible should be carried and others dumped with blankets to be picked up by Transport later.
10. 7th Brigade Head Quarters will close at SHELTER WOOD at 9 a.m. on 14th inst.,
11. Acknowledge.

William ...

Brigade Major, 7th Australian Infantry Brigade, Captain.

Issued to Signallers at 8 a.m.

For Distribution see over 3.

Appendix No 1

DISTRIBUTION :-

- No. 1. 25th Bn.
- 2. 26th Bn.
- 3. 27th Bn.
- 4. 28th Bn.
- 5. 7th M. Gun Coy.
- 6. 7th A.L.T.M. Btty.
- 7. B.T.O.
- 8. 2nd Aust. Div.
- 9. A.P.M. 5th Aust. Div.
- 10. 5th Aust. Inf. Bgde.
- 11. 6th Aust. Inf. Bgde.
- 12. O.C. 17th A.A.S.C } For information
- 13. G.O.C.,
- 14. War Diary.
- 15. File.

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

MARCH TABLE issued with 7th A.I. Brigade Order No. 91.

Date	Unit	From	To	Starting Point.	Time	Route	Remarks
March 14th	25th Bn.	ACID DROP	BEUGMATRE area	STATION POZIERES.	9 a.m.	POZIERES - BAPAUME.	Infantry may move to the starting point across country
"	26th Bn.	SHELTER WOOD	"	"	9.30 a.m.	"	
"	27th Bn	"	"	"	10.00 a.m.	"	Transport to move by road via LA BOISSELLE
"	28th Bn.	"	"	"	10.30 a.m.	"	
"	7th Bde H.Q.	"	"	"	11.0 a.m.	"	Guides from advance parties to meet units at X Roads H.27.a.7.l.
15th	7th A.L.I.M.B.	BELLEVUE FARM	"	"	9 a.m.	"	

Appendix No. /

SECRET

Copy No. 14

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADEORDER No. 92.

April 19th 1917.

Reference map 1/20,000 Sheets 57.c.N.W. and I.51.b.S.7.

1. The 7th A.I. Brigade will relieve the 5th and 6th A.I. Brigades in the 2nd Divisional front on the night of the 19th/20th April in accordance with table attached.
2. The 22nd Machine Gun Company, less 1 Section, will be attached to the 7th A.I. Brigade.
3. All details of the relief will be mutually arranged between Unit Commanders concerned.
O.C., 7th Machine Gun Company will be responsible for the arranging of the relief of the 5th and 6th Machine Gun Companies by the 7th and 22nd Machine Gun Companies.
4. No troops will cross the VAULX - VRAUCOURT ridge before 8.30 p.m. Platoons will move at 100 yards intervals, and march in file or single file.
5. The prescribed number of Officers and other ranks will be left behind in accordance with S.S. 135 "Instructions for Training of Divisions for the Offensive", page 58, and amendments thereto.
6. 26th Battalion will detail two ^{Platoons} ~~Companies~~ as escort to the Artillery S.V. of NOREUIL.
7. Units being relieved, will leave behind for 24 hours, the Nos. 1. of Vickers and Lewis Guns, and 1 N.C.O. per platoon.
8. The completion of all reliefs will be reported to 7th Brigade H.Q. by code wire.
9. G.O.C., 7th A.I. Brigade will take over command of the 5th and 6th Brigade Section on completion of relief.
10. AMMUNITION. The Battle Dumps will not be used by this Brigade except in cases of urgency. Ammunition may be drawn from any other dump established.
11. QUARTERS. Quarters for Details. A Camp for details will be established in the vicinity of BEUGHATRE in H.12, where all Officers and men other than kit guards left behind, will be camped. Major DAWSON, 25th Battalion, will be in charge of the Camp.
12. TRANSPORT. Transport lines will be in the vicinity of this Camp. Q.M. Stores will be near Transport Lines.
13. RATIONS. The Divisional Train will deliver rations to Q.M. Stores at the above Camp. Each Unit will ration its own details.

- 2 -

14. STORES. Brigade Kit Store is in FAVREUIL, H.16.a.8.6
15. CAMPS. Units will leave an Officer and a small guard behind to hand over Camps vacated today. 28th Battalion will move tents now at BEUGNATRE, and will erect them with other tents in vicinity of FAVREUIL before leaving.
16. 7th Brigade Headquarters will close at FAVREUIL at 7 p.m. 19th inst., and will open at 5th Brigade Headquarters NORREUIL (C.10.c.9.1) at the same hour.
17. Acknowledge.

Howard Hamilton

Captain,
Brigade Major, 7th Australian Infantry Brigade.

Issued to Signals at 3 p.m.

- Copies to :-
1. 25th Bn.
 2. 26th Bn.
 3. 27th Bn.
 4. 28th Bn.
 5. 7th M/G Coy
 6. 7th A.L.T.M.B.
 7. 22nd M/G Coy
 8. 5th A.I.Bde.
 9. 6th A.I.Bde
 10. O.C., 17th A.A.S.C.
 11. B.T.O.
 12. C.M.A.
 13. 2nd Aust. Div.
 14. Left Bde, 1st Aust. Div.
 15. Right Bde, 2nd Div.
 16. G.O.C.
 17. War Diary
 18. File
 19. Spare.

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

MOVE TABLE to accompany Brigade Order No. 92.

Date	Unit	From	To	In relief of	Route	Remarks	
April 19/20	25th Bn.	FAVREUIL	LINE - Left	22nd & 24th Bns.	VRAUCOURT	To be clear of VAULX - VRAUCOURT Ridge by 10 p.m.	
19/20 18/19th	26th Bn.	"	LINE - Right	19th Bn.	E. of VAULX		
"	27th Bn.	"	LINE - Centre	20th Bn.	Any		Not to cross VAULX - VRAUCOURT Ridge before 10 p.m.
"	26th Bn.	Corps main Line	RESERVE - NOREUIL.	18th Bn.	Any.	Not to cross VAULX - VRAUCOURT Ridge before 11 p.m.	
"	7th I./G Coy } 22nd I./G Coy } 7th A.L.I.M.B } 7th Sde H.Q. }		Move under orders of Officer Commanding.				

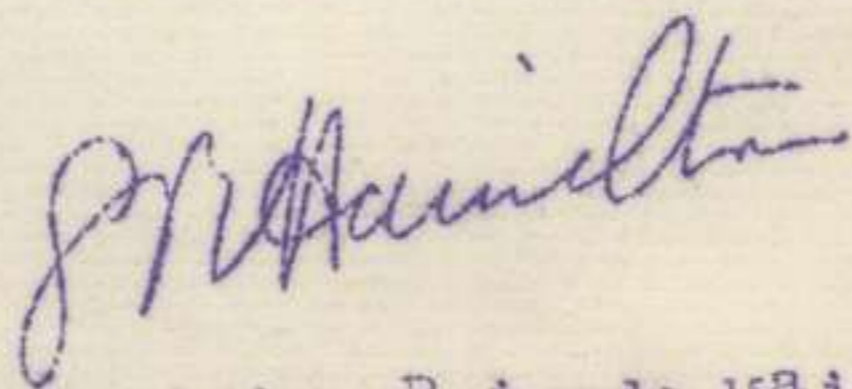
Appendix No 2

SECRET**7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE****ORDER No. 96.**

April 23rd 1917.

Reference Sheet 57 C. N.W. 1/20,000.

1. During the night 24/25th April 1917, the 28th Battalion and two Companies 17th Battalion will be relieved by the 8th A.I. Battalion, 2nd A.I. Brigade.
2. Machine Gun Coy of 2nd A.I. Brigade will relieve the machine guns of the 7th A.M./Gun Coy in the 28th Battalion sector. The guns of the 7th A.M./Gun Coy will come into Brigade Reserve.
3. All details of the relief not provided for in this Order will be arranged mutually between C.O.'s concerned.
4. 28th Battalion on relief will be accommodated in the area C.16. 26th Battalion will arrange to vacate this area by 8 p.m. on 24th inst, and occupy the area C.9.b. and d. Advance parties of 28th Battalion will report to Staff Captain at Brigade H.Q. at 2 p.m. 24th inst. The two Companies of the 17th Battalion at C.22 central to C.29.a. will rejoin the 17th Battalion on the night 24/25th inst. on relief by the 2nd A.I. Brigade.
5. At 9 a.m. 25th April the Right boundary 2nd Aust. Division will be as follows :- H.23.d.5.0. - I.14 central - 19.d.0.0. - I.10 central - I.5.d.2.3. - C.30 central - D.19.b.5.0. - B.14.d.5.0 - D.15.b.1.9.
Boundary between 7th A.I. Bde and 2nd A.I. Bde after the relief is completed, will be as follows :- C.6.c.5.3. to C.17.c.1.5. to C.22 central to I.4.c.5.5.
6. No post or machine gun position will be evacuated until it is properly relieved.
All particulars of work in hand, and schemes of defence, and other information of value, will be handed over to the relieving unit. Salvage and other dumps will be handed over, and receipts obtained.
7. The command of the 28th Battalion sector will pass from the G.O.C. 7th A.I. Brigade to the G.O.C. 2nd A.I. Bde on completion of the relief.
8. Completion of relief will be notified by wiring the name of the Commanding Officer.
9. Acknowledge.



Captain, Brigade Major,
7th Australian Infantry Brigade.

Issued to Signals at 4 a.m.

Copies to :-

1. 25th Bn.	12. 2nd A.I. Bde
2. 26th Bn.	13. Left Bde
3. 27th Bn.	14. 2nd Aust Div
4. 28th Bn.	15. G.O.C.
5. 7th M/G Coy	16. War Diary
6. 7th ALTMB	17. File
7. 17th Bn.	18. Spare
8. B.T.O.	
9. P. Art. Group.	
10. Q. " "	
11. M. " "	

SECRET

Copy No. 20

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADEORDER No. 95

April 23rd 1917.

Reference Map 1/20,000.

1. The 7th Field Coy Australian Engineers will carry out another set of "blows" of the hostile wire entanglements in front of the HINDENBURG Line (with mobile charges Bangalore Torpedoes) on the early morning of the 24th inst at the following points :-

8 charges between C.29.a.85.40 (Road) to Ca29.a.0.f.
7 " " C.28.b.6.7. to C.28.b.05.55.
2. Each charge will be carried by three men - 2 sappers and 1 infantryman.
3. A warning signal (a succession of three green flares) will be fired from a point about C.4.b.5.8. at 2.14 $\frac{1}{2}$ a.m. The signal for the firing of the charges will be (a succession of red and green flares, fired alternately, two green and two red) and will be discharged from the same point at 2.15 a.m. (Zero time)
4. A covering party of 2 riflemen and 2 bombers under a selected N.C.O. or senior private will precede each party carrying mobile charges until the wire is reached, and the charge is laid. As soon as the first signal is fired, the covering party and all except No.1 of the carrying party will withdraw 100 yards in to shell holes. When the second signal is fired, the No.1. will light the fuze and withdraw to the covering party. The whole party will then return to our front line.

1 Officer of the 25th Battalion will be put in charge of the covering parties, and will be responsible for seeing that the groups leave the front line correctly, and will fire the necessary warning and firing signals from our front line.
5. Covering parties will meet the parties of 7th Field Coy A.E. with mobile charges at the CRATER, NOREUIL, at 10 p.m. (C.10.c.3.4.)
6. The man or N.C.O. in charge of the covering party will be responsible for guiding the mobile charge party from the rendezvous to our front line, and thence to the wire to be destroyed.

Covering parties will make a careful reconnaissance of their objective and the ground to be traversed, by daylight observation from our front line, during the 23rd inst.

- 8. Covering parties and mobile charge parties will leave our front line at 1 a.m.
- 9. ARTILLERY. The arrangements for lifting of barrage made in my 203/2 of April 21st will be amended as follows :
The barrage on the Left Sector will be lifted at 1.15 a.m. and not as stated, and will recommence at 2.25 a.m. on the enemy front trench, returning to the enemy wire at 2.5⁵ a.m.
The barrage will otherwise be normal unless an increased rate of fire is asked for to enable the parties to return.
- 10. All infantry and machine guns will be warned that the enterprise is taking place, and every precaution taken to prevent our parties being fired on, either during the operation or on their return.
- 11. O.C. 25th Battalion will detail 4 stretchers and complement of stretcher bearers to be in readiness in our front line, to collect casualties, should any occur.
- 12. All watches will be carefully synchronized with 2nd Aust. Division Signal time at 7 p.m. The Officer in charge of the covering parties will get the time from the 7th A.I. Brigade H.Q. at 9.45 p.m.
- 13. Instructions for the personnel of the parties carrying and firing mobile charges will be issued by the O.C. 7th Field Company A.E.
- 14. Acknowledge

Ernest Hamilton

Captain, Brigade Major

7th Australian Infantry Brigade.

Issued to Sigs at 5 am

- No.1. 25th Bn.
- 2. 26th Bn.
- 3. 27th Bn.
- 4. 28th Bn.
- 5. 7th M/G Coy
- 6. 7th ALTMB
- 7. 22nd M/G Coy
- 8. 17th Bn.
- 9. Right Bde
- 10. Left Bde
- 11. 2nd Aust. Div.
- 12. C.R.E.
- 13. P. Art. Group.
- 14. Q. " "
- 15. M. " "
- 16. War Diary
- 17. File
- 18. Spare

S. U. I.

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.

AMENDMENT TO 7th BATTALION ORDER No. 95.

Para. 5 is cancelled and the following substituted.

5. A warning signal - a succession of three red flares at 10 seconds interval will be fired from a point about C 4 b 5 8 at 8.14 a.m. At 8.15 a.m. the signal for the exploding of the charges will be three red flares fired simultaneously from three very pistols from the same point.

In the event of fog or misty weather, charges will be exploded at 8.15 a.m. by time, and the No. 1 of each party should therefore be provided with a luminous watch.

Issued to Signals at 12 noon.

Distribution as per Order No. 95.

28/4/17.

M. J. Grant
 Captain,
 Brigade Major 7th Aust. Inf. Brigade.

HEADQUARTERS 7TH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.	
No.	26/55
Date	

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Reference Map O.31.d.24. Edition 1. 1/20,000.

7th A.I. Brigade Order No 95.

REPORT ON DEMOLITION OF ENEMY WIRE HINDENBURG LINE
NIGHT 23rd/24th April 1917.

- (1) 7th Field Coy A.E. assisted by 25th Bn. 7th A.I. Bgde. made a further (14) Fourteen "blows" in enemy wire in Sectors U.29.a.85.40. to U.29.a.0.6., U.28.b.67. to U.28.b.05.55.
(15) Fifteen charges were carried out from Front Line, (14) Fourteen successfully placed and fired- one failure due to party not reaching objective at Zero time.

(2) Strength of parties.

7th Field Coy.	Sappers	34	Off.	1.
25th Bn.	O.R.	15	-	

Organization.

Party of three to each charge.

- No 1. Sapper. carrying plug, primer fuze, detonator, and spare set of detonating attachment. No 1 fires the charge.
- No 2. Sapper. (
- No 3. Infantryman. (Carry and place charge over wire.

Charges were inspected by A.E. Officer assisted by 2 N.C.O's before leaving front line.

Covering party. Two patrols 25th Bn to each charge.

- (3) Remarks Party on front U.29.a.85.40. to U.29.a.0.6. report wire generally broken up and appears passable for infantry. Party on front U.28.b.67. to U.28.b.05.55. report wire generally badly broken and appears passable for infantry.

Flares were much below normal and increased very little after charges had been fired.

Rifle & M.G. Fire was not pronounced. Two parties were bombed by the enemy while charge was being laid on the wire; about 30 bombs thrown at one and 6 bombs at the other party, all of which exploded in the enemy wire.

Time allowed for leaving front line, placing and firing charges proved just sufficient.

Covering party detailed by 25th Bn. were well organized and showed good knowledge of No Man's Land.

Blow Effect 12' to 16' clear gap where placed.

was drawn

(2)

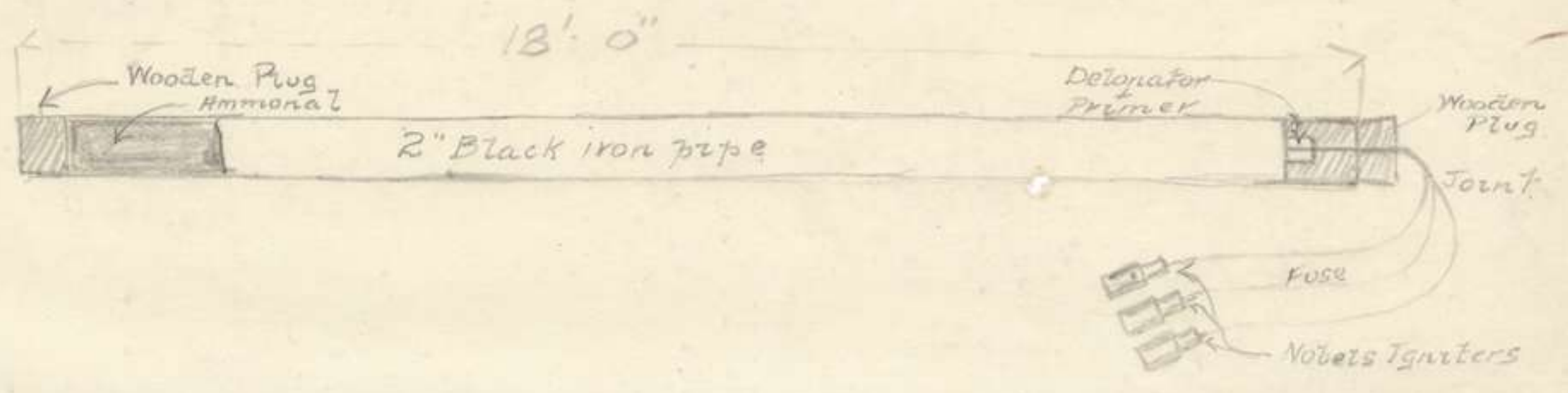
(4)

Description of Charge One end stopped with 2" Black iron steel pipes wooden plug filled with ammonal and well tamped, other end fitted with wooden plug bored out to take dry gun cotton primer and safety fuze.

Fuze Safety. Time 3 minutes, fitted with two branches, joint made with small quantity of dry gun cotton and bound with insulating taps.

Igniters.

Nobels.



A. E. ...
 Major, A.E.,
 S.O.E., 7th Australian Infantry Brigade.

298

SECRET

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

Copy No. 16

April 25th 1917.

ORDER No. 97.

Reference Map 1/20,000.

The equivalent of

1. The 26th Battalion will relieve the 25th Battalion in the Left Sector of the 7th A.I. Brigade front on the nights of 25th/26th, and 26th/27th inst. Two platoons per Company, and half Specialists will be relieved each night. On relief, the 25th Battalion will occupy the positions vacated by the 26th Battalion.
2. All arrangements will be made mutually between C.O's concerned.
3. 25th Battalion will relieve 2 platoons of 26th Battalion on escort duty to "Q" Group Artillery this afternoon.
4. All trench stores, dumps, strombos horns, S.O.S. Signals, defence schemes etc. will be taken over, and receipts given. Copies of receipts to be sent to Brigade H.Q. for scrutiny.
5. Advance parties will be sent up this afternoon.
6. 25th Battalion will be responsible for carrying out the offensive patrolling and for reporting on the condition of the wire during the period of cessation of artillery fire on nights of 25/26th, and 26/27th inst.
7. O.C. 25th Battalion will hand over command of the Left Sector on completion of the relief on night 26/27th.
8. Completion of relief each night will be reported to Brigade H.Q. by wiring the name of the Officers Commanding Battalions concerned.
9. Acknowledge.

M. W. ...

Captain, Brigade Major,
7th Australian Infantry Brigade.

Issued to Signals at 2.30 p.m.

- Copies to :-
1. 25th Bn.
 2. 26th Bn.
 3. 27th Bn.
 4. 28th Bn.
 5. 7th H/G Coy
 6. 7th ALTB.
 7. B.T.O.
 8. 22nd H/G Coy
 9. Right Bde
 10. Left Bde
 11. P. Arty Group
 12. Q. " "
 13. H. " "
 14. 2nd Aust. Div.
 15. War Diary.
 16. File
 17. Spare.

} For information.

SECRET.7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

Copy No. 21

ORDER No. 92.

April 25th 1917.

Reference Map 1/30,000.

1. A further destruction of the German wire will be undertaken by the 7th Field Company A.E. assisted by the 27th Battalion, on the night of 26/27th inst at the following points
15 mobile charges between Road U.30 a.45.20, and Road U.29.b.285.30.
2. Warning signal will be 1 GREEN FLARE, to be fired at 1.5 a.m. Firing signal will be a group of not less than 3 GREEN FLARES, allowance being made for "duds". Four Very Pistols at least will be required to be fired at 1.55 a.m.
Signals will be fired from the front line about C.5.b.6.5.
3. 27th Battalion will provide covering party of 1 bomber and 1 rifleman per mobile charge.
An Officer of the 27th Battalion will be detailed to take charge of the covering party and fire the flares.
4. The Officer in charge of the covering party and guides will meet the 7th Field Company A.E. with the mobile charges at 27th Battalion H.Q. C.10.c.7.9. at 8.30 p.m. on 26th inst, and take them to the front line.
5. The parties with the mobile charges will leave the front line at 11.45 p.m.
6. Artillery. "P" group will arrange not to fire on the enemy wire in the immediate vicinity of the wire near Road U.29.a.8.4. between 12 midnight and 1.15 a.m.
"Q" Group will arrange to fire on trenches and not on the wire between 1.15 a.m. and 1.25 a.m. and to slightly increase the normal rate of fire from 1.15 a.m. to 1.35 a.m.
7. Otherwise than above, the instructions issued in 7th A.I. Brigade Order No. 93 will be carried out.
8. Watches of all concerned will be synchronized with 2nd Aust. Division Signal time at 7 p.m.
9. Acknowledge.

Issued to signals at

Distribution :-

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. 25th Bn. | |
| 2. 26th Bn. | |
| 3. 27th Bn. | |
| 4. 28th Bn. | |
| 5. 7th M/G Coy | |
| 6. 7th A.L.F.A.B. | |
| 7. 22nd M/G Coy | |
| 8. 7th Field Coy A.E. | |
| 9. Major Evans, S.O.E. 7th A.I. Bde. | |
| 10. Right Brigade | |
| 11. Right Bde | |
| 12. Left Bde. | |
| | 13. 2nd Aust. Div |
| | 13. C.R.E. |
| | 14. P. Arty. Group |
| | 15. Q. " " |
| | 16. H. " " |
| | 17. War Diary |
| | 18. File |
| | 19. Spare. |

W. J. Evans
 Brigadier Major,
 7th Australian Infantry Brigade.

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

No. 1.

April 20th 1917.

SUMMARY OF INTELLIGENCE from 6 a.m. 19/4/17 to ~~20~~ 6 a.m. 20/4/17.OUR OPERATIONS.

RELIEF. The 7th A.I. Brigade relieved the 5th and 6th A.I. Brigades in the 2nd Aust. Divisional front line on the night 19/20th April 1917. The relief was completed successfully at 3.30 a.m.

PATROLS. Our entire front was continuously patrolled during the night, and touch maintained with units on the flanks. No hostile activity was observed. One party of 4 men left our Post at C.4.b.6.8. and worked along the Sunken Road running through U.29.c.& a. thence westward along the enemy wire, and report that the wire in U.29.a. is almost intact.

ARTILLERY. A constant bombardment was carried out during the day on enemy wire and forward area, but owing to poor visibility, the effect of the fire could not be ascertained.

MACHINE GUNS. Our machine guns were active throughout the night, directing fire on gaps in enemy wire.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

ARTILLERY. The valley running through C.15.c.16 and C.11. was shelled intermittently throughout the day and night with 77 m/m and 4.2 H.E., the former from the direction of U.22.c., the latter from behind RIENCOURT.

Gas shells were sent over intermittently and in small numbers throughout the night in this valley from direction of RIENCOURT.

MACHINE GUNS & TRENCH MORTARS were very quiet.

PATROLS. A hostile patrol was heard in locality of U.28.c.central, and was promptly fired on by our Lewis Guns - result unknown.

WORKING PARTIES. At 6 p.m. a party of about 50 was seen apparently digging a trench in rear of their wire at approximately D.1.d.1.1. and was dispersed by our 18-pndr fire.

AIRCRAFT. No activity.

WIRE. Special daylight observation was directed on enemy wire, and the following information gathered :-

Handwritten mark

- 2 -

U.28.c.2.7. to U.28.b.0.5. appears to be well cut.
 U.28.b.0.5. to U.28.b.7.8. Very few portions cut, the only
 clear gap being made by the Bangalore Torpedoe used by the
 engineers on night 17/18th inst.
 U.28.b.7.8. to U.29.a.0.8. Very mutilated, and appears to be
 passable.

Patrols will be sent out nightly to ascertain more
 definitely the extent of damage done to the wire, and special
 observers have been told off to observe by day.

G. Harry
 Lieut, I.O.,
 For G.O.C., 7th Australian Infantry Brigade.

Appendix No 7

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BR IGAD

No. 2.

April 21st 1917.

SUMMARY OF INTELLIGENCE. 6 a.m. 20/4/17 to 6 a.m. 21/4/18.OUR OPERATIONS.

ARTILLERY. Our artillery was busy with wire cutting during the day. New earth work observed in U.23.e.7.5. was subject to very accurate and effective fire, and a ten minute barrage was placed on rear of enemy wire from U.28.a.5.5. to U.28.c.5.8. A party observed at U.29.b.8.6. (strength 15) was fired on and dispersed.

MACHINE GUNS. Fired on gaps in enemy wire throughout the night. At 9 a.m. anti-aircraft guns fired on two enemy planes which returned to their own lines later, in a damaged condition.

AIRCRAFT. Two of our planes flying over vicinity of NOREUIL and BULLECOURT were attacked by two hostile planes at 9 a.m. One of ours was driven down in C.11, only slightly damaged. The detachable instruments were salvaged, and the plane was later ignited by hostile shell fire. The pilot was slightly wounded - the observer is safe. At 5 p.m. two of our planes were flying very low over our outpost line in U.27.c. and d., and were not fired on by the enemy.

PATROLS. A party left C.5.a.5.2., and proceeded to the enemy wire in U.29.a. Here they heard a party at work on the wire, and on attempting to investigate further, were fired on by a machine gun, which proved to belong to a covering party. Upon return of patrol, this locality was swept by our Lewis guns.

Another party met the enemy wire at U.29.a.85.60 and penetrated three sets of wire approximately 15 yards deep at this point. The inner set is 120 to 150 yards in advance of enemy front line.

Flares were fired from enemy front line, but no movement seen. Wire is low, but very thick and dense, only about two feet high. It is badly battered, and easily passable. From this point to U.28.b.4.5. the wire is badly smashed, and considered passable at any point.

Other parties patrolled the front and kept touch with flanks, but were unable to examine the wire further

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

ARTILLERY. At 10 a.m. an anti-aircraft gun was seen firing from 356° true bearing from C.4.c.3.0. on right of BULLECOURT.

The vicinity between VRAUCOURT WOOD and NOREUIL was subjected to an intermittent shelling throughout the day, gas shells being used frequently in small numbers. All this shelling is from N.E. of RIENCOURT

The remainder of the forward area was liberally shelled with gas shells during the night from the direction of N.E. of RIENCOURT.

MACHINE GUNS. Enemy machine guns were active during the night, firing along the railway cutting from direction of QUEANT.

AIRCRAFT. Enemy aircraft was active during the morning. At 5 p.m. a balloon was observed at 31° true bearing from C.4.c.3.0. On the approach of one of our planes it was lowered, but appeared again as soon as plane retired.

MOVEMENT. Small parties of enemy can be seen continually coming from U.17.b. and disappearing into sap in U.23.b.2.8. The activity here increases towards evening. Small parties were seen in rear of BULLECOURT carrying rations or ammunition.

MISCELLANEOUS. At 5.10 p.m. two explosions were heard in BULLECOURT, but origin could not be determined. A fire was seen at approximately ABBAY FM QUEANT at 10 a.m.

Marr

Lieut.
For G.O.C., 7th Australian Infantry Brigade.

No.3.

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

April 22nd 1917.

SUMMARY OF INTELLIGENCE from 6 a.m. 21/4/17 to 6 a.m. 22/4/17.OUR OPERATIONS.

ARTILLERY. Our artillery carried out the normal bombardment of enemy wire during the day. Our heavies shelled BULLECOURT heavily, and the fire directed on wire was observed to be somewhat erratic and shrapnel. HENDECOURT was lightly shelled with H.E. A hostile battery was observed firing from U.22.b.0.7. (Factory) and our heavies fired on the building completely wrecking same. Men were seen running from this building during the bombardment.

MACHINE GUNS & SNIPING. Our Vickers guns fired at irregular intervals on gaps in enemy wire throughout the night, while our anti-aircraft guns were busy with hostile planes whenever they came over.

Two snipers posts per Battalion front have been established, but movement on the part of the enemy was too far in rear of his lines for effective fire.

PATROLS. Patrols were out all night, keeping in touch with Units on flanks, and the following information regarding enemy wire was obtained :-

U.29.a.8.5. to U.29.a.2.5. Wire is only partially cut and not passable to Infantry.

U.30 central to U.29.b.9.3. Wire partially cut, but impassable.

Enemy machine gun located in an old dugout in the bank of Sunken Road at U.29.a.8.4 about 60 yards in front of wire.

LISTENING POST. At C.12.b.00.25 report enemy transport very busy in QUEANT during the night, particularly between 12 midnight and 2 a.m. It appeared that transport came close to front line in vicinity of ABBAY FM.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

ARTILLERY. A 77 m/m gun was seen firing at approx. U.34.c.7.0., and put four shots into C.5.b.0.3.

A 4.2 how. battery was plainly seen in action firing on LONGATTE from U.12.b. This battery is very active and the guns are about 100 yards apart.

- 2 -

The following observations taken from O.P. at C.4.b.55.85.

<u>Time</u>	<u>Locality shelled.</u>	<u>Calibre</u>	<u>Direction.</u>
8 - 8.35 am.	C.4.b.	4.2 & 77 m	46 $\frac{1}{2}$ ° T.B.
10.30 to)			
12.30 m/n (U.4.a. to C.4.b.	4.2 & 77 m.	46 $\frac{1}{2}$ & 25° T.B.
Intermittently	NOREUIL	4.2	U.18.b.
4.55 a.m. to)			
5.7 a.m.)	Support Area	Gas	Rear of QUEANT

MACHINE GUNS. Located outside wire at U.29.a.8.3. and confirmed by patrol. The following positions are also reported as containing Machine Guns.
Derelict Tank at U.28.a.05.05.
Suspected emplacement on trench at U.23.b.8.3.
Post at C.12.b.9.7.

It is reported that two guns were seen firing at daylight from approx. U.28.b.6.1 and U.29.a.4.4. This locality will be reconnoitred by patrols tonight.

AIRCRAFT. Very active during the day, and particularly between 4 p.m. and 6.30 p.m. but our anti-aircraft guns prevented the enemy penetrating far behind our lines.
Between 3.45 p.m. and 4.30 p.m. three articles were dropped by hostile planes behind his own lines. An aerial postal packet was dropped in C.11 central at 5 p.m. contents of which were forwarded to D.H.Q.

Bearings on hostile balloons were taken from O.P. at C.4.b.55.85 - 29°, 31°, 35°, 36°, 37°, & 47°.

MOVEMENT. A limber moving S.W. along road stopped at U.6.d.25.75. A small party emerged from what appeared to be a strong point at V.12.c.4.2. and disappeared on road at V.6.d.25.75.

Considerable movement at X Roads in V.25 central throughout day; also at V.26 central, where parties were seen unloading timber from tramway trucks and carrying same away in both easterly and westerly directions.

At 2.45 p.m. a party of 20 men sent apparently laying out wire from U.30.b.9.3. to U.30.a.5.6. Ten of our heavies got mixed up with these and hindered further labors.

A party were seen digging at V.25.c.2.9. and were dispersed by our artillery.

MISCELLANEOUS. Explosions followed by clouds of dense smoke occurred at the following places :-

HENDECOURT	one explosion	at	5.15 p.m.
RIENCOURT	three "		4.15 p.m.
BULLECOURT	one "		5.30 p.m.
FONTAINE les C.	one "		4.45 p.m.
REAR OF QUEANT	two "		11.30 p.m.

Harry
Lieut.
For G.O.C., 7th Australian Infantry Brigade.

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

No. 4.

April 23rd 1917.

SUMMARY OF INTELLIGENCE a.m. 22/4/17 to 6 a.m. 23/4/17.

OUR OPERATIONS.

ARTILLERY. BULLBOURT was heavily shelled by our heavies during the day, and full advantage was taken of high visibility to secure registration and cut wire.

During the bombardment of HENDECOURT, a building was smashed, and a body of infantry were seen to scatter in all directions. Several other targets mentioned below were engaged with good effect.

AIRCRAFT. Fairly active. At 3.55 p.m. four of our planes engaged seven hostile planes, and one of the former was forced to descend in U.S.S.C. apparently owing to engine trouble. The plane was a "S.1"

MACHINE GUNS - SNIPING. Indirect fire was brought to bear at irregular intervals on roads and communications in rear of enemy lines, and fire was also directed on gaps in enemy wire. Parties reported working on wire at U.30 a. and U.30.d.6.0. were dispersed. Our A.A. guns were fully occupied throughout the day with hostile aircraft. At day-break a party were seen at work apparently wiring, fired on by our snipers, causing two casualties.

PATROLS. Parties patrolled our front throughout night, keeping touch with flanks. No hostile patrols encountered. One party examining wire from U.30.a.4.5. to the right, report that a belt of French wire runs in front of main belt at this point, and leads to an enemy post at U.30.d.5.7., which they promptly engaged after being challenged by the word "ORONHO". The wire here is impassable for infantry.

From U.28.a.8.1. to U.28.c.0.9. the wire is well out.

From the Sunken Road at U.28.a.7.1. to 0.0. the wire is passable

The absence of flares during the night and sounds heard by patrols seem to indicate that the Hun is endeavouring to repair his wire.

ENEMY ACTIVITIES.

ARTILLERY. Normal until 12.55 p.m. when a heavy barrage was placed on line LONGATTE - S. of NORVILLE, which lasted until 1.30 p.m., when the barrage lifted to C.31. and C.27. The barrage which mainly consisted of 5.9 H.E. came from the general direction of RIENCOURT.

Gas shells in small numbers were sent over into our Support area intermittently during the day and night.

At 10.50 a.m. enemy registered on railway embankment with 5.9 from direction of RIENCOURT.

- 3 -

BATTERIES LOCATED. 4.8 Howz Battery seen in action at D.5.c.9.25. This is confirmed from a number of sources. Smoke from a 5.9 battery reported in LE PETIT B IS.

MACHINE GUNS. Guns were seen firing from the following positions: U.25.d.05.70 - U.25.b.75.35 - Hill at U.30.b.2.8 $\frac{1}{2}$.

AIRCRAFT. Very active throughout day, and owing to preponderance in the number of planes, enemy activity was not hindered much by our aircraft. He was busy apparently spotting for his artillery, and carried on with a fine disregard for our A.A. guns, which were very active. Balloons were seen at the following true bearings from O.P. at C.10.b.55.00 - 30°, 55°, 44°, 59°.

MOVEMENT. The following working and carrying parties were observed. Working party at suspected post at U.12.c.0.1. - U.12.c.5.2. Party of 60 in V.26 central apparently shovelling away earth thrown up from trenches. Party carrying timber at U.24.c.8.4. at 8.30 a.m. This place was shelled by us later. Party of 5 working on strong point at U.22.d.3.0. Parties moving from V.25.c.0.8. towards cutting at V.25.c.5.5. Several parties seen moving North in rear of ALBECOURT and along road No 2. U.12.c.1.d. 10.15 a.m. a body of about 100 Infantry followed by six loaded limbers marched in column of fours with intervals along road northwestwards at U.11.c.4.7. Owing to lines being cut at the time, our artillery could not be brought into action. Considerable movement seen all day around CHATEAU in U.12.c. Parties go to and from this spot, and smoke can be seen rising, and there is every indication of dugouts at this place.

MISCELLANEOUS. At 7 a.m. twelve Pineapple bombs were sent over in the vicinity of the Right posts in our Right Battalion sector.

Two explosions occurred between 10.30 a.m. and 11 a.m. in HEDOCOURT.

A dump is suspected at U.6.c.3.8.

Capt, Brigade HQ
For C.O.C., 7th Australian Infantry Brigade.

CONFIDENTIAL

No. 5.

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

April 24th 1917.

SUMMARY OF INTELLIGENCE 6 a.m. 23/4/17 to 6 a.m. 24/4/17.OUR OPERATIONS.

ARTILLERY. Our 18-pndrs and heavies continued wire cutting operations and bombardment of BULLECOURT, RIENCOURT, and HENDECOURT. The visibility was good, and our aircraft were very active, spotting for our artillery.

WIRE CUTTING. Operations with "Bangalore Torpedoes" were again carried out on enemy wire from U.29.a.85.40 to U.29.a.0.6. and U.28.b.6.7. to U.28.b.05.55 at 2 - 3 a.m.

Six torpedoes were successfully exploded in the former sector, and seven in the latter. Two failed to reach the wire.

No opposition was met with except in locality of U.29.a.3.f., when a party was bombed on reaching the wire.

The whole party safely returned, with the exception of one man who failed to report, but may have returned later.

A report on the condition of the wire will be made after daylight observation.

MACHINE GUNS. Indirect fire was brought to bear on enemy communication trench D.1.c.6.1. to D.1.c.9 $\frac{1}{2}$.3.

Both Lewis and Vickers guns were also engaged sweeping enemy wire whenever practicable, to prevent repairs being effected.

SNIPERS. 7th Brigade snipers accounted for five of the enemy.

PATROLS. Parties patrolled our front throughout the night, and encountered no hostile patrols.

Examination of the wire from U.30.a.2.2. to U.30.a.3.7.3. it was found that enemy had attempted to repair same by throwing loose wire into the gaps, and by placing a row of French wire in front of the permanent wire. The only gap still existing is at U.30.a.3.2.

AIRCRAFT. Very active during the day carrying out reconnaissance for our artillery fire.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

ARTILLERY. Above normal during the night, shelling NO MANS LAND with 77 m. and 4.2 H.E.

AIRCRAFT. Active during the day, but did not penetrate very far over our lines owing to the activity of our own planes. Hostile balloons were observed on the following magnetic bearings from C.10.b.5 $\frac{1}{2}$.f 62°, 68°, 100°, 29°, 31°, 36°.

- 2 -

MACHINE GUNS. M.G. positions are suspected at
U.23.b.4.1. and U.28.b.1.6.

Hostile guns were very active during the night
sweeping NO MANS LAND.

PATROLS. None encountered.

MOVEMENT. Between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. large parties were
seen carrying material from suspected dump at U.6.b.5.0.
to the wood at U.5.a.6.9. Wagons were seen at the
former place on several occasions.

Transport wagons were also seen proceeding along
track from U.6.d.2.8. to the wood in U.12.a. where they
disappeared.

Considerable movement noticed throughout the day
around wood at the CHATEAU in U.12.c.

Transport was seen between 4 and 6 p.m. moving
in rear of HENDECOURT and along road in U.6.c., d. & b.

MISCELLANEOUS. An explosion followed the bursting of one
of our shells in RIENCOURT and for five minutes after-
wards several minor explosions occurred at this place.

At 10 a.m. two men were observed removing wire
from poles in D.1.D.

At U.12.a.1.3. two positions can be seen covered
with tarpaulins, and men moving about in the vicinity.

Transport can be distinctly heard in QUEANT
between the hours of 9 p.m. and 2 a.m. intermittently.

At 2.45 p.m. the smoke of a train moving westward
was seen in V.26.d.

Enemy was using a heliograph at V.8.b. during
the afternoon, but could not be read from O.P.

Masart Smith

Captain, Brigade Major,
For G.O.C., 7th Australian Infantry Brigade.

CONFIDENTIAL7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

No. 6.

April 25/17

SUMMARY OF INTELLIGENCE 6 a.m. 24/4/17 to 6 a.m. 25/4/17.OUR OPERATIONS.

ARTILLERY. The HINDENBURG LINE and the wire in U.28., 29 and 30 were heavily shelled during the day, and the fire of our Heavies was observed to be remarkably accurate and effective.

The villages of BULLECOURT, RIENCOURT, and HENDL COURT were shelled, and at 4.50 a.m. some gas shells were sent into the last named place.

Trench and entanglements in U.17.c. and U.25.a. & b. were also shelled, and direct hits observed.

AIRCRAFT. Very active throughout day, effectively keeping hostile planes from flying over our lines. At 6.30 15 planes were seen to cross the lines and disappear into Hunland. Other planes were engaged in directing our Artillery fire.

MACHINE GUNS. Vickers and Lewis guns kept a constant fire on gaps in enemy wire during the night, preventing repairs being effected, and at U.29.a.9.7.8 a wiring party was dispersed and six casualties inflicted. Another wiring party was dispersed at U.30.d.

SNIPING. Our snipers were busy with small parties in the vicinity of RIENCOURT. A party attempted to lay wire at U.29.b.1.4. were dispersed at 5.50 a.m. Six of the enemy were accounted for during the day.

PATROLS. Were at work throughout the night patrolling and examining wire, and their reports confirm the result of daylight observation taken yesterday. The following is a summary of the reports :-

Between the Sunken Road at U.29.a.8.5. and U.29.a.8.7 there is a series of gaps passable for infantry, and the wire between these gaps is still an obstacle.

U.28.a. is not passable, while at U.28.b. the wire is well cut, and is passable for infantry.

One patrol were fired on with rifle grenades from approx. U.29.a. 9.7. but no casualties resulted.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

ARTILLERY. Considerably below normal during the day. At night the vicinity of our front line was subjected to bursts of 77 m/m H.E. and 5.9 H.E. from general direction of U.13.b. At 6.15 a.m. some of his shells were seen to fall short and burst in his own wire, and just in front of same in vicinity of U.29 a 7.7.

A batt r was seen firing on a true bearing 50° from C.10.b.5 $\frac{1}{2}$.c. and is suspected of being a 4.2 How. in the vicinity of U.11.b.

AIRCRAFT. Not much in evidence owing no doubt to our own aerial activity. Two planes which did venture across our lines are reported brought down E.N.E. of LAGNICOURT at about 4 p.m.

MACHINE GUNS. Kept a brisk fire on our planes hovering over enemy lines; otherwise quiet. Guns were seen firing from positions between U.22.d.1.1. and U.22.d.9.1., and from a position at U.29.a.8.7. These places are under observation.

SNIPING. Active, but no casualties reported.

TRENCH MORTARS. 9 Light T.M. Bombs were thrown over into our line at U.28.c.5.3. at 6 p.m. from BULLICOURT.

BALLOONS. Bearings were taken on hostile balloons from C.10.b.5 $\frac{1}{2}$.c. as follows, 61° T., 69° T., 73° T., 48° T., 44° T., 30° T., 54° T., 28° T., 25° T.

MOVEMENT. The following parties were seen :- Groups of 3 or 5 men constantly around trench in U.17.c. - U.23 a b. (There is every indication that this trench is garrisoned.)

Party laying wire at U.23.b.0.5 $\frac{1}{2}$. This place was shelled by our artillery at 6 p.m.

Considerable movement throughout the day at U.12.c.5.3. and along road at U.6.b.

Earthwork is plainly visible between U.5.b.2.5., and U.5.b.9.7. where movement is observed.

At 5 a.m. two limbers were seen at U.11.d.9.1 $\frac{1}{2}$, and several more at 4.30 p.m.

A train was seen to leave QUANT in an easterly direction at 9 a.m.


Small parties seen entering and emerging from dug-outs in D.2.a.2.3.

An overhead wire can be seen running from U.12.c.5.3. towards LAGNICOURT, and the movement round this place suggests a headquarters.

MISCELLANEOUS. RELIEF : During the night of the 24/25th inst, the 25th Battalion and two companies of the 17th Battalion were relieved by the 8th Battalion of the 2nd A.I. Brigade in the Right Sector of the 2nd Divisional front.

At 4 a.m. the 5th A.I. Brigade Battle Dump was shelled, with the result that 8,000 No. 5 Mills Bombs are estimated destroyed. The exact number cannot be ascertained until the salvage work is completed.

5 a.m. Enemy observed signalling with a flash lamp in the rear of QUANT. The following group of letters was read " GUE-LAPPE BIITE "



Capt, Brigade Major

For G.O.C., 7th Australian Infantry Brigade.

CONFIDENTIAL7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY DIVISION

No. 7.

April 30th 1917.

TABLE OF INTELLIGENCE a.m. 25/4/17 to a.m. 2/5/17.OPERATIONS.

ARTILLERY. Our batteries resumed wire cutting operations today. The fire of our heavies was observed to be very accurate and effective. The wire in U.29.a. b. received special attention, and the strong points in U.29.b. were shelled with good results.

Working parties and targets in the rear were also engaged during the day.

AIRCRAFT. Our planes were normally active, and had the ascendancy of the air throughout the day. 13 were seen to cross the lines at 10.15 a.m. and disappear into Hunland, evidently engaged on a bombing raid.

MACHINE GUNS. Our M.G.s were busy during the night, preventing the enemy repairing his wire, and searching tracks and communications in rear of his lines. A wiring party of 20 was dispersed at U.29.c.1.14.

RIFLES. Sniping was brisk, but no casualties to the enemy reported. Our activity appears to have effectively neutralized enemy sniping, which was very quiet during the day.

PATROLS. Covering parties were patrolling in front of our cable burying parties. Two parties left the Cross Roads at C.5.b. and worked along the road until within fifty yards of enemy wire at U.29.b.7.5. From here one party worked to the left for 120 yards, and the other party 200 yards to the right. The wire was soon to be smashed, and heaped up by our shell fire, but owing to our artillery activity, patrols could not get close enough to ascertain whether the wire was passable for infantry. No other information was gathered in regard to the state of the wire. A working party was heard at U.29.a.5.6. and on the return of the patrol, M.G. fire was directed to the spot.

ENEMY ACTIVITIES.

ARTILLERY. Hostile shelling was below normal. A 7.5 battery was seen firing in the vicinity of U.11.b.94.6 and the shells were seen bursting in C.5.d. Four flashes from a 77 m/m battery were observed in vicinity of U.29.b.0.5 at 2 p.m. *TABLE OF SHELLING FORWARDED TO D.H.Q.*

TROUGH BOMBING. A still number of light T.I. bombs fell in our lines from the rear of BULLCOURT during the night. Small minnow-bombs were also thrown into our lines in C.4.b. and C.5.a. fitted with time fuses and bursting high. They appear to have come from direction of U.29.c.central.

MACHINE GUNS. Kept up a brisk fire on our planes as they went over enemy lines, but otherwise quiet. Machine guns were seen firing from U.29.b.5.9. and U.29.a.24.94. Position suspected in dugout at V.25.c.7.1.

AIRCRAFT. Only three planes were seen and two balloons.

- 2 -

MOVEMENT. The following parties were seen at work at 7.40 a.m. About 50 men working on main road in U.6.c.8. b. A light Railway is suspected here, as on several occasions men were seen to jump on trolleys and disappear from view in vicinity of U.6.b. At 7.45 a.m. fifteen men were apparently laying a cable in U.30.b. Party digging a trench in vicinity of U.10.d. central dispersed by our artillery fire. Five stretcher bearers were seen leaving a strong point in U.17.b.1.8. carrying a wounded man, and enter wood in U.11.d. About 200 men started working on wire in V.25.central, but dispersed before our artillery could be brought into action. Signs of trench being improved ~~at~~ at U.29.b. Excavating at D.1.c.6.8. Dugout timber was being carried to this place. 50 men working on wire between C.6.b.6.5. and D.1.c.3.2. were dispersed by our A.G. fire.

CALL SIGN. 7.5 a.m. a signal lamp was seen sending a series of dots and dashes from behind enemy lines. True bearing taken from C.10.b. 58.6 at 33 $\frac{1}{2}$ ° and the signalling station is suspected in a hill named MOULIN DANIELS at P.28.a.5.4. A sharp watch is being kept for any further messages.

Two loud explosions followed by dense clouds of smoke occurred in rear of church at BULLCOURT. One of our heavy (6" ?) batteries fired 10 or 12 shots into D.1.c. at about midnight 25/26th inst, and only one shell was heard to explode, the remainder being "duds" (or gas)

Location of a dump in roadside at U.6.b.0.5. is confirmed as transport can be seen continuously going to and from this place. Much movement round CHATEAU in U.12.c. as previously reported.

At dawn six of the enemy were seen to leave the tank at U.29.a.4 $\frac{1}{2}$.9 carrying what appeared to be a machine gun, were fired on and dispersed. Earth was being thrown up at C.6.b.7 $\frac{1}{2}$.2 $\frac{1}{2}$. There is a gap in the wire at D.1.c.3.5. and a track leading into MOULIN DANIELS.

Suspected H.Q. dugout at V.25.c.0.4. V.25.c.6.3., V.25.c.7 $\frac{1}{2}$.5. Officers (apparently) seen to enter and leave these places singly, and every now and again a man coming or going bearing despatch wallets or carrying papers.

At 5 p.m. about one Company of enemy were seen moving on road in U.1.c. towards FONTAINE LES CROISILLES. They carried two white flags.

The flares during the night were noticed to be more numerous around BULLCOURT than in other parts of this front, and are sent up from the rear of this village.

Howard Stannard
 Captain, Brigade Major,
 7th Australian Infantry Brigade.

CONFIDENTIAL

No. 8.

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

April 17th 1917.

SUMMARY OF INTELLIGENCE 6 a.m. 26/4/17 to 6 a.m. 27/4/17.OUR OPERATIONS.

ARTILLERY. Our Heavies and 18-pndrs resumed wire cutting operations, bombardment of BULLECOURT, HENDECOURT, and RIENCOURT and strong points & targets in rear of enemy lines during the day.

AIRCRAFT. Fairly active, directing artillery fire, and again had the ascendancy in the air.

MACHINE GUNS. Played on gaps in enemy wire throughout the night, preventing repairs being effected. The following roads and tracks were searched by indirect fire. U.22.c., U.23.b., main road through RIENCOURT.

PATROLS. Parties were sent out to cover wire cutting operations under 7th A.E. direction between U.30.a.45.20 and U.29.b.85.50. A wiring party was observed at work between the above points, and was dispersed by our M.G. fire. No hostile patrols were encountered.

WIRE CUTTING. Six "Bangalore Torpedoes" were successfully exploded in enemy wire between U.30.a.45.20, and U.29.b.85.50 under Engineer supervision during the night. The extent of the damage has not yet been ascertained.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

ARTILLERY. Below normal until 5 p.m. when our Support area was rather heavily shelled for about three quarters of an hour.

AIRCRAFT. Only six planes seen during the day which did not penetrate our area.

MACHINE GUNS. Were busy firing on our planes whenever they ventured across the line. A gun was seen at U.29.a.1 $\frac{1}{2}$.7, and two positions are suspected just to the right of this point. Otherwise quiet.

TRENCH MORTARS. At 5.30 a.m. four light bombs were dropped in our lines from rear of BULLECOURT.

MOVEMENT. At 5.15 a.m. a party repairing wire at U.30.a. was dispersed by M.G. fire. 8.40 a.m. party of 30 working on trench at U.30 a. was also dispersed. Party of approx. 40 carrying timber along road near dump in U.6.b. 10.47 a.m. two wagons each drawn by six horses seen on main road in U.6.b. c. c. and later on HENDECOURT - RIENCOURT road - were shelled by our heavies and one wagon destroyed. Large parties and transport continually seen in vicinity of CHATEAU and the road just in rear of U.11.d., U.12.c. Suspected H.Q. at U.25.b.8.0 $\frac{1}{2}$

SIGNALS. At 10 p.m. two red stars from a rocket brought down a light barrage of T.M.'s and 77 m/m H.E. and shrapnel just ahead of our front line.

At 10.40 p.m. two sets of ten stars each were sent up from RIENCOURT, and two searchlights well in rear of this village searched the sky for our planes.

5.15 p.m. 15 pigeons seen flying over our lines in direction of enemy.

[Signature] Lieut.
For G.O.C., 7th Australian Infantry Brigade.

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No. 9.

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

April 28th 1917.

SUMMARY OF INTELLIGENCE 6 a.m. 27/4/17 to 6 a.m. 28/4/17.

OUR OPERATIONS:

ARTILLERY. Resumed wire cutting operations according to program. The villages of BULLECOURT, HENDICOURT, and RIENCOURT were heavily shelled, also the strong points in U.23.a. & b., At 11 a.m. a barrage of smoke or gas, and shrapnel was placed in vicinity of U.21.d.5.4 and at the same time enemy sent up a red signal. No action followed. Weather hazy

AIRCRAFT. Fairly active, and had the air to themselves. Were chiefly engaged directing our artillery fire.

SNIPERS. Accounted for one of the enemy.

MACHINE GUNS. All available guns were busy firing on gaps in enemy wire at irregular intervals throughout the night to prevent repairs being effected.

PATROLS. Battalion scouts proceeded to examine wire at U.29.a.5.7. Here they observed a party of between 30 and 40 men working on a 300 yard front covered by machine guns and a light trench mortar barrage. All along this sector the wire was badly smashed about, and the enemy could be seen driving in fresh stakes. There appeared to be places freshly wired. M.Gs have been kept busy on this point.

In our Left sector one party arrived at the wire at U.29.a.8.5. where gaps could be plainly seen.

A second party arrived at the wire at U.29.a.0.8. Gaps could be distinctly seen here from ten to twenty yards wide.

A third party worked along from U.28.a.8.3. to U.28.c.2.8. The first 150 yards was well cut, and the remaining 150 yards were fairly intact.

Enemy used flares rather freely, but no hostile patrols were encountered.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

ARTILLERY normal.

AIRCRAFT. Four planes were seen flying very high. Balloons were observed from O.P. at G.5.a.3.3. T.B. 26° 17'

MACHINE GUNS. Kept a brisk fire on our planes, otherwise quiet. A position is suspected at U.22.b.6.1. An Officer was observed using a range finder at this point, and closely observing field of fire in direction of U.29.a.

TRENCH MORTARS. Six light bombs fell in our Left sector from direction of U.22.c.

SNIPING Nil.

MOVEMENT. 8.10 a.m. to 12 noon movement was continuous around previously reported dump on road at U.6.b.5.0.

6.15 a.m. 100 men approx, were working on road at U.6.b.8.3.

8.10 a.m. a covered transport wagon drawn by two horses and several parties of men were moving about at this point. No action has been taken by our artillery in this

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vicinity, and an early morning strafe should be very effective. Movement was observed around CHATEAU in U.11.d. and U.12.c. all day.

8.30 a.m. small parties in fatigue dress were noticed leaving BULLECOURT by the road running through U.22.c.3.4. 4 men in pairs were laying wire between dugouts at U.17.c.6.4. and U.23.b.4.6. both of which places are suspected of being Headquarters.

Considerable movement can be seen in enemy front line in our sector just after daybreak.

MISCELLANEOUS. A dugout is evidently in course of construction at D.1.b.4.5. as timber is being constantly brought to this spot. No enemy action was observed to follow our discharge of Gas on QUEMANT at 1 a.m.

A shell fell into 5th Brigade Battle Dump during the night and exploded some ammunition. Extent of damage not yet ascertained.

9.30 p.m. two searchlights were working well in rear of enemy lines at T.B. 50, 50, from O.P. C.9.d.7.7.

At 3.30 a.m. when a light barrage descended on our Left sector, enemy sent up two red cluster flares and barrage switched off our sector to West of BULLECOURT.

at 3 p.m. a pigeon crossed the lines in direction of the enemy. No further particulars of its flight can be gathered owing to dull weather.

At 6.25 p.m. a flash lamp was seen in action in P.23 but message could not be deciphered.

W. Hancock-Smith
Capt 1-

Lieut.

For G.O.C., 7th Australian Infantry Bde.

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No. 10.

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

April 29th 1917.

SUMMARY OF INTELLIGENCE 6 a.m. 28/4/17 to 6 a.m. 29/4/17.

OUR OPERATIONS.

ARTILLERY. Our heavies did not devote themselves to wire cutting to the usual extent today, giving more attention to the demolition of strong points in U.27.b., C.6.b., and D.1.c. and a., and bombardment of BULLECOURT, HENE COURT, and RIENCOURT, which was carried out to good effect.

Direct hits were observed on several of the above positions.

At noon a heavy smoke barrage was placed along enemy front line between U.22.d. and U.25. ., leaving the line under heavy smoke for several minutes.

11.15 a.m. one of our shells set fire to a building in RIENCOURT, and about ten minutes later an explosion occurred completely demolishing same.

Another shell caused an explosion close to this spot at 3.50 p.m.

AIRCRAFT. Very active all day, and had complete ascendancy.

MACHINE GUNS. Indirect fire was brought to bear on the following targets, at irregular intervals during the night, Cross Roads, V.25.b., c., D.1.b.2.3. to D.1.d.7.2. Direct fire was placed on all gaps in enemy wire, and patrols report that fire was accurate and effective, as no wiring parties were seen during their patrol.

PATROLS. Our Right Battalion front was constantly patrolled and an examination of the wire elicited the following information: Six torpedoes had been successfully blown in wire between Road at U.29.b.7.3. and U.30.a.5.2., at intervals as follows, from the latter point - 50 yards, 90 yards, 280 yards, 290 yards, 305 yards, 330 yards. Wire has been well cut where torpedoes exploded to a depth of twenty feet. Small parties could easily go through these gaps. Generally speaking the wire is fairly well cut in our right sector, but troops could not pass through in a line. The men would have to pick their way through it. Patrol leaders state that 2 1/2 hours should be allowed for a thorough inspection.

GAS. Gas bombs were discharged into U.22.c. from the Brigade on our Left at 1 a.m. this morning, and at 10 p.m. asphyxiating shells were sent into RIENCOURT.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

ARTILLERY. Below normal during the day. At 2 a.m. heavy barrage was placed on our front line, evidently in retaliation for our gas attack earlier. Details of this barrage are being collected and will be forwarded to those concerned later.

BATTERIES. A 4.2 gun was seen firing on 85° T.B. from C.10.b.5 1/2.6. The shells burst on main road to LONGATTE in C.9.a. Several guns were observed in action on a magnetic bearing of 350 degrees from C.10.a.6.4. .

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AIRCRAFT. Only two planes were seen which did not penetrate our area. Balloons were observed on T.B. 59°, 68°, 48°, 33½°, 36°, taken from C.10, 5.5.6.

MACHINE GUNS. Active on anti-aircraft work, otherwise quiet.

MOVEMENT. 8.45 a.m. parties aggregating approx. 100 working on road through U.1.c. and d.
12.10 p.m. Continuous movement round CHATEAU in U.12.c.1.2. A small house or large dump covered with green camouflage can be seen here.

A strongpoint appears to be under construction at U.29.a.5.7.

7.45 p.m. Smoke of a train seen in rear of QUEANT.

2 p.m. A Party of 9 men carrying wire dumped same at U.30.b.2.1.

Small parties were seen leaving front line U.28.a.3.4. at day break and proceed across country in direction of HIND COURT.

There is occasional movement on road at U.2.d.4.5. from 7 a.m.

PIGEONS. Two were seen hovering ^{over} CHATEAU in U.12.c. at 5.30 p.m. and a little later another one crossed BULLECOURT in the same direction. Owing to dull weather further particulars of the flight are not forthcoming.

9.15 a.m. a pigeon rose from the ground at C.10.c. and flew across the lines in the same general direction, but flight was too erratic to give definite direction.

J. W. W.
Lieut.
For C.C.C., 7th Australian Infantry Brigade.

[Faint, mostly illegible text from the reverse side of the page, including phrases like "Below normal during the day", "The shells burst in front of CHATEAU", and "Several times were observed in rear of QUEANT"]



No. 11.

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

April 30th 1917.

SUMMARY OF INTELLIGENCE 6 a.m. 29/4/17 to 6 a.m. 30/4/17.OUR OPERATIONS.

ARTILLERY. Resumed wire cutting operations and bombardment of villages. The fire of our heavies was observed to be somewhat erratic and a large number of rounds fell short of the wire. At about 1.15 p.m. while our 18-pdrs were shelling HENDICOURT, a number of premature bursts occurred in C.A.B. The CHATEAU in U.19.e. was shelled and strong points in U.25.b. and d. with good effect, and a working party of 12 was scattered in U.6.b.

AIRCRAFT. Very active, carrying out reconnaissance and directing our artillery fire. One of our planes was brought down by A.A. fire in U.6.e. A second one was forced to land between QUEANT and PRONVILLE as a result of an airfight, and a third believed to be hours descended in flames near QUEANT.

PATROLS. The wire was examined between the road U.29.b.7.5 and road U.29.a.9.4. and although cut in places, troops could only get through with difficulty. From U.29.b.7.5 to U.29.b.5.5. the wire is almost intact. U.29.c.2.8. to U.27.d.9.9. easily passable for infantry, and no second line was seen between these points.

At U.29.c.2.8. patrol attempted to get a closer view of what they thought was some uncut wire, when bombs were thrown at them from a suspected strong point, and they were fired upon. The party then retired and waited, and shortly a covering party of 3 followed by a party of six men advanced from behind this strong point. They were immediately bombed by our men and retired at the double, throwing bombs at random. One of the enemy party was hit. Our patrol then moved along to the Sunken Road at U.28.a.7.2. and did not discover any two rows of wire. Owing to delay and high visibility no further inspection was possible.

MACHINE GUNS. were busy firing at irregular intervals throughout the night on gaps in enemy wire. A working party of twelve were dispersed at U.30.b.2.9. Targets were engaged by indirect fire as follows :- Road V.25.c.4.0 to V.25.b.7.0. - Road D.1.b.2.5 to D.1.d.7.0.

ENEMY ACTIVITIES.

ARTILLERY. Below normal.

AIRCRAFT. 5 a.m. an enemy plane crossed our lines and dropped white and red signals.

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5.30 a.m. a plane dropped seven white signals over our line. No action followed in either case.

7 a.m. An enemy plane crossed our lines and was engaged by our A.A. and I.Gs. Three of our planes came over later and hovered just above this plane, but did not take any action.

MACHINE GUNS. Very quiet except when engaged on A.A. work. A I.G. is suspected in tank at U.29.a.4.7 but is not active.

MOVEMENT. 8.30 a.m. party of 30 seen moving on road U.6.c.1.d. 5 p.m. a G.S. wagon drawn by four horses observed in vicinity of U.6.b.5.0. and later 15 men were seen to unload timber from same, which then moved off in a N.E. direction. Movement is occasionally seen in building in U.28.a.2.8 which is suspected of being a T.M. position.

7 a.m. 20 Huns were seen laying wire in vicinity of U.12.c.3.7.

3 p.m. Our artillery scattered a party of infantry in D.1.d.

7.15 a.m. 14 men were working on a trench in vicinity of D.8.c.5.1. A T.M. was seen firing at this point. One of the men was seen to get over parapet and put a red flag in front of T.M.

PATROLS. A hostile patrol was dispersed at U.22.d.6.3. by our I.G. fire.

ILLUMINATIONS. Throughout the night enemy swept our territory with searchlights from rear of BULLCOURT and RINCOURT at about half hourly intervals.

A patrol proceeding along Sunken Road U.28.d. was fired on by I.G. from BULLCOURT, which hampered their movement. They report that the wire in U.28.b. is easily passable for Infantry. No sounds were heard from enemy front line.

Waver
For S.O.C., 7th Australian Infantry Brigade.

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WAR DIARY.

CASUALTIES FOR MONTH APRIL 1917.

Unit.	Killed.	Wounded.	Missing.
25th Bn.	9 O/rks	4 - 99	-
26th Bn.	2 "	1 - 58	-
27th Bn.	3 "	- 22	1 O/rk.
28th Bn.	2 "	2 - 19	-
M. Gun Coy.	-	4	-
Total	16 "	7 - 202	1

REINFORCEMENTS ARRIVED DURING MONTH APRIL 1917.

25th Bn.	7 Off.	128 O/Rks.
26th Bn.	1 "	31 "
27th Bn.	-	180 "
28th Bn.	5 "	77 "
M. Gun Coy.	-	4 "
	13 "	420 "