

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

Artillery

**Item number:** 13/40/12

**Title:** Headquarters, 13th Australian Field  
Artillery Brigade

February 1917



AWM4-13/40/12

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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*Col. R.*

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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13th F.A. BDE. 5th AUST. DIV.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Gullemond	31/1/17		Heavis bombardment Suvray trench. This group participated	
	1/2/17		Gullemond was intermittently shelled during the day. 113 <sup>th</sup> Battalion had one Specialist killed & one wounded. Weather fine Aerial activity. During the night 31 <sup>st</sup> / <sub>1</sub> at 7 pm 4 <sup>th</sup> Aust. Div. captured Cloudy trench taking 20 officers & 500 PR prisoners. Group took part by firing on Suvray trench & trench junctions. at 5.30 AM these trenches were recaptured by the enemy. Two S.O.S. calls were made during the night.	PM PM <del>PM</del>
	2/2/17		R.M.O. Captain Shelton was wounded & admitted to Field Ambulance. 8" Gun again shelled Gullemond. All the Groups communications were cut during the afternoon. Weather. Fine. Aerial activity was very active.	PM
	3/2/17		B.O. made a reconnaissance for Anti-tank Gun position. Observation was difficult through out the day. The Fourth Corps made a bombing attack Suvray trench, this was successful. This group stood by and was ready to open fire if required.	PM

*Moore* Lt. Col.  
Commanding 13th. F.A. Bde. 5th. Aust. Div.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Guillemont	4/2/17		114 <sup>th</sup> + 115 <sup>th</sup> Hvy Btys. attached to Bde for administration. A.I. Clear day. Much activity in air. Temperature very low, registering 12° at 9 am.	
	10 pm (commencing)		4 <sup>th</sup> Aust. Division carried out successful attack on enemy trenches in N21 d. This Bde assisted in main operation firing on valley running through N15 d, N16 c, N21 b, N22 c.	Although artil. of Order No 8 attached. App. 47
	4/2/17	10.36	Two counter attacks were made against these trenches. In response to <del>these</del> <sup>S.O.S.</sup> signals fire was quickly opened. This fire was reported to be most effective & each time the attack was stopped by this Group's barrage.	A.I.
	5/2/17	4.20 am	Received congratulatory messages from Lt Gen Birdwood, G.O.C. 4 <sup>th</sup> + 5 <sup>th</sup> Aust. Divs. regarding above effective fire.	Appendix A.I. 7
	5/2/17		S.O.S. Barrage amended to suit new alignment.	A.I.

McLean Lt. Col.  
Commanding 13th. F.A. Bde. 5th. Aust. Div.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
GUILLEMONT	5/2/17		Fine day aerial activity. Captain Smith W.A.S. (new R.M.O.) reported for duty.	
	6/2/17	11.32	Temperature low. Small amount aerial activity. SOS. call by 4 <sup>th</sup> Aust. Div. from W21 d. All Batteries responded quickly.	
	7/4/17		Work commenced on anti-tank gun position. Enemy withdrew his own infantry registered on SUNRAY TRENCH. Temperature 10°. Very clear day. 14 German planes were counted in the air at one time.	
	8/2/17		Quiet day. All Batteries working on dug-outs, gunpits etc. Waggon Lines recently moved into by 5 <sup>th</sup> + 113 <sup>th</sup> Pty. now being improved. Cold windy day. Observation difficult.	
	9/2/17		C.R.A. (Genl. Russell Browne. C.B. D.S.O.) & Lt. Major (Major Laverick) visited all Batteries. In return from leave. Sent a say for. took over duties of Brigade Orderly Officer. Aerial activity below normal. Observation difficult.	

13th F.A. BDE. 5th AUST. DIV.

W. O. Addy Lt. Col. Commanding 13th F.A. Bde, 5th Aust. Div.

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Vol 12

13th F.A. BDE 5th AUSTRALIAN DIV

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
GUILLEMONT	10/2/17		<p>Roads + tracks since frozen. Vehicular traffic right up to Battery positions now possible again. Loop of Decauville Railway almost completed. This supplying supply ammunition. 8 Hostile aeroplanes observed at 9am. flying over our lines. Increased hostile aerial activity has been noticed lately. Weather warmer. Observation fair. Roads &amp; tracks used on at irregular intervals throughout night. Battery positions in T7 were again slightly shelled with 5.9".</p>	AT.
	11/2/17		<p>Quiet day. Canteen report today shows satisfactory financial condition besides being very popular with men of Brigade who patronize it freely.</p>	AT.
	12/2/17	7:40 pm	<p>Observation difficult owing to haze. Enemy artillery fire below normal. Gas alarm received from Batten Habs. Declared off few minutes later.</p>	AT.

Maddy Lt. Col.  
Commanding 13th F.A. Bde 5th Aust Div.

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Vol 12

13th F.A. BDE. 5th AUST. DIV.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
GUILLEMONT	13/12/17	10 <sup>00</sup> 10 <sup>30</sup> am	Commencing to thaw + getting muddier. Clear day. Aerial activity by both sides. Slight shelling by enemy of Gun Valley with 5.9" Orders issued for raid by 57th Batta on 14th inst. 50th + 113th quickly dispersed large working party near Sugar Refinery. N24d 1590	at
	14/12/17	9:- 9:25 am	Clear day. Observation good. Very successful raid carried out by 1 company, 120 strong 57th Battalion on SUNRAY TRENCH N22C 6565 to N22C 1580. 17 prisoners 362 <sup>nd</sup> Regt were taken. 28 Germans killed including 1 officer. Our casualties 2 killed 5 wounded 1 missing. Infantry unanimous in their praise of excellent barrage put up by supporting artillery which included this Group.	at appendix 50 attached
	15/12/17	10a	GOC 5th D.A. inspected waggon lines this Group + expressed his satisfaction at their condition. Clear day. Observation good. Much aerial activity both by enemy + our own planes	at

W. O. Addy Lt. Col.  
Commanding 13th F.A. Bde. 5th Aust. Div.

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13th F.A. Bde 5th Aust. Div.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Miscellaneous	16/2/17		Considerable hostile heavy artillery action reported throughout whole day on back areas. Observation excellent. Aerial activity on both sides. Most of the snow which had been on the ground for some weeks is gradually disappearing owing to the thaw of the last few days.	at
	17/2/17		Heavy mist all day making observation impossible. Quiet day.	at
	18/2/17		Quiet day. Observation impossible owing to thick mist. <del>But</del> Constructional work at Batteries on deep dug outs proceeding very satisfactorily.	at
	19/2/17		Observation again very difficult owing to mist. Thaw has set in & road precautions are in vogue as a result.	at
	20/2/17		4 <sup>th</sup> Division proposed capturing enemy trenches in N21 d. Batteries of this Group were standing by ready to fire but word received 12.30 am. that order cancelled. Quiet day. Batteries <sup>regiment</sup> for forthcoming operation on SUNRAY TRENCH. Observation difficult.	at

W. Caddy, Lt. Col.

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13th F.A. BDE. 5th AUST. DIV.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Pencil elements	21/12/17		Observation very poor in morning but improved slightly in afternoon. Misty rain fell nearly all morning. Hostile artillery more active than usual. Front line, supports + back areas including Sun Valley received attention. Batteries this Group busy replying on enemy trenches + communications.	A.S.
	<del>21/12/17</del>	8am	<del>Reported</del> <sup>Supposed</sup> enemy concentration in Surray Trench reported. Slow rate fire opened on supports + communications till further information to contrary obtained.	
	22/12/17		Visibility poor. Weather misty. Hostile artillery quiet.	A.S.
23/12/17		Observation fair. From 4.15am <sup>at irregular intervals throughout day</sup> enemy carried out what appeared to be systematic bombardments of our front line + supports. Lately very effective neutralizing fire by our heavy batteries has been brought to bear in this + similar enemy bombardments, through early receipt of information from Group F.O.B's + Infantry.	A.S.	

W. Caddy Lt. Col. Commanding 13th. F. A. Bde. 5th. Aust. Div.



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13th F.A. BDE. 5th AUST. DIV.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Miscellaneous	24/2/17		<p>Observation difficult. Weather misty. Enemy tracks swept during night by 18 pdrs. This Group in anticipation expected relief of 362 Regt. Enemy artillery fire very quiet. Registrations for new Defence scheme carried out. With Batteries this Group standing by to fire on an SOS signal party 30<sup>th</sup> Battr. after 40 secs bombardment by Stokes Mortars at 11 pm entered SUNRAY TRENCH unopposed. Patrols then went on further but were fired on from ATOM TRENCH. Suspected enemy evacuation to line further back confirmed by prisoners statements. Retirement covered by rear guard holding ATOM TRENCH. Advice received from Div. Artillery of similar suspected evacuations + unopposed entries into enemy trenches on other fronts. Batteries warned to make all preparations for advance at short notice.</p>	AS
	25/2/17		<p>Observation difficult in morning but on weather clearing in afternoon improved considerably + our air scouts availed themselves of opportunity of watching enemy movements. Patrols out all day. Base commanders warned re occupation forward positions. Work on anti tank gun position ceased. Patrols report that ATOM TRENCH + top end BEAM LANE strongly held by enemy. We are now CENTRE GROUP.</p>	AS
	26/2/17		<p>Quiet day. Aerial activity on both sides. One of our planes forced <del>at</del> land near Guechy corner. Pilot killed. Observer wounded + plane badly damaged. Small bursts enemy fire irregular intervals throughout day on our front line + communications. SOS lines altered after consultation with</p>	AS

W. O. Oddy - Lt. Col.  
Commanding 13th F.A. Bde. 5th Aust. Div.

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13th F.A. BDE. 5th AUST. DIV.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>GUILLEMONT.</p>	<p>27/12/17</p>		<p>Much aerial activity on both sides. Observation fair. Left Group forward Batteries attempted cut wire in front ATOM TRENCH, but were unsuccessful <sup>owing to difficult observation</sup>. Lieut Wynne 114<sup>th</sup> How. Battery F.O.O. Last day or two this Group has engaged many Minnerwerfers in enemy lines in answer to calls of infantry. Bursts of fire by whole Group has been brought to bear on enemy front line today.</p>	

*M. Oaddy* Lt. Col.  
 Commanding 13th F.A. Bde, 5th Aust. Div.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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13th F.A. Bde. 5th Aust. Div,

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
GUILLEMONT.	28-2-17.	5-30 am. to 6 am.	During bombardment by Right Group and Division on our right enemy sent up many flares and was very busy with machine guns.	A.T.
		11.45pm.	Remainder of day very quiet. Fog interfered with observation very considerably. Gas alarm raised. Declared off and false alarm, few minutes after.	
<p>(Original of above written on same sheet as entries for beginning of subsequent month and filed with volume for that month).</p>				
<p>D. D. &amp; L., London, E.C. (A8004) Wt. W1771/M2 31 750,000 5/17 Sch. 82 Forms/C2118/14</p>				

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## Appendix 48

## LEFT GROUP ARTILLERY OPERATION ORDER No. 7

SECRET

Headquarters Feby. 3rd '17

REFERENCE:- GRENOCOURT - THILLOY - BRANLENOUERT, 1 : 10,000

- 1.- The minor operation referred to in LEFT GROUP ARTILLERY SMO T/140 of L.S. 17 will be carried out against enemy trenches from H99022 to H99032 on the 4th Feby. 1917. During this operation the 28th Division will make a bombing attack along LANDWIND TRENCH.
- 2.- Left Group Artillery will provide covering fire as under:-
- |           |               |              |                 |
|-----------|---------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 51st Bty. | N 29 c 12 55  | to           | N 29 c 55 20    |
| 59th "    | N 29 c 55 20  | "            | N 29 c 6 5      |
| 49th "    | N 29 c 6 5    | "            | N 29 c 66 20    |
| 114th "   | HEAVEN TRENCH | N 29 c 11    | to N 29 d 22 55 |
| 115th "   | HEAVEN TRENCH | N 29 d 22 55 | to N 29 b 57 05 |
- The Right Group will similarly fire from N 29 c 66 20 to N 29 a 42 10. The 2" Medium Trench Mortars are also co-operating.
- 3.- The Left Group Artillery XIV Corps are assisting with enfilade fire on MOLTEN TRENCH from N 29 c 25 to H99 a 32 22.
- 4.- The 14th B.A. Group are co-operating and are bombarding HEAVEN TRENCH from N 29 b 57 05 to N 29 a 55 22 and SON TRENCH from N 29 a 55 22 to N 29 c 1 4.
- 5.- Counter batteries are assisting with neutralising fire on all hostile battery positions known to fire on the particular sector attacked, fire commencing at 0.05.
- 6.- The general time-table will be :-
- |      |  |
|------|--|
| 0    | Medium Trench Mortars and Light Trench Mortars open fire.                      |
| 0.05 | Medium Trench Mortars and Light Trench Mortars cease fire.                     |
| 0.05 | Artillery open fire.   |
|      | Machine Gun Companies open fire.   |
|      | Infantry enter German Trenches.  |
| 0.15 | Artillery rate of fire decreases.  |
| 0.15 | Artillery rate of fire further decreases.                                      |
| 0.35 | Artillery ceases fire and stands by to re-commence on their lines immediately. |
- 7.- Rates of fire will be as under :-
- |             |              |                            |   |   |   |   |
|-------------|--------------|----------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| 18prs.      | 0.05 to 0.15 | - 4rds per gun per minute. |   |   |   |   |
|             | 0.15         | 0.15                       | 2 | " | " | " |
| 1           | 0.15         | 0.35                       | 1 | " | " | " |
| 4, 5" Hows. | 0.05         | 0.35                       | 1 | " | " | " |
- 8.- All batteries will stand by for 30 hours after Zero ready to open fire on their final barrage lines or objectives, on seeing the S.O.S. signal fired from the point of attack, or on receipt of the S.O.S. message.
- 9.- The following signals have been arranged and will be fired from the front line and repeated at MILLER'S SON at NIGHT BATTALION B. Co. and at NEEDLE TRENCH.

GREEN VERY LIGHT means "OBJECTIVE GAINED"  
 RED ASTERIOD ROCKET means "COUNTER BATTERY WORK REQUIRED"  
 ONE RED, ONE GREEN  
 ASTERIOD ROCKET  
 FIRED SIMULTANEOUSLY } means "SLACKEN FIELD ARTILLERY BARRAGE"

All O.P.s will be warned and a strict look-out kept for all signals on the front of attack, which will be acted on immediately and reported to Group H. Gra., stating the exact time they were observed.

10:- Watches will be synchronised with Group H. Gra. at 12.30p.m. and 6.30p.m. on the 4th Feby.

11:- Zero hour will be communicated by letter or H. A. B. code.

12:- A C K N O W L E D G E

*J. M. Miller*  
 Lieut & Adjutant.  
 Left Group Artillery.

Issued to :-

Copy No.

C. C. 49th Bty.  
 50th  
 51st  
 113th  
 114th

1  
 2  
 3  
 4  
 5

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LEFT GROUP ARTILLERY OPERATION ORDER No. 8

SECRET.

Headquarters 4. 2. 1917

- 1 :- FINCH TRENCH having been found vacated by the enemy, has been occupied by our Right Brigade from N 25 a 2 9 to N 29 c 20 25.
- 2 :- In consequence, the Minor Operation detailed in Left Group Artillery Order No. 7 is cancelled.
- 3 :- The 4th Australian Division are repeating the operation on enemy trenches in N 21 d to-night, the 4th/5th Inst. at a time to be notified later.
- 4 :- The 5th Australian Divisional Artillery will assist with a diversion on HEAVEN TRENCH and with fire on the valley running through N 15 d, N 16 c, N 21 b and N 22 c.
- 5 :- Table of tasks for the diversion are attached.
- 6 :- Times :- 10.0 to 10.50 p.m. and then bursts of fire at irregular intervals until 12 midnight.
- 7 :- Rates of fire from Zero to 0.30 :-  
18prs - Two (2) rounds per gun per minute.  
4.5" Hows. One (1) round per gun per minute.
- 8 :- Ammunition available :-  
LEFT GROUP. - 500 rounds "A" and "AX" per Battery.  
200 rounds "EX" - 113th Battery.  
40 rounds "EX" - 114th Battery.  
Proportionate expenditure 25% "A" to 75% "AX".
- 9 :- Zero time hour for diversion and main operation will be 10p.m.
- 10 :- Watches will be synchronised at 9p.m.
- 11 :- ACKNOWLEDGE.

*J. Miller*  
Lieut - Col  
C.O. 13th F. A. Brigade,  
A.D.J.

TASK TABLE.LEFT DIVERSION.

TIME	BTY.	TASK.	RATE OF FIRE.	REMARKS.
10.0 to 10.30 p.m.	49th & 81st	Search by lifts of 100yds Valley on a line from H10c 30 95 to H15d 70 95 to H22c 29 to H21b 6 0, and back by drops of 100yds at intermediate 50 yds.	two(2) battery salvoes per minute using 300 rounds per battery.	
"	113th	H22 b 55 40.	One(1) round per How per minute using 150 rounds.	
10.30 p midnight.	49th & 81st	Continue as above.	At irregular intervals using 140 rounds per battery.	
"	113th.	Continue as above.	At irregular intervals using 80 rounds	

RIGHT DIVERSION.

10.0 to 10.7 p.m. 10.7 to 10.10pm	113th.	H29b 15 37 to H29d 40 95 <del>95</del> H29b 47 to H29b 77 25	One round per gun per minute using 40 rounds.	
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## Appendix 49

The following messages have been received from :-

From General Birdwood.

"Please convey my hearty congratulations to General Bessell  
"Browne and the 5th Australian Divisional Artillery for their  
"excellent work. The assistance given by them, is in great  
"part responsible for the fact that the German Counter attacks  
"were repulsed last night"

From G. O. C. 5th Aus. Divn.

"Please accept my sincere thanks for the valuable assistance  
"you gave last night which made our operation such a success "

From 4th Inf Bde.

"Thank you for splendid co-operation last night. Owing to  
"the fine work done by Artillery we are fairly well established  
"in our new position. "



## Appendix 50

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ARTILLERY GROUP ARTILLERY OPERATIONS ORDER NO. 9

16

Headquarters,  
17. 2. 1917.SECRET

1. A raid will be carried out by one company of the 57th Battalion on the enemy trenches from N 22 C 65 65 to N 22 C 22 90 on the night 14/15th February 1917 with the object of

- (1) Obtaining information.
- (2) Capturing prisoners.
- (3) Harassing the enemy.

2. The 5th Australian Divisional Artillery will provide covering fire for this raid.

3. Heavy artillery are cooperating and are bombarding ANON TRENCH from N 22 C 00 70 to N 18 C 75 25. Counter Batteries are assisting by neutralising the fire of hostile batteries known to fire on the sector attacked.

4. The 19th Divisional Artillery are assisting and will enfilade ANON TRENCH.

5. The 4th Australian Divisional Artillery will carry out a diversion on N 20 commencing at Zero -5 and continuing until Zero +5.

6. The Artillery of this Group will support the raid. The action of the Artillery will be as laid down in the Task Tables attached.

7. The general time table will be as follows:-

Previous to operation.

2<sup>nd</sup> Medium Trench mortars cut wire in front of enemy trenches.

Zero.

Light Trench mortars bombard objectives.

0.01 1/2.

Light Trench mortars switch to flanks.

Medium Trench mortars open fire.

Artillery barrage is put down.

Infantry enter trench.

0.02 1/2.

Artillery fire decreases

Cease fire. (Rocket signal or message).

8. The following officers are detailed as Liaison Officers and will report to their respective Headquarters one (1) hour before zero.

Lieut. W. J. Scullin      Brigade.  
 Lieut. G. V. Fry      Battalion  
 Lieut. C. M. Chase.      2nd Bde.

9. The assaulting party are remaining in the enemy trench until every portion has been systematically searched.  
 A BLUE SIGNAL ROCKET will be fired from our own front line trench when artillery fire is no longer required.  
 This message will be passed on from ~~the~~ ROSE TRENCH by telephone. On receipt of this signal or message, artillery fire will immediately cease.
10. Zero hour will be notified later.
11. Watches will be synchronised from Group Headquarters at 1.0 pm and 8.30 pm on the 14th inst.
12. ACKNOWLEDGES

Issued at 8.30 pm 12.2.17 to

	Copy No.
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8th	3
11th	4
14th	5

*J. Miller* Lieut. & Adjt.,  
 Left Group Artillery.

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War diary	10 & 11

II

T A B L E O F T A S K S

-----

"A"

LEFT GROUP.  
18-pdrs.

0.01 1/2 to 0.61 1/2

49th Battery.	N 22 a 50 15	to	N 22 a 20 25	} 4 rounds per
50th Battery.	N 22 a 20 25	to	N 21 b 95 20	} gun per min.
51st Battery.	N 21 b 95 20	to	N 21 b 6 3.	

4.5" Hows.

113th Battery.	1 section.	N 22 b 05 65	to	N 22 a 95 90	} 2 rounds
	1 How.	N 15 d 65 65			} per
	1 How.	N 16 a 0 0			} How per
114th Battery.	1 How.	N 22 b 55 90			} minute.
	1 How.	N 22 b 5 4			
	1 How.	N 22 d 95 85			
	1 How.	N 22 d 5 6			

"B"

0.6. 1/2 to CEASE FIRE.

All units will fire on tasks as for "A" until receipt of BLUE ROCKET SIGNAL or message CEASE FIRE.

## Rates of fire.

18-pdrs.	2 rounds per gun per minute.
4.5" How.	1 round per How. per minute.

## Ammunition.

18-pdrs.	25% "A" 75% "AX"
4.5" How.	"BX"