

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

Artillery

**Item number:** 13/39/18

**Title:** Headquarters, 12th Australian Field  
Artillery Brigade

October 1917



AWM4-13/39/18



# WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118

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

## or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
October	1st - 3rd.		Batteries remained in Battery positions in the Line, moving to Wagen Lines on the 3rd. inst.	
	4th.		The Brigadier moved at 8.30 a.m. from OUDERDOM Area to OUDEZEELE are en route to LA MOTTE Rest Area At OUDEZEELE at 2.30p.m. arrived and billeted there for the night.	
	5th.		Continued the march to LA MOTTE Area at 8.30a.m. arriving at SEC BOIS at 3.30p.m. Brigade Billeted in village of SEC BOIS and surrounding farms.	
	6th. -15th.		Brigade remained in rest at SEC BOIS. Advantage was taken of this period to re-equip the Batteries and B.A.C. Cleashing and training were energetically carried out. Sports of various kinds were carried out 38 Reinforcements marched in on the 15th. and were taken on strength.	
	16th.		Brig. Gen. W.A. COXEN D.S.O., G.O.C.R.A. 1st. ANZAC and Brig. Gen. CARRUTHERS D.A.Q.M.G. 1st. ANZAC visited the Brigade and inspected the Batteries and B.A.C.	
	17th.		The C.O. visited the G.O.C.R.A. X Corps as arranged by X Corps. This Brigade has been attached to X Corps for tactical purposes. A movement order was received from X Corps R.A.	
	18th.		The Brigade moved from the LA MOTTE Rest Area to the WESTOUTRE Area under orders from X Corps, and camped on open ground in lines about 800yds S.E. of RHENINGHELST (near Windmill). The Brigade moved from LA MOTTE Area at 8a.m. arriving at new lines at 4p.m. The Route allotted by X Corps viz-STRAZEELE-FLETRE-BERTHEN-WESTOYTRE proved to be a most unsuitable one, the roads being in bad condition, and severable bad hills had to be negotiated. 46th, 47th, 112th, Batteries and B.A.C., took the route BAILLEUL LOCHRE-WESTOYTRE, that being a more practicable one.	



# WAR DIARY

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## or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
October	19th.		In Wagen Lines near RHEMINGHELST, enemy aircraft bombed the camp during the night. Casualties 5 O.R. killed and 4 O.R. wounded?	
	20th.		Nothing to report.	
	21st.		The camp was bombed by enemy aircraft. One man was wounded 2 horses killed and 4 horses wounded.	
	22nd.		Nothing to report.	
	23rd.		The CO and Battery Commanders reported to C.R.A. 5th. Div. R.F.A. and went forward and inspected battery positions which this brigade is to occupy on the 24th. inst.	
	24th.		The batteries relieved batteries (in situ) of 103rd/ Brigade R.F.A. taking over guns in the position. The weather has been very unsettled and the country is now very difficult to move over.	
	25th.		The C.O. (Lieut. Col. R.L.R. RABBIT C.M.G.) accompanied by Lieut. E.C. FOSTER M.C. and 2 telephonists went forward to 91st. Brigade H.Q. and assumed duty as senior Liaison Officer. <i>Hedge Street</i>	
	26th - 31st.		Brigade Wagen Lines were moved from near RHEMINGHELST to Wagen Lines being evacuated by the 103rd. Brigade R.F.A. between LA CLYTTE and DICKEBUSCH. Wagen Lines remained between LA CLYTTE and DICKEBUSCH. The C.O. was relieved of duty as Liaison Officer and returned to Wagen Lines on the 30th. inst. Separate War Diaries were kept by Batteries for the period 24th. to 31st. inclusive and are attached. Copies of letters received by the C.O. from the Batteries are also attached.	
			CASUALTIES during the month 9 killed 32 wounded.	

*Ernest Raymond ... Lieut. Col.*

ARMY BRIGADE AUSTRALIAN FIELD ARTILLERY  
 Commanding, 12th. ARMY BRIGADE AUSTRALIAN FIELD ARTILLERY.



WAR DIARY 45th. Battery for October 23rd. - 31st.

- 16
- October 23rd. Battery Commander and one Officer went forward under orders from 5th. D.A. R.F.A. and reconnoitred Battery Positions returning to Wagon Lines on completion.
- 24th. The Battery relieved A/103 R.F.A. Battery Guns (in situ) Relief completed at 2p.m. The Battery position (I. 29 b. 85.39 south of FOSSE WOOD) was very muddy. Splinter-proof shelters had been erected at Guns to accommodate 1 Officer and 20 men. The remainder of the Battery were in "Pillboxes" 500 yards to Right Flank. There were 5 Guns in position all in action but very dirty. Observation Post was selected at I. 30 b. 5.6 (Observatory Ridge)
- 25th. The Battery registered its Zero Line firing 71 rounds. At 11.30 a.m. the battery fired in conjunction with Army Barrage firing 140 rounds, At 5p.m. 90 rounds Harassing Fire were fired. The Battery Wagon Lines were moved to a position between LA CLYTTE and DICKEBUSCH. The Horse Standing was very bad and accommodation for men poor.
- 26th. At 5.40a.m. the Battery opened fire on a Barrage covering an Infantry attack by the 7th. Division on LEWIS HOUSE and the country near GHELUVELT south of the MENIN ROAD. Owing to unfavourable weather conditions and the bad state of the ground these operations were not successful. The Battery fired 2100 rounds during the operation. Casualties 1 Man wounded. The Battery carried out a complete relief of the Gun's crews during the day.
- 27th. The Battery fired 100 rounds (registration) from 10 p.m. to 8 a.m. 28th. instant. The Battery fired 430 rounds Harassing fire on roads of communication. Casualties 4 O.Rs. wounded. A good deal of work was put in improving the Battery position. ~~XX~~
- 28th. At 8.24p.m. the Battery fired 67 rounds in response to S.O.S. Signals.
- 29th. Battery fired 309 rounds in conjunction with Army Barrage and 60 rounds Harassing fire at night.
- 30th. The Battery fired 413 rounds in conjunction with Army Barrage. The draining and improving of the Battery position was continued. Casualties 2 o.Rs. wounded.
- 31st. Battery fired 323 rounds in conjunction with Army Barrage and 32 rounds Harassing Fire at night.

(sd) L. RICKARD Capt.  
O.C. 45th. Battery



WAR DIARY FOR THE 46 TH. BATTERY FOR OCTOBER  
from 23rd. to 31st. inclusive.

October

XXXXXXXXXXXX

- 23rd. 8a.m. Preceeded with the C.O. of the Brigade and other Battery Commanders from Wagen Lines at RENINGHELST to 5th. D.A.H.Q.(English) at BURGOMASTER FARM nr.DICKEBUSCH Orders were recieved from C.R.A. that the battery would take over a position in I.24 c. 25.50 (ZILLEBEKE TRENCH MAP) from B/103rd. Bde. R.F.A. Relief to be complete by afternoon of 24th. inst. Guns to be taken over in situ. Map Beards etc. also to be handed over.
- 11a.m. Preceeded on reconnaissance of Battery position. Party from battery consisted of MAJOR, CAMPBELL  
Lt. BARRACLOUGH  
Sgt. WALKER  
2 Horse Holders
- Party was guided from Group Headquarters BEDFORD HOUSE to Battery position which was inspected and arrangements made for taking over.  
2 Guns of B/103rd. R.F.A. were in action 4 others were at the I.O.M's.
- 9p.m. Recieved 5th. Divisional Artillery Order No.140 re relief which stated inter alia that 7th. Div? would take over the Group at 10a.m. 24th. inst also that where possible relieving batteries of 6th. & 12th. Aust. Army Brigades would where possible bring in guns to positions they were relieving to complete up to 6 guns.
- 24th. 8.30a.m. Party in charge of Lieut. BARRACLOUGH with 4 guns preceeded from Wagen Lines at RENINGHELST to Battery position via DICKEBUSCH. Party consisted of 2 Centre Section detachments and limber gunners from other subsections, Sgt WALKER and 6 telephenists etc. The Party reached the position and the guns were left on the road nearby and were later manhandled into the vacant pits, this occasioned a great deal of work and time on account of the mud and shell craters the guns having to be run on planks and ~~improvised~~ Bridges.
- 2p.m. Relief duly completed and reported to the Group. The Ammunition taken over was mostly buried and covered in Mud and had to be cleaned and get ready to use. Battery Headquarters was established ~~xxxxxxx~~ in a sap under road on OBSERVATORY RIDGE.
- 25th. 11a.m. Corps Barrage was laid down in 7th. Divisional instructions (Fired only 2 guns). Expended.
- 11.45a.m. Registered 4 guns brought in yesterday and re-registered 2 guns already in action. Zero Point GHELUVELT HILL J.22 d. 10.35 ZILLEBEKE Trench Map.
- 3p.m. Corps Barrage D as p.8 7th. Divisional Instruction for operations.
- 6p.m. Personnel of 4guns including limber gunners already here arrived and took over
- 5p.m. S.O.S. from 5p.m. given two guns.
- 26th. 5.40a.m. Barrage as per barrage map attached to 7th Division instructions for operation No.14 under which infantry attack. At 210 minutes after Zero 46th. Battery was superimposed over whole group zone (Group Order No. C/75) till 360 minutes after ZERO.
- 12.20p.m. Battery put on protective barrage of 1/2 round a gun a minute by order from Group on Line J.21 d. 45.30 to J 22 c. 80.15.
- 12.40p.m. New S.O.S. Line from Group
- 2.40p.m. New S.O.S. cancelled. Telephone message from Group and following substituted J 22 c. 55.55 to J 21 d. 90.35
- 5p.m. to 5.30p.m. S.O.S. in response to signal confirmed later by phone from Group.
- 6.15p.m. S.O.S. Lines cancelled by Group Adjutant and following substituted J 22 c. 70.10 to J 22 b. 10.80
- 6.20p.m. Above Line cancelled by order from Group Adjutant and following substituted J 22 b. 70.10 to J 22 d. 10.80



October 26

10.14p.m. S.O.S. Line cancelled by order from Group Adjutant and following substituted J 22 b. 20.25 to J 22 c.90.90

~~XXXXXX~~

10.33 1/2p.m. Above cancelled and previous line ordered at 10.14p.m substituted.

10.14p.m. 7th. Divisional Instructions No.15 received 10.14p.m.

10.15p.m. Cancelled by order from Group Adjutant.

27th. 12.30a.m. to 5a.m.;

Harassing fire as per group Order No. C/9 on roads running N.E. from GHELUVELT. 20 rds. Per Gun.

2.33p.m. New S.O.S. Line received fby phone from Group Adjutant viz. J 22 a. 90.15 to J 22 a. 65.00.

28th. 5:30a.m. Army Barrage as per group Memo to 7th. Divisional ~~xxx~~ instructions No.16

Barrage as follows:-

Zero + 3	S.O.S. Line	+100
+ 3 to 6	"	+200
6 to 9	"	+300
9 to 12	"	+400
12 to 15	"	+500
15 to 18	"	+200
18 to 21	"	+300
21 to 24	"	+400
24 to 27	"	+500
27 to 30	"	+600
30 to 33	"	+100

At + 33 cease fire

Ammunition 75% A 25%AX

Rate:- 2rds per gun per minute

6p.m. S.O.S. Lines changed by phone message from Group Adjutant & following substituted:-

J 22 c. 45.90 to J 22 a. 80.25

Battery was subjected to heavy bombardment by 21 c.m. H.E.

8.31p.m.) on

8.46p.m.) S.O.S. Order by phone from Group.

29th. 5:15a.m. Army Barrage as 7th? Divisional Instruction Group Memo thereon. Barrage as follows:-

Zero to +3 S.O.S. Lines

3 to +6 } Makes 6 lifts forward at the rate of 100  
+30 } plus every three minutes and then three lifts back at the same rate.

At + 30 fire ceased.

Ammunition :- 75% A 25%AX rate :- 2 rds. per gun per minute.

9.35p.m. to 9.41 p.m. Group Order No? C/16 bursts of fire on S.O.S. Lines 4 rounds per gun.

30th. 1a.m. to 7a.m. Harassing fire as per Group C/15 ~~xxxxxxx(x)~~

TARGET (a) Road Junction J.23 d.

(b) Activity centre J. 23 c. 20.50

(c) Road running N.E. from GHELUVELT

30 rds per gun.

5.45a.m. Corps Barrage as per Group No. Q305 & Q 305/1 & 39th Div. Arty instructions No.13

Barrage:- ZERO to + 6 S.O.S. Lines

+6 to +22 Creep forward 400yds.  
by lifts of 100 every 4'

+22 to +34 Creep forward another 600yds  
by lifts of 100 every 2'

+34 to +40 Jump back to 200 east of starting line

+ 45 STOP.

All lifts due E and W

Rate:- 2 rds. per gun per Minute.

11a.m. to 3.15p.m. Harassing fire as per group No.C/15. 4rds per gun on each targets

(A) (B) & (C)

9a.m. to 1p.m. As above.



## APPENDIX

16  
October 31st.

5.30a.m.

Army Barrage as per Group No. Q.308 and 39th.  
Divisional instructions no. 14

Barrage:- Zero; to +6 S.O.S. Lines.

+6 to +30 Creep by lifts of  $\approx 100$  yds. every 3 minutes.

+30 jump back to starting line

+33 cease fire.

Lifts due East and West

AMMUNITION:- 75%A 25% AX

RATE:- 2 rds per Gun per minute.

7a.m. to 11a.m. Harassing fire as per group No.C/15 Targets

(A) (B) & (C)

4rds per Gun on each.

3p.m. to 7p.m. 4rds per gun on each.

sd

E. CAMPBELL Major  
O.C. 46th. Battery



## WAR DIARY FOR THE 47th. BATTERY

- October 1st. S.O.S. 6a.m. to 7.30a.m. also from 8.50a.m. to 9.35a.m.  
Four detachments withdrawn to Wagen Lines relieved by  
52nd. Battery R.F.A.
- " " S.O.S. 7.15p.m. to 8.15p.m., Bombardment Barrage 8.15p.m.  
to 9p.m. S.O.S. 9.20p.m. to 9.50p.m.  
Fired 1500 rounds from 7.15p.m. to 9.55p.m.
- " 2nd. S.O.S. 11.30p.m. to 12.30p.m.  
Two remaining detachments returned to Wagen Lines this  
afternoon. O.C. 47th. still in command.  
S.O.S. 7.30p.m. to 8p.m.  
O.C. 47th. handed over to O.C. 52nd. Battery R.F.A. and ~~is~~  
left.
- Oct. 3rd. to 22nd. War Diary for 47th. Battery kept by B.H.Q.  
inclusive
- October 23rd. O.C. accompanied by one Officer went forward to see the  
position preparatory to taking over.
- " 24th. Two detachments moved up and took over two guns of A/103  
Brigade R.F.A. The remaining Guns (three) were out of  
action, two being badly damaged.
- " 25th. The O.C. went to an O.P. to register the guns in the  
afternoon, both guns being then cleaned of mud and ready  
to fire. Fired 50 A.
- " 26th. At 5.40a.m. in accordance with 7th. Divisional Artillery ~~XX~~  
Orders the Battery commenced firing.) At 10:15 S.O.S. ~~XX~~  
came through and lasted until 11.20a.m. Stop firing  
came through at 3.30p.m. Fired 975A. & 325AX.
- " 27th. Army Barraged at 5.20 until 5.53a.m. Fired 50A & 16AX  
At 2p.m. the group Commander gave the O.C. orders to pull  
out. Got a third gun ready to fire.
- " 28th. Withdrew personnel to Wagen Lines leaving a guard on the  
Guns.
- Oct. 29-31st. War Diary for 47th. Battery contained in the Brigade War  
inclusive Diary.

(sd) F.G. LLOYD Capt.  
47th. Battery



WAR DIARY OF 112th. DOWITZER BATTERY. FOR OCTOBER 23rd. - 31st.

- 16
- Ocober 23rd. The Battery Commander was ordered to proceed to 5th; Div. Arty Headquarters and thence to Group Commanders. The Battery came under orders of C.O. "C" Group whose H.Q. were at BEDFORD HOUSE I. 26 a. 9.4 Sheet 28 immediately ~~xx~~ west of MAPLE COPSE.
- 24th. Battery relieved D 103 Battery R.F.A. at 12 noon. The state of the Howitzers was very bad and no care had ~~xxxx~~ been taken of them or the position. 4 hours were spent trying to get the Howitzers in working order taking 2 hours to open the breech of one. Battery came under orders of 7th. Div. Arty at noon. Battery fired in conjunction with Corps Barrage at 3 p.m.
- 25th. Ammunition carrying and pits being improved. Cleaning of Howitzers etc. Battery fired in conjunction with Corps Barrage ~~X~~ at 8 a.m.. Harassing Fire at nights. 12.30p.m. to 7 a.m.
- 26th. An attack by the Infantry on GHELUVELT, PLODERHOEK CHATEAU etc, was commenced at 5.40a.m. the battery firing Barrage in accordance with instructions. Day Cold and Raining, going on ground very heavy and slippery. Barraged Table carried out till 10.12a.m. when Hows. were ordered on to S.O.S. Lines just N.E. of GHELUVELT. This was kept up at a slow rate of fire until about 2.20p.m. in the afternoon when Bursts of Fire were ordered at irregular intervals. S.O.S. Lines changed again to closer in on old front Line.
- 27th. Fairly quiet all day; Enemy shelling indiscriminately over Areas.  
Night Firing and Harassing Fire.
- 28th. Battery position shelled with Gas during the day and at night.
- 29th. Morning Barrage and Harassing fire at night.
- 30th. Morning Barr. and Harassing Fire at night.
- 31st. Fairly quiet except on right of MAPLE COPSE.

(sd) E.W. RICHARDS Major.  
O.C. 112th. Battery



"A" GROUP, 5th AUS. DIV. ARTY.

OPERATION ORDER NO. 6.

- B Y -

LIEUT. COL.. R. L. R. RABETT. C. M. G.

COMMANDING

Headquarters  
1st October 1917

S E C R E T

1. S.O.S. Line in O.O. No.1 para. 3 of 28/9/17 is cancelled, and the following substituted :-

J.16. b. 00.87 - J.10. c. 90;10 - J.10. d. 72.60 -  
J.10. b. 70.00 - J. 4. d. 80.00 - J. 4. d. 80.85.

This Line will be the Starting Point in the SECOND BOMBARDMENT Barrage (O.O.No.5) at 8.15 tonight 1/10/17.

2. Harrassing Fire on Roads, Tracks, and selected Points for period ending 6 p.m. 2/10/17 will be carried by -  
D/1, D/2, D/3, and B/3 Batteries, within the Frontages of their S.O.S. Lanes ; special attention being given to the following additional Targets :-

Battalion H. Qrs. at J.11. c. 12.50, and J.11. c. 30.40.  
Machine Gun Positions at J.11. a. 30.10, J.11. a. 28.15,  
J.11. a. 03.36, J.11. c. 77.88, J.11. c. 79.88 and J.5.c.12.78.

3. Ammunition to be expended on Harrassing Fire :-

50 Rounds per Gun by Night  
25 " " " " Day.

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

*Guy Raymond*  
.....Lieut.

Adjutant, "A" Group, 5th AUS. DIV. ARTY.

Distribution :-

Copy No.	1	File
	223	War Diary
	4	7th Battery
	5	8th "
	6	9th "
	7	103rd "
	8	16th "
	9	17th "
	10	18th "
	11	106th "
	12	45th "
	23th	46th "
	14	47th "
	15	C/E "
	16	5th AUS. DIV. ARTY.
	17	D/1 Battery
	18	D/2 "
	19	D/3 "
	20	D/4 "
	21	110th Inf. Bde.
	22	22nd Inf Bde.
	23	"B" Group Arty.
	24	R.A. X. Corps.



16

"A" GROUP, 5th AUS. DIV. ARTY.

OPERATION ORDER NO. 7.

- B Y -

LIEUT. COL. R. L. R. RABETT C. M. G.

COMMANDING

Headquarters  
1st October 1917

S E C R E T

1. There will be two bombardment Barrages on Monday 2nd inst. over the X Corps Front.
2. RABETT's Group Batteries will fire on the Group Front.
3. There will be three simultaneous Barrages in each Bombardment.
4. Lines of Fire will be as allotted in S.O.S. Lanes.

5. FIRST BOMBARDMENT.

Time of commencement 5.45 a.m.

6. "A" BARRAGE by A/1, A/2, A/3, B/1, B/2, C/1, C/2, and C/3 Batteries.  
 "B" BARRAGE by B/3, D/1, D/2, and D/3 Batteries.  
 "C" BARRAGE by A/4, B/4; and D/4 Batteries.

7. BARRAGES.

"A"		S.O.S.	Range	+	Yards
Zero	to Zero + 3.	" "	" "	+	500
+ 3.	to + 6	" "	" "	+	500
+ 6	to + 9	" "	" "	+	400
+ 9	to + 24	" "	" "	+	300
+ 24	to + 27	" "	" "	+	400
+ 27	to + 30	" "	" "	+	500
+ 30	to + 33	" "	" "	+	600
+ 33	to + 36	" "	" "	+	700

"B"		S.O.S.	Range	+	Yards
Zero	to Zero + 3.	" "	" "	+	700
+ 3	to + 6	" "	" "	+	500
+ 6	to + 9	" "	" "	+	500
+ 9	to + 24	" "	" "	+	400
+ 24	to + 27	" "	" "	+	500
+ 27	to + 30	" "	" "	+	600
+ 30	to + 33	" "	" "	+	700
+ 33	to + 36	" "	" "	+	800

"C"  
Times and Lifts as for "B" .

8. SECOND BOMBARDMENT.

Time of commencement. 2.30 p.m.

9. "A" Same Batteries as for "A" in FIRST BOMBARDMENT.  
 "B" " " " " "B" " " "  
 "C" " " " " "C" " " "

(over)



10.

BARRAGES.

"A"		S.O.S. Range	
Zero to	Zero + 3		+ 200
+ 3 to	+ 6	" " "	+ 300
+ 6 to	+ 9	" " "	+ 400
+ 9 to	+ 12	" " "	+ 500
+ 12 to	+ 15	" " "	+ 600
+ 15 to	+ 18	" " "	+ 700
+ 18 to	+ 21	" " "	+ 800
+ 21 to	+ 24	" " "	+ 700
+ 24 to	+ 27	" " "	+ 600
+ 27 to	+ 30	" " "	+ 500
+ 30 to	+ 33	" " "	+ 400
+ 33 to	+ 36	" " "	+ 300

"B"		S.O.S. Range	
Zero to	Zero + 3.		+ 300
+ 3 to	+ 6	" " "	+ 400
+ 6 to	+ 9	" " "	+ 500
+ 9 to	+ 12	" " "	+ 600
+ 12 to	+ 15	" " "	+ 700
+ 15 to	+ 18	" " "	+ 800
+ 18 to	+ 21	" " "	+ 900
+ 21 to	+ 24	" " "	+ 800
+ 24 to	+ 27	" " "	+ 700
+ 27 to	+ 30	" " "	+ 600
+ 30 to	+ 33	" " "	+ 500
+ 33 to	+ 36	" " "	+ 400

"C"		S.O.S. Range	
Zero to	Zero + 3.		+ 900
+ 3 to	+ 6	" " "	+ 800
+ 6 to	+ 9	" " "	+ 700
+ 9 to	+ 12	" " "	+ 600
+ 12 to	+ 15	" " "	+ 500
+ 15 to	+ 24	" " "	+ 400
+ 24 to	+ 27	" " "	+ 500
+ 27 to	+ 30	" " "	+ 600
+ 30 to	+ 33	" " "	+ 700
+ 33 to	+ 36	" " "	+ 800

11. RATES OF FIRE :-

18-pdrs. and 4.5 Hows.

1 Round per Gun per minute.

12.

Watches will be synchronised by telephone, if possible, as under :-

A/ Batteries	3.30 a.m.
B/ Batteries	4.00 a.m.
C/ Batteries	4.30 a.m.
D/ Batteries	5.00 a.m.

and all Batteries at 1 p.m.

13..

ACKNOWLEDGE.

*G. M. Reynolds*  
.....Lieut.

Adjutant, "A" Group, 5th AUS. DIV. ARTY.

Distribution :-

Copy 1 File

333 War Diary	9. 17th Battery	16. 5th AUS. D.A.
4 7th Battery	10. 18th "	17 D/1 Bty.
5 8th "	11. 106th "	18 D/2 "
6 9th "	12. 45th "	19 D/3 "
7 103rd "	13 46th "	20 D/4 "
8 16th "	14 47th "	21 110th Inf. Bde.
		22 32nd Inf. Bde.
		23 "B" Group Arty.
		24. RA.A. X Corps.



12th ARMY BRIGADE AUSTRALIAN FIELD ARTILLERY

ORDER NO. 18

- B Y -

LIEUT. COL. R. L. R. RABETT C. M. G.

COMMANDING.

Headquarters  
4th Oct. 1917

S E C R E T

1. The Brigade will move as per March Table below from the present Camp Site, to the OUDEZEELE Area, on the morning of the 5th inst.
2. The Route - via RENINGHELST - ABEELE - STEENVOORDE - OUDEZEELE.
3. The Starting point will be Road Junction at H.26. a. 3.5. Sheet 28. (near Water Tanks North of present Site). Units will pass this point as follows :-
- |              |      |      |
|--------------|------|------|
| B. H. Q.     | 8.30 | a.m. |
| 45th Battery | 8.33 | a.m. |
| 46th "       | 8.40 | a.m. |
| 47th "       | 8.47 | a.m. |
| 112th "      | 8.54 | a.m. |
| B. A. C.     | 9.1  | a.m. |
4. A distance of 100 yards will be maintained between Batteries and between Sections, also between the rear of B.H.Q. and the Head of 45th Battery.
5. Units will move with full Echelons.
6. Dismounted Parties will march as a formed body in rear of their respective Units, and in front of the Battery Captains who will be responsible that there is no straggling.
7. Horse Transport will march in rear of it's respective Unit.
8. Motor Supply Lorries will assemble at the Supply Dump, and after taking on Supplies will move in convey (via ABEELE) to the OUDEZEELE Area under the charge of Q.M.S. CATO. They will be met there by a guide who will direct them to their respective Billeting Sites. After unloading their Supplies they will return to the present Camp Site and remove any surplus baggage etc left behind by their respective Units.
9. A 10 minutes halt will be made at 10 minutes to each clock hour to, clock hour, the first halt to be at 9.50 a.m. A midday halt of one hour will be made at 11.50 a.m.
10. Each Unit will leave behind a party of 5 men including a N.C.O. for the purpose of cleaning their respective Camp Sites. The 47th Battery will detail an Officer to take charge of these Parties, and will be responsible that the Camp is left clean, and receive a Certificate to this effect from the Area Commandant. The N.C.O. of each Party will have a Nominal Roll of his men, and will be responsible to the Officer in Charge for the Cleanliness of his own Unit's Billeting Area. This party will rejoin the Brigade at OUDEZEELE travelling on Motor Lorries which return for Baggage.
11. Unit Commanders will obtain a Certificate ( attached ) from Owners of Billets to the effect that such Billets are left in a clean and sanitary condition, and that no damage has been done to property.



Sheet 2 of Order No 18.

12.

An Advance Billeting Party will leave B.H.Q. at 7 a.m. and report to the Area Commandant OUDEZEELE for Billeting Instructions. The party will consist of the following :-

B.H.Q.      1 Officer (Brigade Billeting Officer)  
                  1 N.C.O. and 1 O.R., and Interpreter  
                  BURNIER.

Each Battery and B. A. C. -

1 Officer  
 1 N.C.O.  
 1 O.R.

The O.R's will be Horseholders.

O.C. Signal Subsection will detail a Horse for the use of the Interpreter.

13.

Unit Commanders will furnish Marching Out States (including names of Officers and amount of ammunition "in kinds") Marching Out States to be at B.H.Q. at 7.30 a.m.

14

Daily Returns to be at B.H.Q. by 6.30 a.m.

NOTE. Particular care will be taken that the whole Billeting Area is left in a perfectly clean condition.

*G. Raymond*  
 ..... Lieut.

Adjutant, 12th ARMY BRIGADE AUS. F. A.

Distribution :-

Copy No/1	File
3	War Diary
4	45th Battery
5	46th "
6	47th "
7	112th "
8	B. A. C.
9	H.Q. 1st Anzac R.A.
10.	Billeting Officer.
11	Sp&rs.



## 12th ARMY BRIGADE AUSTRALIAN FIELD ARTILLERY.

ORDER NO.19

-BY-

LIEUT. COL. R. L. R. RABETT C. M. G.

COMMANDING.

Headquarters,  
5th October 1917

SECRET

1. The Brigade Move to Rest Area will be continued to-morrow, 6th instant.
2. ROUTE via STERNVOORDE - HAZEBROUCK to LA MOTTE Area.
3. STARTING POINT Road Junction due North of the "D" in OUDEZEELE (Ref. Map HAZEBROUCK 5 a).

Units will pass the S.P. at the following times :-

B.H.Q.	8.30	a.m.
45th Battery	8.33	a.m.
46th "	8.40	a.m.
47th "	8.47	a.m.
112th "	8.54	a.m.
B. A. C.	9.1	a.m.

The following distances will be maintained :-

B. H. Q. and 45th Battery	50	yards,
Between Batteries and B.A.C.	100	"
Between Sections	50	"

4. Instructions contained in Paras 5, 6, 7, and 9, Order No.18 will again be carried out.
5. Supply Railhead will be CASTRE from 6th instant inclusive. Motor Supply Lorries will leave OUDEZEELE Church in charge of Q.M.S. CATO at 8 a.m. and proceed to Railhead for Supplies. On unloading Supplies in LA MOTTE Area they will return to OUDEZEELE for surplus baggage etc. Lorries will be met in the LA MOTTE Area at a point to be arranged by the Billeting Officer with Q.M.S. CATO.
6. Each Unit will leave behind a party of 8 men including a N.C.O. for the purpose of cleaning their respective Camp Sites. O.C. 45th Battery will detail Lieut A. RADES to take charge of Rear Party and this Officer will be responsible that Camp Sites are left clean and forward a certificate in quadruplicate to B.H.Q. to this effect by 3 p.m. 6th instant. The N.C.O. in charge of each Party will be responsible to the Officer in charge for the cleanliness of his own Unit's Billeting Area. Rear Party will re-join the Brigade by the second trip of Motor Lorries.
7. Unit Commanders will obtain a certificate (proforma attached) from Owners of Billets to the effect that such Billets are left in a clean and sanitary condition and that no damage has been done to property. Certificates to be forwarded to B.H.Q. by 8 p.m. 6/10/17
8. Advance Party will assemble in front of 13th A.L.H. H.Q. OUDEZEELE at 8 a.m. The Party will consist of
- |                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| B. H. Q.                | 1 Officer (Brigade Billeting Officer)             |
|                         | 1 N.C.O. and 1 Other Rank and Interpreter BURNIER |
| Batteries & B.A.C. each | 1 Officer   |
|                         | 1 N.C.O. and 1 Other Rank.                        |
- The O/Rs will be Horseholders.

..... Lieut.

P.T.O.

Adjutant, 12TH ARMY BRIGADE AUS. F. A.







The following letter was recieved from the G.O.C.R.A.  
1st. ANZAC

Headquarters  
VII th. Division

I would be very glad if you would convey to the Artillery, Australian Group which covered the 7th. Division front on the 1st. & 2nd. instant the sincere thanks and appreciation of the Brigade under my command for the excellant way in which they helped us during the two days.

The Barrage Fire was wonderful in its accuracy and nothing could have been better than the prompt manner in which they responded to the S.O.S. Signal.

This Group undoubtedly broke up several attempts that the enemy made to counter attack before they had a chance to form up and deploy.

Both C.Os. in the front line have asked me to Heartily thank Colonel RABETT and the Batteries under his command, for their invaluable services.

Sgd. J. Steele  
Brigadier General

Commanding, 22nd. Infantry Brigade.

October 4th. 1917.