

## 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
	Jan. 1918.			
	17/19		<p>Batteries have been doing as little shooting as possible in order that both occupied and unoccupied positions could be given as much attention as possible, as positions taken over by this Brigade, requires a considerable amount of work on them, to bring them up to our requirements.</p> <p>The situation during this period has been very quiet, and work on positions has been going ahead, and already there is an appreciable difference in the appearance of Battery positions of the group.</p> <p>on 17th Jan. the major lines of this Brigade moved from HAPPENCOURT to TUGNY-ET-PONT.</p>	
	19/21		Quiet:	
	22		<p>at 9 pm. an order was received from H.Q. Div. arty. to open fire on S.O.S. lines, owing to a German tank on our left. Fire was opened, with apparently successful results, as nothing further was heard. Information was received later that our Infantry lost 1. other Rank</p>	APP. J.

T2134. Wt. W708-776. 500000. 4/15. Sir J. C. &amp; S.







February 1918

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173 Brigade R.F.A.

36<sup>th</sup> Div. XVIII Corps, Fifth Army

Vol 28

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
A30608.	February 1918		<p>At this period the Brigade, with A/14 and the 88<sup>th</sup> Battery, formed the Right Group, 36<sup>th</sup> Divisional Artillery. During the whole month the attitude of the enemy was unimpressive, and the general situation was extremely quiet. The enemy contented himself with occasional shots on Battery positions and O.P.'s, and shot heavy bombardments of points in the forward area with gas shell. No regular firing programmes were carried out by us, other than the neutralisation of enemy Anti Aircraft Batteries during photographic flights, and occasional counter-battery shots with 4.5 Howitzers. Orders were received that parties of the enemy less than 20 strong were not to be fired on, an exception being made in the case of small parties of German Officers seen observing our lines. Reconnoissances of this sort were very frequent.</p> <p>Enemy aircraft activity was very marked, an balloon being attacked during the day on several occasions, and bombing enterprises on a large scale being carried out at night. Enemy Anti Aircraft Batteries were extremely active and accurate, especially those in the neighbourhood of St. Quentin. In fact the enemy appeared to be most anxious to prevent our observation of the Town.</p>	<p>Ref. Map France Sheet 66C N.W. 1:20000</p>



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A 30 G.O. 8	Feb. 1918		<p>In spite of the quiet attitude of the Enemy, the intelligence <del>that</del> received during the previous month that he was contemplating an attack on this post was confirmed. The construction of attacking and reinforcing battery positions was carried on with the greatest speed, and no attempt was made to rouse the enemy. Thanks to this policy work proceeded without interruption.</p> <p>The Organization of the Artillery in depth was carried out, as laid down in G.H.Q. Artillery Notes. Every preparation was also made for the arrival of re-inforcing Brigades, positions being prepared, and zones S.O.P.'s allotted.</p> <p>The only casualties sustained by the Brigade during the month were 1 Officer and 3 Other Ranks wounded.</p> <p>The weather for the most part was dry with a good deal of hard frost about the middle of the month.</p> <p>Defence arrangements were amended and consolidated, as shown in the attached Order. A number of reinforcing batteries for the support of flank formations both in the case of actual attack and for purposes of counter preparation were indicated. Also local batteries to for defence against purely local attacks.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<del>A 1462.8</del> GRAND SERAUCOURT	Feb. 1-13		Nothing unusual occurred. Group H.Q. moved on 12th to GRAND SERAUCOURT	
		14	C/173 stood by to cooperate in a raid to be carried out by the 15th R.I.R. and Left group. They were not called upon to fire.	App. II
		15-16	The 88th Battery and A/14 were relieved by the 383rd Battery, the 462nd Battery, coming under the orders of O.C. Right group.	
G1462.8		21	Group H.Q. moved to G1462.8	
		23	Defence arrangements were revised as shown in Order attached.	App. III
		27	Information was received through a captured Enemy Airman that the Enemy would probably attack on this front on March 2nd. Final arrangements for defence were accordingly made.	
		28	Abnormal movement in the enemy lines near LA PIRE ALLER and elsewhere was observed throughout the day, including parties of Officers observing our line. When within range there were fired on. The enemy's artillery remained unoppressed.	

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J.C. R.  
Lieut Col R.F.A.  
Commanding 173 Brigade R.F.A.



36th Divisional Artillery.  
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173rd BRIGADE R. F. A.

M A R C H 1 9 1 8

Appendices attached :)

Account of operations 21st-31st

Barrage tables.

Artillery Instructions.

Targets



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173rd Brigade RFA.

36th Division.

XVIII

Corps. Fifth Army.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
G. 14.6.2.8. 1st.			<p>Reference maps. France 66.c. 1/40,000; St Quentin 1/100,000 and Amiens 1/100,000.</p> <p>Final defensive arrangements were made in expectation of the enemy attack on March 2nd. Special barrages were ordered, to be put down in the event of the enemy piercing our first line of Resistance.</p> <p>At 8.30 p.m. a heavy enemy trench mortar bombardment took place on the front of the Group on our right, and there was also some trench mortar activity on our own front. Help was called for by the Group on our right, and given.</p> <p>It subsequently appeared that during this bombardment the enemy raided a post held by our Right Infantry Brigade and captured some prisoners.</p> <p>Some snow fell during the day. The situation remained abnormally quiet. Information was received that during the previous night, the enemy carried out Raids on a large scale along the whole length of the French front. Prisoners stated that a continuation of these efforts was to be expected on the British front, the object of the enemy being to test our strength at various points. Necessary counter-measures were taken and the utmost vigilance was observed. It is conjectured that the</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Att. I.</p>
2nd.			<p>Information received from a captured enemy German on 27th February referred to</p>	

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	2nd.		these minor enterprises and not to a general attack. The orders concerning Group Rocket Guards were revised and re-issued.	App. II.
	3rd.		A vigorous policy of harassing fire was ordered by the XVIII Corps. Fire programmes were carried out at night <del>in</del> conjunction with the Heavy Artillery. Group concentrations were formulated, and <del>an</del> aggressive attitude as possible was adopted. As a rule, only Batteries in forward positions, in front of the Battle Zone, were called upon to fire but in the case of Corps concentrations, all guns and howitzers which could bear, took part. A List of Group concentrations is attached.	App. III.
	4th.		Throughout the day, enemy patrols showed most extraordinary activity along the whole Group Front. Large parties approached our lines in the neighbourhood of SPHINX WOOD (B 17 C) and near PIRE ALLER. These were engaged by our Artillery with remarkable effect, and the Infantry captured a number of prisoners. These stated that the enemy was under the impression that we had evacuated our Forward System, and that their orders were to confirm this, and, if possible occupy our trenches in force.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	5th		Nothing unusual occurred.	
	6th		Group "S.O.S" lines were altered so as to bring the Barrage nearer to our Outpost Line.	App. IV
	7th		The attached "List of Targets" was circulated. Special attention was paid to these in Harassing Fire.	App. V
	8th		The weather at this time was extraordinarily fine and warm. Ground visibility was exceptionally good.	
	9th		Nothing unusual occurred. The enemy's Artillery remained inactive.	
	10th		Supplementary Barrages were ordered for use in case the enemy should be able to launch his attack before the Normal S.O.S. Barrage could be brought down, and in case the Line of Resistance should be broken.	App. VI & VII
	11th		It was still expected that the enemy offensive would be in the nature of a surprise attack with the aid of a large number of Tanks. Prisoners on several occasions gave accurate descriptions of a new pattern German Tank which they said was being manufactured in large numbers. 2 Anti-Tank Guns were placed in position <sup>in the Forward System</sup> on the Group Front. They were in charge	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	12 <sup>th</sup>		<p>of an officer. Arrangements were also made for dealing with any Tanks which succeeded in breaking through the Forward System. A special course of Training in Anti-Tank Defence was instituted at the Fifth Army Artillery School near ROYE, selected detachments being sent for instructions. A special 18-pr. carriage allowing a traverse of 50° was improvised by the Royal Engineers.</p> <p>Throughout this period every effort was made to complete work on Battery positions and O.P.s. O.C. Right Group was given control of all work in the Forward Zone, orders being issued by him from time to time to all Batteries of the Divisional Artillery in the Line. A specimen order is attached.</p>	
	13 <sup>th</sup>		<p>Arrangements were made for covering the Line of Strong Points and the Battle Zone.</p> <p>Mutual Support arrangements and Special Barrages to deal with Local Attacks at different points were revised and re-issued.</p>	<p>App. VIII.</p> <p>App. VIII.</p>
	14 <sup>th</sup>		<p>At this time attention was drawn to Groups of apparently mobile objects which appeared behind the enemy line. Great numbers of these objects were located by the Air Service, mostly to the North of the River. The hypothesis that they were</p>	App. IX.



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			tanks was abandoned, owing to their small size. It is believed that they were light tractors of a new pattern, designed for drawing Field Guns, and carrying ammunition.	
	15th 16th		Situation remained quiet, the aggressive attitude of our own Artillery provoking very little response from the enemy.	
	17th		Information was received that the enemy had carried out bombardments with Gas Shell to the west of CAMBRAI on a scale greater than anything hitherto experienced. It was feared that Bombardments of a similar nature might be carried out on our own front, where the terrain was particularly suitable. If this had been done, it would have involved the elimination of the 3 Batteries of the Group, which were in position in the Forward Zone. Arrangements were, therefore, immediately made to withdraw to Rear positions as many guns as could be spared.	App. XI.
			The very strictest Anti-Gas measures were also taken. All Batteries were provided with gloves for their detachments; dugouts, telephone pits, and Command Posts, were rendered Gas-proof, as far as possible, and quantities of Chloride of Lime issued to Batteries for the purpose of neutralizing gas-shell craters.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	18th.		At about this time Aeroplane photographs coupled with information obtained from deserters, revealed the presence of large numbers of <del>new</del> trench mortar emplacements in the enemy's lines. These were made to resemble shell-craters from which they were hardly distinguishable. The great number of these gave rise to the supposition that the enemy would rely on gaining a footing in our Forward Zone by these means, rather than by the use of tanks. These emplacements, and the Area in which they were present in the largest numbers, were heavily dealt with by Artillery fire.	
	19th		Definite information was obtained from enemy deserters that the enemy attack would take place on the morning of the 21st. These deserters testified to the enormous concentration of troops behind the enemy's lines, large numbers of which had actually taken up their positions in dugouts in the enemy Front Line. Harassing Fire was therefore prosecuted more vigorously than ever. A specimen of the Barrage fired is attached.	
G. 8 A. 1. 2.	20th		Headquarters were moved to G. 8. A 1. 2. All Artillery in the Forward Zone was withdrawn to Rear positions at 10.30 pm after carrying out a heavy bombardment programme which provoked no response from the enemy. Fire was maintained more or less continuously throughout the night.	App. XII



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	21st.		<p>The enemy bombardment opened at 4.35 a.m. An account of the operations from the 21st to the 31st March 1918 is attached.</p> <p>During this latter period the casualties of the Brigade were as follows.</p> <p><u>Killed</u>:-</p> <p>2/Lt E.F.B. ORR. R.F.A. and 13 other Ranks.</p> <p><u>Wounded</u>:-</p> <p>Lt (Major) G.A. RICKARDS M.C. R.F.A. and 38 other Ranks.</p> <p>2/Lt H.W. BODGER R.F.A.</p> <p><u>Missing</u></p> <p>Lt E.T. SCOTT. R.F.A. 2/Lt E.G. PARFITT and 37 other Ranks.</p>	<p>App. XIII</p>

G. W. Lee.  
Major R.F.A.  
Commanding 173rd Brigade R.F.A.



Att I

SECRET

173rd Bde. No. 3.3/21

O.C.

A, B, C, and D/173  
 A/153  
 B, and D/153 (Detached Sections)  
 462 Battery R.F.A.  
 H.Q. 107 Infy. Bde.  
 H.Q. 108 Infy. Bde.  
 Left Group

The following barrages will be worked out and arrangements made to carry them out in case the enemy pierces our first line of resistance.

Barrage "X" For the defence of forward strong points

C/173	Barrage from	B.13.a.7.6.	to	B.13.a.3.6.
A/173	"	"	"	B.15.c.25.90. to B.14.d.90.90.
B/173	"	"	"	B.14.d.90.90. to B.14.d.55.90.
462	"	"	"	B.14.d.55.90. to B.14.d.25.90.
D/173	"	"	"	B.15.c.90.55. to B.15.c.35.35.

Barrage "Y" For the defence of the strong point line by day

462	Barrage from	A.17.b.60.60.	to	A.17.b.15.55.
D/153	2 guns fire on			
	road	A.13.a.9.1.	to	A.13.c.70.35.
A/173	3 guns barrage	A.13.c.90.90.	to	A.13.c.70.65.
	"	A.13.d.95.95.	to	A.13.b.70.15.
D/173	Barrage	B.20.a.50.00.	to	B.19.b.90.20.
A/153	2 guns barrage	B.19.b.30.30.	to	B.19.b.60.25.
B/153	2 " "	B.19.b.60.20.	to	B.19.b.40.15.

Barrage "Z" For the defence for the strong point line by night

462	Enfilade	A.11.d.20.15.	to	A.17.b.50.50.
A/173	Barrage	B.19.a.45.45.	to	B.19.a.10.30.
A./153	2 guns barrage	B.19.b.55.20.	to	B.19.b.40.50.
B/153	2 " "	B.18.c.90.60.	to	B.18.c.75.70.
D/153	2 " fire on			
	road	A.18.a.90.10.	to	A.13.c.70.85.

*Controlled by*

2.3. 13.

Adj. 173rd Bde. R.F.A.  
 Capt. R.F.A.



S E C R E T

173rd Brigade R.F.A. No.

S.3./116  
7.

O.C. A/173.  
 B/173.  
 C/173.  
 D/173.  
 462 Battery R.F.A.  
 (2) H.Q. 36th Divl. Artillery.  
 H.Q. 107th Inf. Brigade.  
 108th Inf. Brigade.  
 Left Group R.F.A.

The following is substituted for the instructions as to  
 manning of Rocket Guards issued under my No. S.3./116/4. of 22.2.18.

Rocket Guards will be mounted as ordered in 36th Divisional  
 Artillery Order No. 32 dated 20.2.18.

The Guard at JEANNET will be found permanently by C/173  
 Battery.

The Guard at ARLOIN will now be mounted at the newly  
 established O.P. at B.19.a.65.70. and will be found permanently by A/173  
 Battery R.F.A.

The Rocket Guard at A.30.b.0.8 whose duty it is to report  
 all signals on Right and Centre Brigade Fronts will be found by B/173  
 and D/173 alternately commencing with B/173 on 4.3.18.

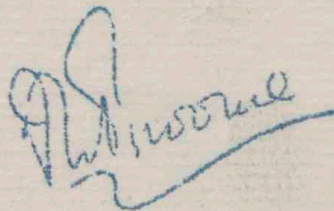
The O's.C. B/173 and D/173 will arrange to mount the Guard  
 and have it visited by an Officer during its tour of duty and they are  
 responsible that the Guard knows its instructions.

The Guard at JEANNET will instantly report any S.O.S.  
 signals sent up on the front held by 108th Infantry Brigade, likewise  
 the Guard at B.19.a.65.70. will report signals sent up from 107th  
 Infantry Brigade front and at the same time they will report to Group  
 Headquarters by telephone giving the bearing of the Rocket from their  
 O.P.

If a Rocket goes up on any front other than as above the bearing is  
 to be at once reported to Group Headquarters by telephone.

In this case no repeating rockets are to be fired.

Rocket Guards are to be mounted at dusk and dismount one  
 hour after dawn.



Captain R.F.A.  
 Adjutant 173rd Brigade R.F.A.

2. 3. 18.



173rd Brigade No. C.70. *App III*

O.C. A/173  
 B/173  
 C/173  
 D/173  
 462 Battery R.F.A.  
 H.Q. 107th Infy Bde. )  
 108th " " )

Reference 1/20,000 Map Sheet  
 66 c. Edition 3.A.

For information

The following Concentrations are to be arranged. They will be ordered by their code name followed by the time of firing.

The rates of fire will be as fast as possible consistent with good laying.

A.X. will not be fired at ranges over 3600 yards unless fuzeed with instantaneous fuze or if firing at dugouts.

## CODE WORD

## TASKS

EUPHRATES	C/173	Bombard railway and dugouts from B.4.d.60.20. - B.4.d.42.31.
	B/173	Bombard railway and dugouts from B.4.d.42.31. - B.4.d.50.20.50
	D/173	Bombard railway and dugouts from B.4.d.60.20. - B.4.d.20.50.
	Ammunition	18 rounds per 18 pdr. battery 6 " " 4.5 How. "
TURNIP	B/173	Bombard both sides of bank B.3.d.78.00. - B.4.c.10.50.
	C/173	Bombard trench B.3.d.78.00. - B.10.a.01.73.
	D/173	Bombard Dugouts B.4.c.05.25.
	Ammunition	24 rounds per 18 pdr. battery 12 " " 4.5 How. "
COLOGNE	C/173	Bombard Trench B.9.a.75.82. - B.9.a.65.90.
	B/173	" " B.9.a.75.82. - B.9.a.78.95.
	D/173	" Dugouts B.9.a.80.88.
	Ammunition	24 rounds per 18 pdr. battery 12 " " 4.5 How. "
MILL	C/173	Bombard Company Headquarters at B.8.a.5.9.
	B/173	" Dugouts at B.8.a.3.9.
	D/173	" Telephone exchange at B.2.c.5.1.
	Ammunition	24 rounds per 18 pdr. battery 12 " " 4.5 How. "
PIRE ALLER	462 Battery	Bombard Trench B.8.b.50.10. - B.8.b.30.20.
	B/173	" " B.8.b.30.20. - B.8.b.50.32.
	D/173	" " and Dugouts B.8.b.80.30. - B.8.b.60.50.
	Ammunition	24 rounds per 18 pdr. battery 12 " " 4.5 How. "
TAURUS	C/173	Bombard Trench B.12.a.82.32. - B.12.a.75.50.
	B/173	" " B.12.a.75.50. - B.12.a.65.62.
	D/173	3 guns on Trench Junction B.12.a.75.50.
	Ammunition	2 " " Dugouts B.12.a.58.70. 12 rounds per 18 pdr. battery 6 " " 4.5 How. "
JUNCTION	C/173	Bombard Trench B.4.a.10.41. - B.3.b.95.45.
	B/173	" " B.3.b.82.39. - B.3.b.70.41.8
	D/173	" Dugouts B.3.b.92.41.
	Ammunition	24 rounds per 18 pdr. battery 12 " " 4.5 How. "

Capt. R.F.A.

4.3. 18

Adjutant RIGHT GROUP R.F.A.



Copy V

Serial Number	Target	Observed from
1.	Dugout	B.3.b.75.25 ARLOIN
2.	Company Headquarters	B.9.a.60.45.
3.	Dugout at	B.9.a.80.80.
4.	Dugouts at	B.9.a.10.90.
5.	Cross Roads (M.G.Dugouts etc)	B.10.a.40.13. JEANNET
6.	Dugouts	B.9.b.97.72.
7.	Dugouts	B.4.c.00.25.
8.	Dugouts in railway	B.11.c.
9.	Dugouts and work in railway	B.17.b. JEANNET
10.	Wood	B.11.b. JEANNET
11.	O.P. and M.G. Emplacement	B.9.c.92.75. ARLOIN
12.	Work along railway in	B.11.a. JEANNET
13.	Company Headquarters	B.10.b.00.90.
14.	T.M.	B.8.b.75.46.
15.	O.P.	B.8.b.63.19. ARLOIN
16.	O.P.	B.8.a.72.40. SAULNIER
17.	C.P.	B.9.c.30.80. ARLOIN
18.	C.P.	B.11.d.50.45. JEANNET
19.	C.P.	B.8.d.73.9.7. ARLOIN
20.	T.M.	B.9.a.00.98.
21.	Dugouts	B.9.a.30.45.
22.	M.G. Emplacement	B.9.c.07.83. ARLOIN
23.	M.G.Emplacement	B.9.d.38.82. ARLOIN
24.	M.G. Emplacement	B.8.b.95.00. SAULNIER
25.	M.G. Emplacement	B.11.b.80.10. JEANNET
26.	Battalion Headquarters	T.28.c.90.70.
27.	Dump at	B.3.b.50.90.
28.	Junction of Road and Railway	B.3.b.90.40.



S E C R E T

173rd Brigade No. D.F.2.

O. C. A/173  
 E/173  
 C/173  
 D/173  
 462 Battery R.F.A.  
 H.Q. 36th Div. Arty.  
 107th Infy. Bde.  
 108th Infy. Bde.

file

The following additional list of Targets is forwarded .

These are to be added to the list sent out under my No.

D.F.1. of the 6th inst.

Serial Number	Target	Observed from
29.	Dugouts on Road	B.11.a.6.2. JEANNET
30.	Listening Post	R.10.b.62.30. JEANNET
31.	Dugouts	B.5.d.05.86.
32.	Dugouts in Railway	R.4.d.5.3.
33.	Dugouts	R.3.d.70.45.
34.	Company Headquarters	R10.a.00.70.
35.	Dugouts	R.3.d.90.20.
36.	Track beside Bank	R.4.c.00.58. to R.9.b.25.35.

8. 3. 18.

*W. Moore*

Captain R.F.A.

Adjutant RIGHT GROUP R.F.A.



SECRET  
-----

173rd Brigade Hq. D116/22

O.C.     A/173  
          B/173  
          C/173  
          D/173  
          455 Battery R.F.A.  
H.Q.     107th Infy. Bde.  
          108th Infy. Bde.  
-----

Owing to the probability of the enemy being able to launch their attack before the Artillery Barrage comes down it has been decided to have a second barrage which will be just clear of the Line of Resistance.

The method of procedure will be as follows:-

On receipt of S.O.S. Signal all batteries will open fire on their present normal S.O.S. Lines.

After 3 minutes their barrage will be lifted back to the line shown in attached.

The barrage will remain here till further orders are received from Group Headquarters.

This procedure will only obtain after the order "Man Battle Stations" has been issued.

A further barrage which will be called for by a special signal and which will be designed to cover the line of redoubts will be issued in due course.

11. 3. 19.

Captain R.F.A.  
Adjutant RIGHT GROUP     R.F.A.



# BARRAGE TO COVERLINE OF RESISTANCE

C/173

B.17.3.40.40.  
 B.17.3.38.43.  
 B.17.3.04.55.  
 B.16.4.55.64.  
 B.16.4.53.73.  
 B.16.4.50.80.

A/173

B.9.4.50.30.  
 B.9.4.40.30.  
 B.9.4.30.30.  
 B.9.4.00.30.  
 B.9.3.30.30.  
 B.9.3.55.55.

B/173

B.17.3.50.30.  
 B.18.3.40.33.  
 B.10.3.30.31.  
 B.10.3.00.30.  
 B.9.4. 90.40.  
 B.9.4. 75.45.

D/173

B.9.3.55.30.  
 B.9.3.35.35.  
 B.9.3.15.30.  
 B.9.3.05.30.  
 B.9.4.90.35.  
 B.9.4.70.35.

452 Battery R.F.A.

B.9.4.55.25.  
 B.9.4. 40.30.  
 B.9.4.35.30.  
 B.9.4.15.30.  
 B.9.4.05.40.  
 B.9.3.05.30.

The above spottings give the centre of the zone for each gun. Guns will sweep to cover the intervening space. The necessary sweep will be worked out and will be arranged beforehand.



SECRET  
-----O.C. /173  
-----173rd Brigade No. *D 116/25*

*App VII*

The undermentioned barrage is intended to meet the situation which may arise if the Line of Resistance is broken by an enemy attack.

It will be fired for the defence of the two forward strong points in B.14.a. and B.16.c.

A tracing will be forwarded as soon as possible showing the barrage and also the position of the above forward points and the Machine guns.

The barrage will be ordered by Forward Observing Officer in JENNE D'ARC (B.19.d.98.40.) or ASCOT A.18.d.03.20. and Officers Commanding "B" and "D" Batteries 173rd Brigade will instruct their F.O.O's. accordingly.

A/173	B.14.d.24.93.	-	B.14.b.18.40.
462 Battery R.F.A.	B.14.b.18.40.	-	B.14.b.00.22.
B/173	B.14.b.00.22.	-	B.8.c. 69.05.
C/173	B.8.c. 69.05.	-	B.8.c. 15.03.
D/173	B.16.a.47.15.	-	B.15.d.22.87.

11. 3. 10.

*R. F. A.*  
 Capt. R.F.A.  
 Adjutant RIGHT GROUP R.F.A.



S E C R E T.

173rd Brigade R.F.A. No. W.P.51/12

O.C. A, B, C, and D/173  
 O.C. 383, 462, 463, and 464 Batteries.  
 2/Lieut Fagan R.E.

WORKING PARTIES.

A new Position has now to be worked on and this necessitates reducing the number of shifts working at S.P.4. O.P. and S.P. 5, O.P. O.P. at RAPHAEL will remain as before.

Work will now be as follows :-

POSITION.	BATTERY IN CHARGE.	R.E.	GROUP WORK- ING PARTY.	DETAILED BY.	MINERS.	DETAILED BY.
F 3.	464.	2	40.	(10 A/173. ) (10 B/173. ) (14 383 ) ( 6 462 )	5	(4 A/173 (1 D/173
F 6.	383.	2	-	-	3	383.
F 4.	C/173.	-	-	-	-	-
F 7.	462.	2	-	-	3	462.
F 11.	B/173.	-	-	-	-	-
F 31.	D/173.	2	7	D/173.	-	-
F 28.	D/232.	-	10.	D/232.	-	-
F 23.	463.	-	-	-	3	463.
F 5.	A/173.	2	-	-	2	A/173.
O.P. S.P.4. C/173.	-	-	14.	C/173.	6	C/173.
O.P. S.P.3. D/173.	4	10.	D/173.	4	B/173.	
O.P. RAPHAEL. 462.	4	16.	(10 462. ) ( 6 D/232 )	2	D/173.	
O.P. DALLON. 463.	4	10.	(5 463. ) (5 D/232 )	-	-	

Three shifts will be worked at O.P. RAPHAEL.  
 Two " " " " " " S.P.4. S.P.5. and DALLON.

Work will be pushed on with the utmost energy.

The above arrangement will leave 25 men for work in the Battle Zone positions. These men are as follows :-

A/173.	4.
B/173.	6.
C/173.	Nil.
D/173.	Nil.
463.	12.
462.	Nil.
383.	3.
D/232.	Nil.
	<u>25.</u>

12th February 1919.

Captain, R.F.A.,  
 Adjutant, RIGHT GROUP, R.F.A.



SECRET

173rd Brigade NoD.116/23

App. DI IX

O.C.      A/173  
             B/173  
             C/173  
             D/173  
             402 Battery R.F.A.  
             404        "        "  
 H.Q.      107th Infy. Bde. }  
             109th        "        " } For information

Herewith Barrage Tables showing :-

(a) Barrage to be put down for the Defence of the Strong Points in the Forward Zone in response to the special RED SMOKE S.O.S. Signal.

This Barrage will also be called for from the Strong Points by telephone and the Officers Commanding B/173 and D/173 will satisfy themselves that the necessary communication is arranged. (Visual will also be arranged if possible)

They should also arrange that their F.O.O. knows exactly where the Smoke Signal is to be sent from so that no delay occurs in passing on the warning.

The above batteries are responsible for passing on the warning and informing Group Headquarters.

If this Barrage is called for from any one strong point the barrage on either side of that strong point will be put down.

If more than one strong point demands the barrage the whole barrage will be put down.

(b) The Normal S.O.S. Lines for the defence of the Battle Zone in the event of the forward zone being evacuated.

13.3. 18.

Captain R.F.A.  
 Adjutant RIGHT GROUP R.F.A.



SECRET.

173rd Brigade R.F.A. No.S.3/116/8

O.C. A/173.  
 B/173.  
 C/173.  
 D/173.  
 462 Battery R.F.A.,  
 (2) H.Q. 36th Divl. Artillery.  
 H.Q. 107th Inf. Brigade.  
 H.Q. 108th Inf. Brigade.  
 H.Q. Left Group, R.F.A.,  
 -----

App. IV

It has been decided to bring the Normal S.O.S. Barrage nearer to our Outpost Line.

From receipt of this Order your S.O.S. Lines will therefore be as shewn on the attached.

Acknowledge by wire at once, please.

*Johnstone*

Issued at 10.30 p.m.  
 7th ~~February~~ 1918.

*March*

Captain, R.F.A.,  
 Adjutant, RIGHT GROUP, R.F.A.



# RIGHT GROUP.

## NORMAL S.O.S. LINES.

### A/173 Brigade R.F.A.

B.9.d.65.48.  
B.9.d.60.49.  
B.9.d.35.50.  
B.9.d.20.51.  
B.9.d.66.52.  
B.9.c.90.53.

### B/173 Brigade R.F.A.

B.10.c.50.70.  
B.10.c.36.66.  
B.10.c.22.62.  
B.10.c.08.58.  
B.9.d.94.52.  
B.9.d.80.48.

### C/173 Brigade R.F.A.

B.17.c.95.75.  
B.17.c.84.90.  
B.17.a.73.05.  
B.17.a.62.20.  
B.17.a.57.35.  
B.17.a.40.50.

### 462 Battery R.F.A.

B.8.d.90.45.  
B.8.d.75.43.  
B.8.d.60.41.  
B.8.d.45.40.  
B.13.d.30.55.  
B.8.d.15.70.

### D/173 Brigade R.F.A.

B.9.c.60.65.  
B.9.c.64.64.  
B.9.c.48.63.  
B.9.c.32.62.  
B.9.c.16.61.  
B.9.c.00.60.

-----oOo-----



App. X

O. C.

A/173

B/173

C/173

D/173

462 Battery R.F.A.

464 Battery R.F.A.

H. Q.

107th Infy. Bde.

108th      "      "

36th Div. Arty.

O. C.

Left Group

For information

### A. Mutual Support to Left Group

B. In case of attack on Right Sub Sector (held by 108th )

( Infy. Ede. )

C. In case of attack on Centre Sub Sector (held by 107th)

In all cases the necessary sweep should be calculated and

W. H. Wood

Captain R.F.A.

Adjutant RIGHT GROUP R.F.A.



INTER-GROUP REINFORCING BARRAGES.

-----

IN CASE OF ATTACK ON FRONT HELD BY 107th INF. BRIGADE.

-----

CODE-WORD - "B E R T H A".

B/173rd Brigade R.F.A.

B.10.c.77.45.  
B.10.c.50.45.  
B.10.c.20.45.  
B.9.d.90.45.  
B.9.d.70.50.  
B.9.d.64.60.

C/173rd Brigade R.F.A.

B.10.c.35.45.  
B.10.c.05.45.  
B.9.d.80.48.  
B.9.d.56.60.  
B.9.d.40.60.  
B.9.d.02.60.

A/173rd Brigade R.F.A.

B.9.d.48.60.  
B.9.d.30.60.  
B.9.d.19.60.  
B.9.c.94.60.  
B.9.c.80.70.  
B.9.c.63.75.

462 Battery R.F.A.

B.9.c.47.74.  
B.9.c.30.70.  
B.9.c.13.66.  
B.8.d.96.62.  
B.8.d.79.58.  
B.8.d.6 2.54.

464 Battery R.F.A.

B.8.d.45.50.  
B.8.d.34.55.  
B.8.d.24.62.  
B.8.d.12.72.  
B.8.d.02.75.  
B.8.c.92.80.

D/173rd Brigade R.F.A.

B.10.d.20.20.  
B.10.d.10.30.  
B.10.d.00.40.  
B.10.c.90.50.  
B.10.c.80.60.  
B.10.c.70.70.

1 18-pdr. Battery LEFT GROUP.

B.9.c.88.68.  
B.9.c.70.73.  
B.9.c.55.75.  
B.9.c.38.72.  
B.9.c.22.68.  
B.9.c.04.64.

1 18-pdr. Battery LEFT GROUP.

B.8.d.88.60.  
B.8.d.70.56.  
B.8.d.54.52.  
B.8.d.18.67.  
B.8.d.07.74.  
B.8.c.97.78.

1 Howitzer Battery, LEFT GROUP.

2 Guns on Cross Roads, B.8.b.30.30.  
2 " " Trench Junction, B.8.b.72.59.  
2 " " Trench Junction B.2.d.90.10.



INTER-GROUP REINFORCING BARRAGES.

-----

IN CASE OF ATTACK ON FRONT HELD BY 108th INF. BRIGADE.

-----

CODE-WORD "A N N A".

C/173rd Brigade R.F.A.,

B.17.c.93.75.  
B.17.c.84.90.  
B.17.a.75.05.  
B.17.a.62.20.  
B.17.a.50.35.  
B.17.a.40.50.

A/173rd Brigade R.F.A.,

B.17.c.77.97.  
B.17.a.56.27.  
B.17.a.35.50.  
B.17.a.25.51.  
B.17.a.15.53.  
B.17.a.05.55.

B/173rd Brigade R.F.A.,

B.17.a.30.50.  
B.17.a.20.52.  
B.17.a.10.54.  
B.17.a.00.56.  
B.16.b.90.58.  
B.16.b.80.60.

464 Battery R.F.A.,

B.16.b.95.57.  
B.16.b.85.59.  
B.16.b.75.63.  
B.16.b.67.68.  
B.16.b.61.75.  
B.16.b.49.90.

462 Battery R.F.A.,

B.16.b.70.65.  
B.16.b.64.72.  
B.16.b.58.79.  
B.16.b.52.86.  
B.16.b.46.93.  
B.10.d.40.00.

D/173rd Brigade R.F.A.,

B.10.d.20.20.  
B.10.d.10.30.  
B.10.d.00.40.  
B.10.c.90.50.  
B.10.c.80.60.  
B.10.c.70.70.

LEFT GROUP. 1 18-pdr. Battery B.10.d.60.70. to B.10.a.40.00.

-----oOo-----



R I G H T      G R O U P .MUTUAL SUPPORT.  
-----

Help to LEFT GROUP.

Code Word    "Help   EDWARDES"

C/173    B.8.b.32.00.  
           B.8.b.20.04.  
           B.8.b.14.07.  
           B.8.b.02.12.  
           B.8.a.90.17.  
           B.8.a.84.20.

A/173.    B.8.b.26.02.  
           B.8.b.08.10.  
           B.8.a.96.14.  
           B.8.a.78.22.  
           B.8.a.66.26.  
           B.8.a.48.34.

B/173    B.8.a.72.24.  
           B.8.a.60.29.  
           B.8.a.54.32.  
           B.8.a.42.36.  
           B.8.a.30.42.  
           B.8.a.24.44.

464 Bty RFA.    B.8.a.36.39.  
                   B.8.a.18.46.  
                   B.8.a.06.52.  
                   B.8.a.88.60.  
                   B.8.a.76.64.  
                   B.8.a.58.70.

462 Bty  
 R.F.A.    B.8.a.12.49.  
           B.8.a.00.55.  
           B.7.b.94.58.  
           B.7.b.82.62.  
           B.7.b.70.66.  
           B.7.b.64.68.

D/173    1 How.   on B.1.d.7.1.  
           1 How   on B.2.c.1.8.  
           1 How   on B.2.c.20.32.  
           1 How   on B.2.c.75.48.  
           1 How   on B.2.d.63.63.  
           1 How   on B.8.b.30.40.



SECRET.

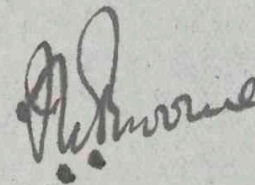
173rd Brigade R.F.A. No. 178/13

O.C. C/173  
D/173.  
-----

App. XI

With reference to the withdrawal of your three Guns which is taking place to-night.

1. The rear half Battery will not fire except for the minimum number of rounds necessary for Registration. When this ~~has~~ <sup>is</sup> ~~been~~ ~~done~~ carried out the forward half Battery must provide covering fire under Battery arrangements.
2. The forward half Batteries will carry out the present programme of firing, including wire cutting, and Battery Commanders will make the necessary arrangements for strengthening the Detachments.
3. There will be no detached Guns when the move is complete.
4. The Headquarters of Batteries will move with the rear half Battery, and all necessary extensions to the present communications will be made so that the rear half Battery can function independently.
5. The establishment of ammunition remains the same, i.e. 676 rounds per 18-pdr gun, and 508 rounds per 4.5 How at both forward and rear positions. Rear positions must be complete with this amount by dawn 18th.



17.3.18.

Captain R.F.A.  
Adjutant 173rd Brigade R.F.A.



SECRET AND URGENT.

173rd Brigade R.F.A. No. *B19*

*108th Inf Brigade*  
*107th Inf Brigade*  
 O.C. A/173  
 B/173  
 C/173  
 C/173 Forward position  
 D/173  
 D/173 Forward position  
 464 Battery R.F.A.

*App XII*

Barrage in accordance with the attached Table will be  
 fired to-night at 8.30 p.m.

18-pdrs will fire 50% "A" and 50% "AX" (except where  
 range is excessive). 4.5 Hows will fire 25% 106 fuzes.

Rate of fire for guns and hows as fast as is consistent  
 with accurate shooting, not exceeding four rounds per gun per  
 minute.

Please acknowledge by wire.

19.3.18.

*[Signature]*  
 Adjutant RIGHT GROUP R.F.A. Capt E.F.A.



BARRAGE TABLE.  
-----

BATTERY. -----	TIME. -----	TASK. -----
B/173.	Zero to Zero plus 3 Minutes.	B.9.b.75.00. - B.10.a.15.10.
	Zero plus 3 Minutes to Zero plus 6 Minutes.	B.9.b.70.15. - B.10.a.13.23.
	Zero plus 6 minutes to Zero plus 9 minutes.	B.9.b.68.35. - B.10.a.10.40.
	Zero plus 9 minutes to Zero plus 12 minutes.	B.9.b.60.50. - B.10.a.05.60.
	Zero plus 12 minutes to Zero plus 15 minutes.	B.9.b.60.60. - B.10.a.05.75.
A/173.	Same as B/173.	
D/173. Rear Guns.	Same as B/173.	
C/173. Forward Guns.		
	Zero to Zero plus 3 minutes.	B.10.a.15.10. - B.10.a.40.13.
	" plus 3 minutes to Zero plus 6 minutes.	B.10.a.13.23. - B.10.a.40.30.
	" plus 6 minutes to Zero plus 9 minutes.	B.10.a.10.40. - B.10.a.35.47.
	" plus 9 minutes to Zero plus 12 minutes.	B.10.a.05.60. - B.10.a.30.60.
	" plus 12 minutes to Zero plus 15 minutes.	B.10.a.05.75. - B.10.a.30.80.
C/173. Rear Guns.	Same as C/173. Forward Guns.	
D/173. Forward Guns.		
	Zero to Zero plus 3 Minutes.	B.10.a.40.13. - B.10.a.55.15.
	" plus 3 minutes to Zero plus 6 minutes.	B.10.a.40.30. - B.10.a.55.33.
	" plus 6 minutes to Zero plus 9 minutes.	B.10.a.35.47. - B.10.a.50.50.
	" plus 9 minutes to Zero plus 12 minutes.	B.10.a.30.60. - B.10.a.48.03.
	" plus 12 minutes to Zero plus 15 minutes.	B.10.a.30.80. - B.10.a.45.75.
464. 2 Guns.	Same as D/173. Forward Guns.	



RIGHT GROUP 36th DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY

Account of Operations March 21st - 31st.

Reference Map FRANCE  
Sheet 66 c 1/40,000

Reliable information having been obtained from deserters that the Enemy attack would take place on the morning of the 21st March a Programme of vigorous Counter Preparation was ordered for the night 20/21st. Suspected Trench Mortar Emplacements were especially dealt with, and weaving barrages fire on selected areas.

Between 10.30. p.m. and 12 midnight all remaining batteries were withdrawn to positions behind the Battle Zone, P/173 to A.27.a. C/173 to G.6.c., and D/173 to G.4.b. Practically all ammunition was removed from the Forward Positions, or fired before they were evacuated. From information received later through F.O.O's it is certain that had Batteries remained in Forward Positions they would have been annihilated without having been able to take any active part in the Battle. Group Headquarters had been moved the previous day to G.3.a.

The Enemy Barrage opened at 4.35 a.m. while Counter Preparations was actually being fired. During the first 5 minutes telephonic communication was destroyed to all batteries with the exception of the 464th Battery in G.5.c., who remained in communication for about 20 minutes.

heavy

Owing to an exceptionally/mist and to the lack of all communication it is extremely difficult to give a detailed account of the Enemy Barrage. As far as can be ascertained it appeared to consist of :- 1. A Barrage by Trench Mortars of all calibres on the Forward System, 2. A mixed Phosgene and H.E. Bombardment by 105, 150 and 210 M.M. shell directed against A The Line of Strong Points and the Valley immediately in rear, B The Battle Line, and C The Valley extending from G.3.a. to ESSIGNY STATION. This Barrage was especially heavy on Battery Positions. The proportion of Lethal Shell to H.E. gradually decreased, until the Barrage was entirely composed of H.E. There was a remarkable absence of 77 m.m. shell, and of instantaneous fuze. 3. A Bombardment of selected points by H.V. Guns of all calibres. These points included almost all villages within range, the canal crossings, and the R.E. Dump near GRAND SERAUCOURT. A Howitzer of very heavy calibre was also noticed firing intermittently on some area near the canal S.W. of GRAND SERAUCOURT.

Finding that communications to the rear were interrupted Batteries immediately opened fire on their S.O.S. Lines. The presence of Gas in strong concentration necessitating the wearing of Box Respirators and the mist which completely obscured aiming posts, rendered it very difficult to keep up a steady rate of accurate fire.

Every effort to restore communication with batteries was made. It was found however that all buried routes had been cut, and the barrage was so heavy that no air line could have survived. At 6 a.m. a party consisting of 2 Officers and 4 O.R's went forward to endeavour to obtain some information. They walked through an intense barrage, one of the party being wounded, and got into touch with batteries in the neighbourhood of G.4.b. They were unable to obtain any information owing to the mist.

At about 10 a.m. orders were sent to batteries by runners that until information was received that an attack had been launched Counter Preparation Targets must be engaged, the rate of fire being adjusted in accordance with the amount of ammunition in hand.

Meanwhile every effort was made to replenish the ammunition supply



and later in the morning it was found possible to get ammunition through to all batteries at the expense of some casualties.

At 11 a.m. orders were sent out to batteries to put down a Barrage on the Line of Strong Points.

At 12 noon information was received that the enemy was advancing in the neighbourhood of LA MANUFACTURE FARM. Orders were therefore issued to the batteries near ESSIGNY STATION to retire by Sections, and the Gun Limbers which had rendezvoused in G.14. were ordered up to the Positions. By this time the enemy barrage had ceased, but there was still a good deal of intermittent fire in G.3. and 9. The mist too had cleared.

At this time the enemy appears to have advanced very rapidly towards ESSIGNY STATION, being reported on the Railway in G.6.a. at 12.45 p.m. and in G.12.b. at 1.10 p.m. He seems to have been advancing in two parties, one moving South along the Railway and the other West from the direction of ESSIGNY. The Limbers sent up to the Batteries near ESSIGNY STATION were turned back by the retiring Infantry in G.10.a. A further attempt was made to reach these positions at 2.15 p.m. but it was found to be impossible.

At 1.15 p.m. C/173 and A/173 in action in G.6.c. and G.5.d. respectively withdrew their personnel from their positions as they were then under heavy machine gun fire from front flank and rear and the enemy was seen to be advancing rapidly from ESSIGNY.

Much of the information given above did not reach Group Headquarters until very much later, and at 2.0 p.m. the situation, so far as the Infantry Brigadier and Group Commander knew, was very vague. Unreliable reports from stragglers stated that the enemy was through the Battle Zone at all points and had captured FOURGIES FARM. A reconnaissance was immediately ordered by the Group Commander to go forward and ascertain the situation. They reported that the enemy was holding ESSIGNY STATION and was in B.11.b. and that our Infantry were holding a line in A27.d. in some strength, also that our Batteries were still in action in G.4.b. and G.5.c. though exposed to Machine Gun fire.

The situation remained more or less unchanged throughout the afternoon. The remaining 18 pdr. batteries being withdrawn from G.5.c. at various times D/173 remained in action in G.4.b. until 6 p.m. This Battery sent forward an F.O.O. to the copse at A.28.d.0.2. and maintained communication with him, bringing observed fire to bear on enemy advancing at ranges down to 300 yards. They finally withdrew all their guns safely at 6 p.m. having expended practically all their ammunition, and took up a position in G.14.b.

At 7.15 p.m. the enemy was reported to be advancing in G.4.b. and G.5.a. By 7.45 p.m. he was in G.4.c. and G.3.d. All batteries remaining in action were consequently ordered to withdraw to positions near ARTEMPS, coming under orders of Officer Commanding 153 Brigade R.F.A. 173 Brigade H.Q. withdrew at the same time to OLLEZY.

From March 22nd to 31st D/173 was the only Battery of the Brigade remaining in action. The other 3 Batteries came under the orders of O.C. 36th D.A.C. and were used to assist in ammunition supply, also a large number of their Officers, men and horses were drafted to fill vacancies in Batteries in the line. A, B, and C batteries retired as follows:

On the night of the 21st they were at SOMMETTE EAUCOURT moving on the morning of the 22nd to VERLAINES and the same afternoon to GOLANCOURT. Thence on the 23rd to AVRICOURT and on the night of the 25th to FRESNERES. On the 26th they were at



3.  
BRVILLERS, moving the same evening to PIENNES. On the 27th they moved to MERY, on the 28th to GOURNAY, on the night 30/31 to GRAND FRESNOY and on the 31st to LA RUE ST PIERRE.

D/173 remained in the line. An account of the activities of this Battery is attached.

So little information was ~~xxxxxxxx~~ received at Group Headquarters at the time that it is difficult to obtain a connected account of the operations on the day of the original attack. Separate accounts by Battery Commanders are therefore attached.



Appendix 13

Immediately follows War Diary.



36th Divisional Artillery.

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173rd BRIGADE R.F.A. :::: APRIL 1918.



April 1918.

## WAR DIARY

or

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

173rd Brigade R.F.A. Army Form C. 2118.

36th Division

II Corps. Second Army.

36

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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1st.		The Brigade, less D/173, remained at LA RUE ST. PIERRE.	Ref. Maps. Amiens, 1/100,000 Belgium, Sheets 27-28 1/40,000
	2nd		Marched to FRANCASTEL.	
	3rd		Marched to OFFIGNIES in the POIX collecting area.	
	4th		D/173 rejoined the Brigade	
	5th	}	The Brigade remained at OFFIGNIES.	
	6th			
	7th			
	8th		Re-organization and refitting work was carried out. The Brigade was completed in guns, and a good deal of other equipment was supplied.	
	9th	}	The Brigade marched to COURCELLES SUR POIX.	
	10th			
	11th		Brigade remained at COURCELLES SUR POIX, and the work of refitting was carried on.	
	12th	}	The Brigade marched to PONT DE METZ.	
	13th			
	14th		The Brigade remained at PONT DE METZ.	
	15th		The Brigade entrained at ST ROCH Station near AMIENS.	
	16th		The Brigade detrained at HOPOUTRE near POPERINGHE, and marched to Wagon Lines near MONT DE CATS.	
			Nothing unusual occurred.	

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## WAR DIARY

or

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Army Form C. 2118.

April (contd.)

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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	17th		A/173, B/173 and D/173 moved into action in the neighbourhood of BERTHEN, with Group Headquarters at Sheet 27, R 21 b. 3. 2, coming under the orders of 38th Divisional Artillery, and covering the 34th Division. C/173 remained at its Wagon Line, as its equipment had been drawn on to equip other Batteries.	
	18th		Battery Wagon Lines moved to neighbourhood of BOESCHEPE. The attitude of the enemy was fairly quiet. Our artillery, however, assumed a most aggressive policy, 60 rounds per Battery per hour being fired into the enemy's forward areas.	
	19th		The weather became dull and cold, and some snow fell. During the early morning a concentrated gas bombardment was carried out by four 4.5" Hows. against BAILLEUL ASYLUM. During the afternoon enemy artillery showed greater activity, carrying out sudden heavy bombardments on selected areas at different times.	
	20th to 22nd		Nothing unusual occurred. During this period the British Infantry was relieved by the French.	
	23rd		The Brigade moved out of action, spending the night at Wagon Lines near GODEWAERSVELDE. The relief was delayed for some hours by a heavy enemy artillery bombardment at 8 pm, followed by an Infantry attack which was repulsed.	



April (cont.)

## 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
	24th		The Brigade moved to HAMHOEK.	
	25th		The Brigade moved to the neighbourhood of BRIELEN.	
	26th		The Brigade moved to Wagon lines in the neighbourhood Sheet 28, B20 d.	
	27th		Batteries took up reserve positions in Sheet 28, B19. to cover the Canal Line. From 9.30 am. to 5 pm the enemy carried out a sustained and heavy bombardment of our back areas with 240 m.m. and 150 m.m. high velocity guns. This shelling was particularly severe in the neighbourhood of the Batteries, where heavy casualties were caused among men and horses, principally from 240 m.m. shell bursting on time. Casualties of the Brigade were 1 officer died of wounds 2 Officers wounded 4 O.R's killed 24 O.R's wounded 19 horses killed.	
	28th		During the night Brigade Headquarters moved to HOSPITAL FARM. Brigade moved into action in Sheet 28, B24, Headquarters being at C25 d 1.7.	



4  
WAR DIARY

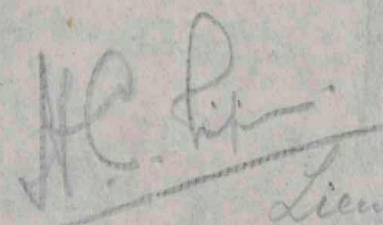
Army Form C. 2118.

or

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence  
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	28 <sup>th</sup> (cont'd)		During the night "B" and "D" Batteries moved to more rear positions in B. 23.	
	29 <sup>th</sup>		The attitude of the enemy on this front was unaggressive.	
	30 <sup>th</sup>		Quiet days. Nothing unusual occurred.	
			Officer Casualties during the month were as follows:-	
			<u>Died of wounds.</u> 2/Lt. J. L. MANN	
			<u>Wounded</u> Capt. F. J. H. HUNT	
			Lieut. H. M. ACHILLES	
			2/Lt. H. IDDON	
			2/Lt. E. M. CUNNINGHAM	
			 Lieut. Col. R. F. A	
			Commanding 173rd Bde R. F. A	



## WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

MAY 1918.

173rd Brigade  
R.F.A.

36th Division.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
173rd Brigade	31		<p>As Left Group 36th Divisional Artillery the Brigade covered the front between KITCHENER WOOD and WIELTJE with the Belgian Army on the Left, and Right Group 36th Divisional Artillery on the Right.</p> <p>Throughout the month there has been a gradual decrease of hostile Artillery activity. At the beginning of the month forward areas received considerable attention, whereas back areas were comparatively quiet.</p> <p>Gradual moving forward of the enemy's batteries appears to have taken place with the result that back areas came under Field Artillery fire in proportion.</p> <p>Shortly after the middle of the month this movement appears to have reached its climax, and hostile batteries were reported active from positions within a few thousand yards of our own front line, some of them to the WEST of the STEENBEKE. From then until the end of the month though the bulk of the enemy artillery undoubtedly continued to move forward, these very forward batteries appear in most cases to have been withdrawn.</p> <p>At the end of the month the area EAST of the Canal was very quiet indeed, whereas battery positions and roads to the WEST of the Canal as far back as BRIELEN frequently came under heavy fire.</p> <p>Hostile gas shelling also showed a gradual decrease as the month</p>	<p>Reference 28. N.W. 1/20,000. and sheet 28 1/40,000.</p>



## WAR DIARY

or

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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MAY 1918

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p>progressed, practically none being reported during the last week, although weather conditions were ideal.</p> <p>Our artillery carried out an active policy of harassing fire, at the beginning of the month the allotment of ammunition being 60 +ds per battery per hour. Later this was reduced to 20 +ds per battery per hour.</p> <p>During the early part of the month counter-preparation shoots were frequently carried out at dusk and before dawn. These were discontinued when the likelihood of enemy attacks in this Sector disappeared.</p> <p>Thanks to good visibility, zone calls on enemy batteries and transport were frequently received and answered, and several counter battery shoots with ground observation were carried out with 4.5" Hows. with great success. Gas bombardments were also undertaken whenever weather conditions were favourable.</p> <p>The weather throughout the month was remarkably fine and dry.</p> <p>Our casualties during the month were negligible.</p>	

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MAY 1918

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1 <sup>st</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup>		Nothing unusual occurred.	
	5 <sup>th</sup>		Enemy artillery very quiet.	
	6 <sup>th</sup>		"A" Battery 173rd Brigade R.F.A. was withdrawn to its Wagon line to rest. "D" Battery moved 4 guns to a position EAST of the Canal, C20d1.9. During the day the enemy showed increased activity against roads.	
	7 <sup>th</sup>		Normal.	
	8 <sup>th</sup>		Unusually clear visibility. Enemy high velocity guns more active	
	9 <sup>th</sup>		Normal.	
	10 <sup>th</sup>		The front held by 107 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade and covered by the Group was extended - see appendix A.	app: A
	11 <sup>th</sup>		A gas concentration was carried out in conjunction with the Right Group - see appendix B	app: B
	12 <sup>th</sup>		Normal	
	13 <sup>th</sup>			
	14 <sup>th</sup>			
	15 <sup>th</sup>		A gas concentration was carried out in conjunction with the Right Group see appendix C	app: C
	16 <sup>th</sup>		Gas concentration was fired in conjunction with Right Group - see appendix D	app: D

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MAY 1918.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	17		Normal	
	18		Gas concentration fired in conjunction with Right Group - see appendix E.	app. E.
	19/20		Normal	
	21		Gas concentration fired in conjunction with Right Group - see appendix F.	app. F.
	22		Normal.	
	23			
	24			
	25		Gas concentration fired in conjunction with Right Group - see appendix G.	app. G.
	26		Normal	
	27		A minor operation was carried out by the 108 <sup>th</sup> Brigade, with Artillery co-operation by both Groups - see appendix H.	app. H.
	28		Gas concentration fired in conjunction with Right Group - see appendix I.	app. I.
	29/30		Normal.	
	31		A minor operation was carried out by the 108 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade. An Artillery programme was arranged and held in readiness should it be called for. As the raiding party met with no opposition, the Artillery did not open fire. (See appendix K.)	app. K.



## WAR DIARY

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MAY 1918.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices																																						
			<p>The Units of the Brigade were located as follows:-</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Unit</th> <th>Position</th> <th>Wagon Lines</th> <th>Fwd Wagon Lines</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Headquarters 173 Bde R.F.A.</td> <td>C. 25 d 00 85</td> <td>N° 6 PESELHOEK ST DGS.</td> <td>A. 21. b. 2. 9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A/173 Battery</td> <td>C. 19. c 65. 30</td> <td>A. 14. b. 4. 7</td> <td>B. 21. c. 40. 75</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B/173</td> <td>{ B. 24 a 2. 2 (4 guns) C. 20 a 9. 2 (2 " )</td> <td>A. 14. b. 9. 3</td> <td>B. 21 d. 9. 8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C/173</td> <td>{ B. 24 c. 80. 18 (4 guns) C. 26 a 10. 50 (2 " )</td> <td>A. 21. a. 6. 4</td> <td>B. 30. a. 3. 7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D/173</td> <td>{ C. 20 d 10. 90 (4 guns) B. 23. c 50. 58 (2 " )</td> <td>A. 21. b. 2. 9</td> <td>B. 21. d 4. 6</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Brigade and Battery Commanders etc. were as follows:-</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Headquarters</th> <th>C Battery</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Bt. Lt. Col. H. C. SIMPSON D.S.O.</td> <td>Capt (A/major) G. W. LEE.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lt. (A/capt) F. N. BROOME. Adjutant</td> <td>Capt. W. ARNOLD.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lt. C. BOSTOCK SMITH R.E. Signal Officer</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lt. C. N. JESSOP, orderly officer</td> <th>D Battery</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Lt. (A/major) R. P. SCHWEDER. M.C.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Lt. J. CLAYTON HARDIE.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><u>A Battery</u></p> <p>2/Lt. (A/major) R. R. SHARP. D.S.O. M.C.</p> <p>2/Lt. (A/capt) T. H. SHEARER. M.C.</p> <p><u>B Battery</u></p> <p>Capt (A/major) R. C. EMPSON</p> <p>Lt. (A/capt) A. G. SHIRRA GIBB</p>	Unit	Position	Wagon Lines	Fwd Wagon Lines	Headquarters 173 Bde R.F.A.	C. 25 d 00 85	N° 6 PESELHOEK ST DGS.	A. 21. b. 2. 9	A/173 Battery	C. 19. c 65. 30	A. 14. b. 4. 7	B. 21. c. 40. 75	B/173	{ B. 24 a 2. 2 (4 guns) C. 20 a 9. 2 (2 " )	A. 14. b. 9. 3	B. 21 d. 9. 8	C/173	{ B. 24 c. 80. 18 (4 guns) C. 26 a 10. 50 (2 " )	A. 21. a. 6. 4	B. 30. a. 3. 7	D/173	{ C. 20 d 10. 90 (4 guns) B. 23. c 50. 58 (2 " )	A. 21. b. 2. 9	B. 21. d 4. 6	Headquarters	C Battery	Bt. Lt. Col. H. C. SIMPSON D.S.O.	Capt (A/major) G. W. LEE.	Lt. (A/capt) F. N. BROOME. Adjutant	Capt. W. ARNOLD.	Lt. C. BOSTOCK SMITH R.E. Signal Officer		Lt. C. N. JESSOP, orderly officer	D Battery		Lt. (A/major) R. P. SCHWEDER. M.C.		Lt. J. CLAYTON HARDIE.	
Unit	Position	Wagon Lines	Fwd Wagon Lines																																							
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HEP  
Lieut Col.  
R.F.A.  
Commanding 173rd Bde R.F.A.



June 1918.

## WAR DIARY

or

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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173rd Brigade RFA Army Form C. 2118.

36th Division

II Corps II Army.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence  
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p>Reference 28/N.W./1/20000 28/1/40,000.</p> <p>As Left Group 36th Divisional Artillery the Brigade covered the front between KITCHENER WOOD and WIELTJE, with the Belgian Army on the Left, and Right Group 36th Divisional Artillery on the Right.</p> <p>On the nights 5/6 and 6/7 June the Brigade was relieved by the Artillery of the 12th Belgian Division - I/12 A and III/12 A.</p> <p>During the few days the Brigade was in action the gradual decrease of Hostile Artillery activity was maintained. The area East of the Canal was very quiet indeed but Battery Positions in roads to the West of the Canal as far back as BRIELEN frequently came under heavy fire.</p> <p>Hostile gas shelling was slight.</p> <p>Our Artillery carried out an active policy of harassing fire. the allotment of ammunition being 18-pdr 25 rds per Battery per hour and 4.5" Hows. 15 rds per Battery per hour.</p>	<p>98</p> <p>32</p>



2.  
WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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173 Bde RFA (contd)

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence  
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will be prepared in manuscript.

June  
1918.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p>A Gas Concentration took place on the night 4/5 June.</p> <p>Zone Calls on enemy Batteries and Transport were received and answered, and a counter Battery shoot with ground observation was carried out with 4.5" Hows.</p> <p>On relief the Brigade proceeded to Clifford Camp and remained there for the rest of the month.</p> <p>A Training Programme was carried through each week.</p> <p>On the 9th June the Brigade was inspected by the G.O.C Second Army.</p> <p>The Brigade suffered from an epidemic of Influenza during the month, the sick returns in the middle of the month being over 200. By methods of segregation the outbreak was brought under with success, and the sick returns at the end of the month were only slightly more than normal.</p> <p>The weather throughout the month was remarkably fine and dry.</p> <p>Our casualties during the month were negligible.</p>	

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## 3. WAR DIARY

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June 1918

or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

173 Bde RFA (Contd.)

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			Battery Positions were made on the BLUE LINE and O.P's. were reconnoitred. one Section per Battery 18-pdrs went into action on the evening of the 11 <sup>th</sup> June with a dump of 100 rounds per Gun, and one Section of 4.5" Hows. on the evening of the 12 <sup>th</sup> . Detachments of 1 N.C.O. and 2 men remained with the guns.	
June	1-3		The Brigade also built on the 28 <sup>th</sup> June similar positions on the BLUE LINE for the four Batteries of the 246 <sup>th</sup> Brigade R.F.A. Enemy Artillery very quiet.	
	4.		A gas concentration was fired. Appendix I	App: I
	5-6		One Section per Battery relieved.	
	6-7		Remaining Sections of Batteries relieved.	
	7		Headquarters relieved	
			moved to Clifford Camp.	
	9		Inspection by G.O.C. II Army.	
	11		18-pdr Section per Battery moved into action on the BLUE LINE	



4.

## WAR DIARY

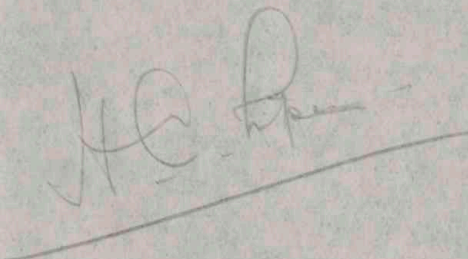
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June 1918

or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.173 Bde RFA  
(Contd)

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
June	12		4.5" How. Section moved into Action on the BLUE LINE.	
	13 - 30.		Occupied by Training Programme.	
<p style="text-align: right;">             Lieut. Col. R. F. A.            Commanding 173 Bde RFA         </p>				



1.

## WAR DIARY

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JULY 1918

173rd Brigade R. F. A.

36th Division

Xth Corps. II Army.

4235

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			Ref. 27 S.E. & 28. S.W. Combined 27 $\frac{1}{40.000}$ .	$\frac{1}{20.000}$
			<p>The Brigade having finished its period of Rest and Training, left CLIFFORD CAMP on the 4th July, and proceeded to WEMAERS CAPPEL, and from there relieved the 11/4 R.A.C. of the 41st (French) Divisional Artillery in the ST. JANS CAPPEL Sector.</p> <p>The Relief was effected on the night 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> without incident.</p> <p>The Brigade with the 407<sup>th</sup> Battery A.F.A. now formed the RIGHT GROUP of the Divisional Artillery, and covered the front from 27/SE x 11 d 3.6 to 28/SW. S.I.d. 9.4.</p> <p>Liaison with the Infantry was maintained by a Subaltern officer continuously at the Headquarters of the Battalion in the Line.</p> <p>Two Group O.P.s, "ANDRÉ" and "CLUB" were manned continuously night and day, while Batteries manned Forward O.P.s. by day.</p> <p>A Rocket Guard was established at PIEBROUCK.</p> <p>During the month a considerable amount of work was done on Battery positions, Command Posts being made in most cases and shelters for the men.</p>	



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2.

## WAR DIARY

or

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C. 2118.

JULY (Cont'd)

(Erase heading not required.)

173 Bde R.F.A

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p>Hostile Artillery activity during the month has been gradually on the increase. This no doubt is partly owing to the activity and movement that the enemy can see in our lines, and also perhaps to the fact of his having had to postpone his attack. Battery positions have not been heavily shelled, the enemy appearing to confine himself mostly to Area shoots. He has used 77 mm guns from forward positions, especially about S. 8.d. and S. 14.b.</p> <p>During the last few days of the month he did a considerable amount of gas shelling, consisting of bursts of fire from one or more batteries. Enemy air craft were fairly active, especially towards the end of the month.</p> <p>Our own Artillery carried out an active policy of harassing fire, two-thirds of which took place during the night, and from forward positions.</p> <p>The amount of ammunition allowed was 150 rounds per gun at the beginning of the month, which was increased to 200 rounds per gun. This harassing fire was carried out in conjunction with the machine guns of the Infantry Brigade and was directed on likely spots, especially roads and tracks used by the enemy Infantry.</p> <p>Concentrations were also fired on many occasions.</p>	

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## WAR DIARY

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JULY (contd.)

173 Bde R.F.A

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p>Gas concentrations were carried out by the 4.5" Hows on three occasions during the month.</p> <p>The Group took part in the successful operation on METEREN by the 9th Division on Friday July 19th at 7.55 am, co-operating as Left support.</p> <p>The dumps of ammunition at the guns were finally increased to 750 rounds per gun 18-pdrs and 550 rounds per 4.5" Howitzer.</p> <p>The weather during the early part of the month was fine and dry. Later a good deal of wet and some thunderstorms were experienced. Visibility was fair only - Wind mostly W to S.W.</p> <p>Casualties during the month amounted to 2. O.Rs. Killed and 2. O.Rs. wounded.</p>	
	1st.		Divisional Horse Show.	
	4		The Brigade moved to WEMAERS CAPPEL.	
	6-7		The Brigade relieved the French (R.A.C. 41st Div) in ST. JANS CAPPEL Sector.	
	10.		Hostile Artillery active.	



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JULY (Contd)  
or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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173. Bde. R.F.A.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	11.		Hostile Artillery very quiet.	
	13.		Moved Group Headquarters to MONT DES CATS.	
	15.		Enemy barraged 1st and 2nd Support lines of our Sector.	
	17.		Forward Sections being moved back. C/173 moved to rear position.	
			Concentrations fired. 700 rounds per Battery between 10 pm & 3 a.m.	
	19.		Attack of the 9th Division on METEREN (see appendix I)	app. I
	20.		Heavy Artillery Fire on our Front Line.	
	21.		The Brigade fired Concentrations during the night, over 1000 rounds for the Brigade	
	25.		Enemy Artillery active. Detached Sections move forward.	
	28.		Gas Concentration fired at night by 4.5" How. Battery (see appendix II)	app. II
	29.		Enemy Artillery active.	
	30.		Enemy Artillery active	
			Gas Concentration fired by Brigade 4.5" How Battery.	
			Simpson Group Order No 4 see appendix III	Appen. III

J.H. R.

Commanding Lt. Col. R.F.A.  
SIMPSON GROUP R.F.A.



## WAR DIARY

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1.

or

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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173rd Brigade R.F.A.

36th Division

Xth Corps. Second Army.

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AUGUST 1918

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p>Ref. 27. SE. &amp; 28. SW. combined</p> <p>The Brigade during the greater part of the month continued to cover the same Sector of Front, forming the Right Group of the Divisional Artillery. The same arrangements for O.Ps. Rocket Guards, etc, were kept up as in the preceding month.</p> <p>The policy of doing all the harassing fire by the Forward Sections was continued. Battery positions were changed in most cases, and a considerable amount of work was done in making Command Posts, and Shelters for the men.</p> <p>Hostile Artillery activity during the month increased slightly, especially during the period in which the enemy was preparing to withdraw his lines. This took the form mostly of area shoots, and a considerable amount of gas shell was employed.</p> <p>Enemy aircraft were fairly active.</p> <p>Our Artillery carried out an active policy of harassing fire and Concentrations, and several operations were undertaken by our own Infantry, and the Divisions on the Left and on the Right of us.</p>	<p>20,000</p>



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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

August 1918

(Erase heading not required.)

173 Bde R.F.A.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p>Lieut Col. H.C. SIMPSON, DSO, R.F.A., was commanding the Divisional Artillery from Monday 5<sup>th</sup> August until Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> August and during that period the Group was commanded by Lieut-Col. NEVINSON.</p> <p>It became evident towards the end of the month, that the enemy was withdrawing his guns, and keeping up considerable activity with very few Batteries. On the 30<sup>th</sup> of August the enemy withdrew and Batteries were ordered forward.</p> <p>The weather during the whole of the month was fine and dry. Visibility was fair only. Wind mostly WEST to SOUTH WEST. Casualties during the month were negligible.</p>	
August	1 <sup>st</sup>		Projector operation against MURAL FARM (see appendix I)	
	2		Enemy shelled very heavily with 5.9s about 10.0pm.	app. I
	4/5		Gas Concentration fired on the Square Bailleul (see appendix II)	
	6		Considerable enemy artillery activity.	app. II
	9		Gas projector attack on MURAL FARM	
	10		Gas concentration fired on road junction S. 14.d 35.82 (see appendix III)	
			Considerable hostile Artillery activity on Battery areas.	app. III

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 3  
 or  
 INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

August 1918

(Erase heading not required.)

173 Bde R.F.A.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	11		Considerable hostile Artillery activity. Bombardment of SHODDY FARM by our Heavy Artillery, in which we co-operated. (see appendix <u>IV</u> )	app: <u>IV</u>
	12		Gas Concentrations fired on stream crossing S.13 d 05.65 to X.18. C. 90.42	
	13		Gas concentration fired on enemy support companies billets in BAILLEUL (see appendix <u>VI</u> )	app: <u>V</u> app: <u>VI</u>
	14		Wire cut by hurricane bombardment. Battery positions reconnoitred for the "B" scheme.	
	16		Wire cut by hurricane bombardment (see appendix <u>VII</u> )	app: <u>VII</u>
	18		Raid on MURAL FARM (see appendix <u>VIII</u> )	app: <u>VIII</u>
	21/22		Operations by 30 <sup>th</sup> Division, in which we co-operated, and carried out a Chinese attack on WIRRAL FARM. (see appendix <u>IX</u> )	app: <u>IX</u>
	22		Counter attack by the enemy repulsed by our Artillery fire.	
	24		Attack by the 36th Division, both Battalions obtaining their objectives.	
	27		Col. H.C. SIMPSON, D.S.O. R.F.A., proceeded to Divisional Artillery Headquarters as C.R.A., Major R.R. SHARP commanding the Group.	



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## WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

August 1918

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173 Bde R.F.A.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	27		Enemy bombarded ST. JANS CAPPEL heavily with Gas.	
	30		Batteries and Group Headquarters went forward to areas in M.31. and M.32. d.	
	31		Batteries moved forward to S.16.	

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*[Signature]*  
Major R.F.A.  
Commanding SIMPSON GROUP, R.F.A.



1.  
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Sept: 1918

173 Bde R.F.A

I Corps  
36. Division

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p>Ref. 28/40.000.</p> <p>As Right Group of the Divisional Artillery the Brigade during the early part of the month followed the enemy in his retreat. We kept in close touch with the battalion we were supporting and did some useful work in knocking out machine guns, especially from the positions S. 15 &amp; T. 14.</p> <p>On several occasions good targets were obtained of the enemy in the open.</p> <p>A considerable amount of material was salvaged from old Battery positions in the area lately occupied by the Brigade and this was found to be most useful when the batteries came into more or less permanent positions at NEUVE EGLISE.</p> <p>The Brigade formed part of the Left Group of the 35<sup>th</sup> Divisional Artillery for the battle at YPRES 28 Sept: 1918, and on the afternoon of the same day was ordered to rejoin 36<sup>th</sup> Division &amp; continue the advance.</p> <p>Casualties during the early part of the month were slight in wounded men, but gas casualties were rather heavy.</p> <p>The weather during the month was extremely variable and alternated between bright dry weather with strong winds, and very wet intervals - On the whole the weather was not altogether favorable for active operations.</p>	



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SEP. 1918

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173 Bde R.F.A.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sept.	1		Batteries in action in S.15.d and S.21.b. Enemy H.V. guns strafed communications. Weather wet & rainy. Brigade Major wounded. Our Casualties were heavy owing to enemy Machine Guns in Neuve Eglise.	
	2.		2 Batteries took up forward positions in S.7. central.	
	3.		Remaining Batteries moved forward & took up positions in T.14. a, T.8.0 and T.13. b, Brigade H.Q. being in T.14. a. Enemy used considerable gas shell and strafed the Neuve Eglise area very heavily.	
	4.		Hill 63 taken. Division on our Right attack ROMARIN unsuccessfully. Enemy counter-attacked on the Northern slopes of Hill 63 & gained some ground.	
	5.		Weather fine & hot. C/173rd Brigade & 407 Battery R.F.A. took up forward positions in T.9. c & T.9. d. Batteries were very heavily shelled with gas, especially B/173 Brigade R.F.A. who suffered considerable casualties.	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

SEP. 1918.

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173 Bde R.F.A

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sep.	6.		A successful <del>operation</del> local attack North of GOOSEBERRY FARM, by which we gained HILL 49, with 30 to 40 prisoners - our casualties slight.	
	7		Enemy Artillery quiet but gas shelling very heavy at night.	
	8		Weather changes to wet.	
	9		96th Brigade go out of action. Enemy fire very heavy. B/173 goes out of action to MOOTE BOOM. Simpson Group is dissolved and remaining three batteries of 173rd Bde go into the POTTER GROUP. A/173 is moved to T.15.C.9.8 with forward Sections in T.15.6. D/173rd Bde R.F.A forward Section in T.16.a.	
	10.		Brigade Headquarters moved to R.15.b.7.9. Major R.R. SHARP, DSO, M.C., commands the Brigade from his battery position.	
	17		Adjutant 173rd Brigade acts for POTTER GROUP, H.Q. T.14.C. Enemy still using gas gas shell heavily in area shoots.	
	18.		Major SHARP takes command of the Group. 153rd Brigade R.F.A goes out of action. 2 batteries of 149 Brigade R.F.A come in. Gas shelling very heavy during the night.	



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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

SEP. 1918

(Erase heading not required.)

173 Bde RFA

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sep.	19		Brigade goes out of action to Wagon Lines, being relieved by 149 <sup>th</sup> Brigade R.F.A.	
	21		Brigade moved - wagon lines to G.H.d - Brigade H.Q. to H.8.c., and is attached to 15 <sup>th</sup> Brigade of the 35 <sup>th</sup> Division in the 2nd Corps. Half the guns go into action. Weather turns to wet.	
	23		Slight rain - coming operation postponed 72 hours until 28 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	
	25		Weather fine.	
	27		Weather still remains fine with slight showers.	
	28		Battle started 6.15 am. Our batteries formed Left Group with two of the batteries of the 159 <sup>th</sup> Brigade. Orders to move up to Wagon Lines in I.13.a at 5.0 pm, Headquarters being in the Laundry I.13.a.	
	29		Brigade moves forward 5.0 am. C/173 Bde RFA moves into action at J.7.d. at 9.30 am, B/173 Bde RFA just North of C/173 at 11.0 am. A & D Batteries moved forward in the afternoon. Batteries did not shoot.	
	30		Heavy rain all day. Batteries moved forward with great difficulty, owing to the bad roads to J.29.a and b and go into action at 6.0 pm. in positions in K27 a & K26 b, Headquarters being at TERHAN, K.15.C.	

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1.10.1918.

*[Signature]*  
Major RFA  
Commanding 173 Bde RFA.



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1.

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

173rd Brigade R.F.A. X Corps.  
36 Division.

OCTOBER 1918

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p style="text-align: right;">Reference 28/40,000 29/40,000</p> <p>As Right Group of the Divisional Artillery, the Brigade during the early part of the month was in Action South of TERHAND. In this period harassing fire amounting to 25 rounds per hour was kept up continuously.</p> <p>Enemy artillery was very active, and the Brigade suffered considerable casualties in horses, especially in the forward wagon lines.</p> <p>Owing to the shortage of material and the probability of an advance, very little could be done for the protection of battery positions, but in spite of this the Brigade suffered comparatively few casualties in personnel.</p> <p>On the 14th of the month the Brigade took part in the advance and the capture of MOORSEELE, being relieved by the 41st Division on the 16th.</p> <p>On the 18th the Brigade moved to the area East of LENDELEDE, and took part in the subsequent advance across the LYS, being finally relieved on the 27th October by the 34th Division, with batteries in action just West of KLEINHANEBEKE (29/J.7.) During the advance from TERHAND one battery of the Brigade was constantly in close touch with the battalion in the line. During the early period of the advance this work was carried out by A/173rd Bde R.F.A. under the Command of Major R.R. SHARP, D.S.O., M.C., and the later period by B/173rd Bde R.F.A. under the command of Major G.A. RICKARDS, M.C. Most excellent work was done by both these batteries with their forward guns, and they were undoubtedly of the very greatest assistance to the Infantry in overcoming hostile machine guns.</p> <p>Major SHARP had a very successful shoot on a hostile 77 battery, destroying the personnel and enabling the Infantry to capture the guns. Observation for this was carried out from MOORSEELE which was practically in the front line for the time. This Officer also <del>made</del> on a forward reconnaissance with the help of an Infantry platoon, was instrumental in capturing over 40 of the enemy.</p> <p>On relief by the 34th Division on the 28th October the Brigade marched down to the area between LAUWE and ROLLEGHEM, 29/N.31 and M.36.</p>	



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OCTOBER 1918

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

173rd Brigade R.F.A.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p>Casualties to personnel during the month were slight, considering the active operations, but casualties to horses were rather heavy.</p> <p>The weather was variable, but on the whole could not be described as altogether unfavorable for active operations. Towards the end of the month the weather was fine.</p> <p>-----</p>	
	1		Brigade Headquarters at TERHAND 28/K.15.c. Batteries in action K.27.a and K.26.b.	
	2			
	3			
	4		An active policy of harassing fire was pursued.	
	5		Considerable casualties among horses.	
	6		153rd Brigade R.F.A., and 173rd Brigade R.F.A. form the SIMPSON GROUP of the Divisional Artillery. Forward Positions chosen from 28/K.16.d. and K.17.c., and dumps made up to 250 rounds per gun in anticipation for attack on the 8th.	
	7			
	8			
	9		Enemy artillery very active in area shoots.	
	11		Attack on GOLDFLAKE FARM 28/L.19.c.07.22.	
	12		GOLDFLAKE FARM lost by the Infantry.	
	13		GOLDFLAKE FARM retaken. Guns go into action in positions as follows :- A/173, K.23.a. B/173 K.16.d., and C/173 & D/173 K.17.c. Brigade Headquarters K.17.d.	
	14		Battle started 05.30. MOORSEELE taken. A/173 goes forward with Left Battalion at 07.00 to L.22.b. Brigade Headquarters L.15.c.9.0. Batteries move forward to L.16.d. and L.16.a.	
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OCTOBER 1918

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

173rd Brigade R.F.A.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	15		<i>goes out of the Simpson group -</i> 153rd Brigade R.F.A. <del>ceased to function in conjunction with</del> 173rd Brigade R.F.A. At 09.00 the Brigade fired a barrage for the Infantry to line of the LYS in COURTRAI. Headquarters at L.22.b., and at 15.00 moved again to 29/G.14.b. Batteries G.15.a. and b.	
	16		At 05.30 a barrage was started which was subsequently stopped as the Infantry had advanced into COURTRAI. The Brigade was relieved by the 41st Division in the afternoon. The Brigade draws out to 29/L.3.d. and L.9.b.	
	17		At Rest.	
	18		The Brigade moved - Headquarters to B.14.d., Batteries B.16.b., B.10.c. and d. Forward wagon lines move back to A.16.b.	
	19		Considerable enemy gas shelling and bombing during the night. The Brigade moved at 16.00 - Headquarters B.17.a., and Batteries in action B.18.	
	19/20		On the night 19/20th the 109th Infantry Brigade crosses the LYS. This Brigade covered these operations with a creeping barrage.	
	20		Advance by II Corps at 09.00 in co-operation with the French on the Left, and the 9th Division on the Right. (see appendix I)  108th Infantry Brigade goes through the 109th Infantry Brigade.	App I
	22		"A" and "B" batteries of the Brigade go to 107th Infantry Brigade at I.3.d. and I.9.a. 107th Infantry Brigade makes good progress on the Right. The rest of the Brigade crosses the LYS.	
	23		Brigade Headquarters at I.4.d. Batteries in action in I.11.a., and I.5.c. and d.	
	25		Operation in conjunction with the French and the 9th Division starts at 09.00. Batteries move forward to J.7.b. and d. Headquarters at I.12.d. (see appendix II)	App II



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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

OCTOBER 1918

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173rd Brigade R.F.A.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	25 (contd)		108th Infantry Brigade held up owing to French not advancing. "A" "B" "C" batteries move back to rear positions during the night. Headquarters do not move.	
	27		The Brigade was relieved by 34th Division (see Appendix III)	App III
	28		The Brigade moved to new area.  <u>ADDENDUM.</u>  On the night of the 27th October "B" Battery was heavily shelled at KNOCK, one shell setting on fire the straw roof of the farm in which the battery was billeted. The Battery at once turned out to fight the fire. In a cellar under the burning building 25 civilians were sheltering who had covered the doorway with straw to keep out gas. This straw also caught fire and if it had not been for the Battery the whole of these civilians would probably have perished. A large amount of live stock was also got safely away. The work was made very difficult owing to the fact that the enemy was shelling the area with gas at the time, and the urgency was made far greater by the fact that a dump of German 8" shell with charges was placed just outside the burning building.	

*H. Abbott*  
Major R.F.A.  
Commanding 173rd Brigade R.F.A.

*Major Abbott on duty*



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NOVEMBER 1918. INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY. 173rd Brigade R.F.A.

XVth Corps  
36th Division.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p>Reference 28/40,000 29/40,000.</p> <p>During the early part of the month the Brigade remained at rest in the area between LAUWE and ROLLEGHEM, 29/N.31 and M.36.</p> <p>On the 2nd November positions were reconnoitred in 29/P.21. and 27., but these were not occupied.</p> <p>On the 8th the Brigade moved to new area North-east of BELLEGHEM in N.15. and 16. Positions were reconnoitred in P.32. and Guns were sent up to these positions on the 8th November, with full echelons of ammunition. Guards were also with the guns. The Brigade, however, remained at rest until Hostilities ceased, on the 11th November.</p> <p>On the 12th the Brigade moved to new area in TOURCOING, 28/X.23.</p> <p>The Divisional Artillery was inspected by the Corps Commander on the 2nd of the month.</p> <p>Casualties to Men or Horses during the month were nil.</p> <p>The weather was wet and variable up to the 11th. After that it was fine until towards the end of the month, when it became variable again.</p> <p>The brigade at rest between LAUWE and ROLLEGHEM.</p> <p>Moved to N.15 and 16 North-east of BELLEGHEM.</p> <p>Hostilities ceased at 11.00 hours.</p> <p>The Brigade at TOURCOING, 28/X.23.</p> <p>A program of Training, Education and Sports inaugurated and proceeded with.</p>	<p>Vol 38</p>
	1-8			
	8			
	11			
	12-			
	30.			
	1.12.18			

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H.E. L.

Lieut Col R.F.A.  
Commanding 173rd Bde R.F.A.



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DECEMBER 1918.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY. 173rd Bde R.F.A.

XVth Corps.  
36th Division.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1. 6. 30.		<u>BRIGADE AT TOURCOING.</u>	
	1.		Programme of Training, Recreation and Sports continued.	
	7.		Demobilization of Miners commenced.	
	17.2.19.			
			<p><i>Mc. Br.</i></p> <p>Commanding. 173rd Brigade R.F.A.</p> <p>Lieut. Col. R.F.A.</p>	



## or

1.  
JANUARY, 1919.

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173rd Brigade R.F.A.

XVth Corps.  
36th Division.

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FEBRUARY 1919.

(Erase heading not required.)

XV Corps.  
173rd Brigade R.F.A. 36th Division.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks references Appendices
	1.		Brigade at TOURCOING.  Demoblization of Men and Horses continued.	
	20.		Brigade ordered to be reduced to Cadre "A".	
	22.3.19.			

*HEB*

Lieut. Col. R.F.A.  
Commanding 173rd Brigade R.F.A.