**154th (Howitzer) Brigade RFA Ulster Division War Diary**

**CLIV (Empire) (Howitzer) Brigade. (War Raised Unit). Formed at Croydon in 1915 and consisted of A (H), B (H), C (H) and D (H) Batteries. In the 36th Divisional Artillery.**

**Commanded by LT Colonel J C Johnston**

**November 1915**

26/11 [Ammunition column](http://www.1914-1918.net/whatartbrig.htm) 154 Brigade at 17:30 left [Bordon](http://www3.hants.gov.uk/aldershot-museum/local-history-aldershot/barracks.htm) for Southampton, to arrive at Le Havre on the 28th.

27/11 [154 Brigade HQ and Batteries](http://www.1914-1918.net/whatartbrig.htm) arrived Southampton Docks

28/11 Embarked for Le Havre on SS SW Miller, which had engine trouble and returned to The Solent and laid up all day before re-embarking. Further engine trouble and returned to docks, disembarked guns and slept on SS SW Miller

29/11 Transhipped everything to the SS Nirvana for crossing to Le Havre

**December 1915**

1/12 Arrived at Le Havre, 07:00 after rough passage, fully disembarked by 12:00 and headed for Rest Camp

4/12 By train to Pontremy.

5/12 Marched to billets at Cocquerel and Franciere (B and C Batteries)

12/12 Commenced building horse standings, which were completed by 8/1/16

**January 1916**

8/1 Horse standings completed

23/1 Brigade HQ and Batteries move to new area at Cayeux Sur Mer, ammunition column to Pernois

24-31/1 In billets at Cayeux Sur Mer and Pernois

**February 1916**

1-25/2 In billets at Cayeux Sur Mer and Pernois, Firing practice carried out by batteries 19-23/2.

3/2 Ammunition column starts to move to Loovencourt, arriving 26/2, via St Oven, Pernois, Puchvillers

26/2 HQ and Batteries move by road to Pont-Remy

28/2 B,C and D move to Pernois, A battery moves to Renault Farm to join 46th Division

29/2 HQ, B,C and D Batteries move to Louvencourt

**March 1916**

1/3 Brigade billeted at Louvencourt, with exception of battery A

4/3 Leave Louvencourt for Bertrancourt

5/3 Leave Bertrancourt for Forgeville

12/3 Leave Forgeville for Orville

14/3 B Battery postioned near Mailly- Maillet. B Battery open fire obtaining 3 direct hits on enemy “*sap*”

18/3 B Battery report having seen swirls of a yellowish tint (apparently poison gas) issuing from the enemy trenches. The wind not being favourable they ceased in a few minutes

20/3 B Battery fired 15 rounds onto hostile trenches.

30/3 B Battery report hostile aeroplanes very active during the morning

**April 1916**

2/4 B and D Battery moved to Forceville in reserve

4/4 Brigade HQ moved to Forceville

5/4 Ammunition column move to Forceville from Louvencourt

17/4 B Battery came into action in new gun positions

18/4 Ammo column move to Harponville

18-19/4 Martinsart. “B Battery clearing fields of fire and ARCS of fire, registering”

24/4 C Battery registered 7 targets with aeroplane

29/4 Martinsart 11:30 – 00:13, C fired 200 rounds and B 176 rounds in support of raid by 29th division

**May 1916**

1-21/5 B and C in action under the usual trench warfare

21/5 As a consequence of the reorganisation of the Divisional Artillery 154 Battery now is renamed as D battery of the 173 Brigade RFA

Reorganisation of Brigade. Altered to 3 x 18pounder batteries (A,B and C) and 1 x 4.5 Howitzer (D).