

WO 95/2496/4

36TH DIVISION

154TH BRIGADE R.F.A.

1915 NOV BEG 1915 - AUG 1916

BROKEN UP

154 th Adm: RFA
Vol 28 I II III

36

From OC 15th Bde R.A.
To O/C A.G's office
Base

Enclosed herewith War
Diary compiled as directed
to end of January last.

The reason I requested
you to cancel the former
War Diary, is that it was
not signed by me, & was
not compiled & was forwarded
in error. T C Johnson —
LT. COL. COMDG.
15th BRIGADE R. F. A.

In the Field.

20. 2. 16.

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

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154th (H.O.W.) Bde, R.F.A.
Ulster Division.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BORDON	26/11/15	5:30pm	An. Col. 154 th Bde R.F.A. left for SOUTHAMPTON & HAVRE arriving in FRANCE 28/11/15	
"	27/11/15		H.Q.s & batteries arrived SOUTHAMPTON DOCKS	
SOUTHAMPTON	27/11/15		Embarked on S.S. "N.W. MILLER" for HAVRE. During night engine broke down - returned to SOLENT & lay off there all 28/11/15. Started again evening 28/11/15 - break down repeated - returned again. Disembarked guns - except on the S.S. "N.W. MILLER" Transhipped every thing next morning to S.S. "NIRVANA".	
HAVRE	1/12/15		Arrived at 7 am off HAVRE after a rough passage	
"	"		Disembarked & were away by 12 midday to Rest Camp I.	
"	4/12/15	4pm	Entitled at HAVRE & arrived at PONTREMY 8:30 am 5/12/15	
COQUEREL	5/12/15		After unloading marched to billets at COQUEREL	
"	5/12/15		H.Q. A & D batteries & An. Col. billeted "	
FRANCIERES			B & C batteries billeted at FRANCIERES	
COQUEREL	13/12/15		Commenced building horse stables 13/12/15	
FRANCIERES	13/12/15		Horse stables finished 18/12/15	
"	18/12/15			
"	23/1/16		The whole brigade (less An. Col) moved to new area at CAYEUX S/MER	
"	23/1/16		An. Col. moved to PERNOS.	
CAYEUX S/MER	24/1/16	3pm	Brigade (less An. Col) in billets at CAYEUX S/MER	
		January	An. Col. in billets at PERNOS	

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*154 How. Bde R.F.A.
Ulster Division.*

Commanded by Lt Col F. Campbell Johnston RA

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CAYEUX S/MER	Feb 1916	24 th	Bde HQ & 4 batteries at CAYEUX S/MER	
"	"	19 - 23 rd	Batteries carrying out firing practice.	
PERNOIS	Feb 1916	24 th 3 rd	Am Column at PENOIS	
"	3/2/16	"	Leave for ST. OVEN arriving same day.	
ST. OVEN	14/2/16	"	" " PENOIS " " "	
PERNOIS	24/2/16	"	" " POCHVILLERS " " "	
POCHVILLERS	26/2/16	"	" " LOOVENCOURT " " "	
CAYEUX S/M.	25/2/16		Bde HQ & 4 batteries move by road to PONT-REMY.	
PONT-REMY	26/2/16		unable to move owing to severe gale force storm	
"	27/2/16	"	" " " " "	
"	28/2/16	"	Bde HQ. B, C & D batteries move by road to PENOIS.	
"	"		A Bty moves by road to RENAULT FARM N. of BERNACOURT to join the 46 th DIVISION.	
PERNOIS	29/2/16		Bde HQ. B, C & D batteries move by road to LOOVENCOURT.	
			<i>F.C. John, Lm</i>	
			LT. COL. COMDG. 154 BRIGADE R.F.A.	

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Army Form C. 2118

154, R.F.A. (Howitzer)
36th Divisional Artillery
Commanded by Lt Col J.C. Johnston

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	March			
LOUVENCOURT	1 st		Bde H.Q. B, C & D Batteries & Ammunition Column billeted at LOUVENCOURT.	
BERTRANCOURT	4 th	9 am	B.A.C. leave LOUVENCOURT for BERTRANCOURT	
FORCEVILLE	5 th	10.30 am	B.A.C. " BERTRANCOURT " FORCEVILLE.	
ORVILLE	12 th	8.30 am	B.A.C. " FORCEVILLE " ORVILLE	
MAILLY-MAILLET	2 nd	9 am	C Battery start digging a new position near MAILLY-MAILLET railway station	
"	3 rd	9.30 pm	Bde H.Q. leave LOUVENCOURT for MAILLY-MAILLET & BERTRANCOURT.	
MARTINSART	2 nd		C Battery ordered to take over position from D/164 near MARTINSART & stop digging new	
"	7 th	7 pm	Right section of C/154 take over from D/164 in the evening. position.	
"	8 th	7.30 pm	Left " C/154 one gun from D/164 brought N° 4 gun into action.	
"	9 th	4.30 pm	C/154 retaliated on THIEPVAL for trench mortars.	
"	10 th	11 pm to 12.30 am	Heavy hostile firing from 11 pm to 12.30 am C/154 fire 62 rounds into THIEPVAL VILLAGE	
MAILLY-MAILLET	14 th	10.30 pm	B/154 opened fire on enemy sap at R. 19. C. 91 m German front line trench obtained	
"	17 th	4.15 pm	3 direct hits on sap	
"	18 th	4.40 pm	D/154 fired 11 rounds of H.E. into REDAN at Q. 5 a. our infantry having asked for retaliation	
"	11.40 am		B/154 report having seen smoke & yellowish tinct (apparently poison gas) issuing from	
MARTINSART	19 th	9 pm	three, or four places in the enemy's trenches - the wind not being favourable it ceased in a few minutes	
MAILLY-MAILLET	20 th	3 pm	D/154 Infantry called for retaliation 15 H.E. shells were fired into enemy's trenches at HAWTHORN REEDSBURG.	
"	23 rd	3.50 pm	B/154 fired 15 rounds into hostile trenches @ Q 18 C, Q 24 B.	
MARTINSART	25 th	4.20	D/154 at request of Infantry retaliated on hostile trench mortars north of BEAUMONT in area.	
"	26 th	9 pm	Enemy then proceeded to bombard AVCHONVILLERS	
MAILLY-MAILLET	30 th		Hostile aeroplane dropped bombs near MARTINSART	
"	31 st		C/154 at request of Infantry retaliated on German trenches with 12 H.E. shells.	
			B/154 report hostile aeroplanes very active during morning	
			2nd day	

C. Reddick
f. T.M.

LT. COL. COMDR
154 BRIGADE R. F. A.

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WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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154, How. Brigade R.F.A.

36th Divisional Artillery.

Commanded by Lt Col F.C. Johnston R.D.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	APRIL			
MAILLY-MAILLET	1 st		Quiet day 1/154 fired on a train in BEAUMONT STATION.	
" "	2 nd		Own positions taken over by 31 st DIVISION	
FORCEVILLE	"		B and II batteries move to FORCEVILLE in reserve.	
" "	4 th 2.30pm		Brigade HQ. move from MAILLY-MAILLET to T'ORCEVILLE	
MARTINSART	5 th 9.30am		Bde Ammunition Column move to FORCEVILLE from LOUVEN COURT	
" "	2 nd		S/LT C L MORRISON attacked by 0/154 from Bde AM. COL.	
" "	3 rd		ENEMY shell MESNIL sur MARTIN wounded in thigh on returning from O.P.	
" "	5 th		C/154 fire into BEAUCOURT	
" "	6 th		Quiet day	
" "	7 th 9pm		Very heavy artillery in HAMEL sector. C/154 opened fire on this sector fired 125 rounds	
" "	10.30pm		act was quiet by 10.30pm	
" "	8 th		Hostile artillery fire into MESNIL CHATEAU C/154 retaliated on BEAUCOURT.	
" "	9 th		L T H A G WALTON joined C/154. Quiet day	
" "	10 th		C/154 fired 16 rounds in retaliation + 12 rounds at ST. PIERRE-DIVION	
" "	11, 12, 13, 14 th		Quiet days	
" "	15 th 12 mid-night		C/154 fired 30 rounds on transport in ST PIERRE-DIVION + train at BEAUCOURT STATION.	
" "	17 th		C/154 fired 4 rounds on THIEVAL CHATEAU.	
FORCEVILLE	17 th		B/154 came into action in near own positions	
MARTINSART	18 th 9.30am		Bde AM. COL move to HAR PONYVILLE	
" "	19 th		B/154 clearing field of fire obtaining ARCS offire, registering.	
" "	20 th		C/154 register various points in NO MAN'S LAND as right lines	
" "	22 nd 9.30pm		C/154 supported a demonstration on left of zone whilst 32 nd DIVISION carried out a raid fired 140	
" "	23 rd		C/154 registered seven targets - with aeroplane	
" "	24 th 25 th		Hostile aeroplanes very active, otherwise very quiet. C/154 register when C/154 does not fire	
" "	26, 27, 28 th		C/154 fired 200 rounds + B/154 276 rounds in support of raid by 29 th DIVISION	
" "	29 th 11.30pm		1/154 in reserve all the month + preparing new gun positions	
" "	1 st 12.30pm		C/154 fired 200 rounds + B/154 276 rounds in support of raid by 29 th DIVISION	
" "	30 th		2 quiet days	
" "			1/154 in reserve all the month + preparing new gun positions	

F.C. Johnson
LT. COL. COMD.
154 BRIGADE R.F.A.

HEADQUARTERS
SIGNAL NATIONAL
ARMY

1007

25.7.16

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MAY

154 Bde RDA

Vol 5

Col J. Campbell Johnston RDA

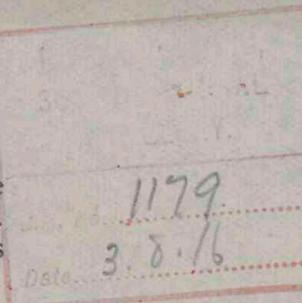
Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MARTINSART	1 st	21 st	B/154 - C/154 in action under normal battle warfare conditions on AVELLWOOD.	
FORCEVILLE			D/154 in reserve preparing gun positions on AVELLYWOOD.	
	21 st	mid-night	In consequence of the reorganisation of the Divisional Artillery into 3 mixed Brigades (3 18pd guns & 1 How), 1 Field gun Brigade (the 154, Rda) the designation of the former 154 Bde was changed as under -	
			B/154 Major CA REID-SMITH became D/173	
			C/154 Capt. C T CARFRAE " " D/153	
			D/154 Capt. C J NEWCOMBE " " D/173	
			D/172 Capt. H D GALE Comdg became A/154	
			D/173 Capt. A H BURNE D.S.O. " " B/154	
			D/153 Capt. A H SMITH " " C/154	
			The change was only one of nomenclature & administration, no personnel, horses, guns, or equipment were exchanged, the same gun positions were occupied & the batteries remained in the same groups.	
	25-		2/154 EC ROSE posted from 154 Bde Am Col to A/154.	
HARPOINVILLE	25		Batteries supplied with ammunition direct from AAC keep-fit. Details of the four B.A.C's evacuated including LTHA HOWES. OC 154 Bde Am. Col Y. 36 T.M B.TY Lt BERESFORD Comdg attached to 154 Bde RDA	
	26.		200 th anniversary of the existence of THE ROYAL REGT OF ARTILLERY.	
MESNIL	21 st		A/154, D/154 - C/154 in action under normal battle warfare conditions.	
MARTINSART	3 rd		J C Johnston OC 154 RDA	

36 July

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 154, Brigade R.F.A.
 Lt. Colonel J. Campbell-Johnston, R.F.A.
 comdg.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
JULY.				
MESNIL.	1 st		A/154, B/154, C/154 supported General attack by 36 th (Ulster) Division.	
"	2 nd 6 th		" " covered THIERSVAL WOOD sector of British front during 4 th Army operations & advance.	
"	6 th		C/154 left MESNIL for ALBERT.	
THIERSVAL WOOD	4 th		B/154 moved to position 200 ^m S. of AUTHUYLE covering zone from FARM DE MOUQUET LA BOISSELLE.	
AVELOY WOOD.	8 th		TRENCH MORTAR Batteries attached 154 Bde withdrawn out of action to AVELOY WOOD.	
MESNIL.	9 th		" " moved to HARPONVILLE to rest.	
ALBERT.	4 th		A/154 landed over gun position to A/248 Bde R.F.A & proceeded to wagon line in HEAUVILLE WOOD, where Bde HQ remained until 14 th night (without guns).	
"	7 th 6-10 th		C/154 (Left section) took up position near BECOURT WOOD. Right Section attached to A/63 Bde R.F.A.	
"	10 th		C/154 in action against enemy's trenches at OVILLERS LA BOISSELLE.	
"	12 th		C/154 moved to position on CHAPEL SUR North of BECOURT WOOD. Prepared gun positions.	
FORCIVILLE	14 th		B/154 withdrawn out of action. C/154 withdrawn out of action to ALBERT.	
HUTHÉVILLE	15 th		B.H.Q Staff marched to AUTHUYLE where they were joined by A/154, B/154 & C/154.	
CONCHY.	16 th		Brigade marched from AUTHUYLE to CONCHY SUR CACHES.	
MONCHY.	17 th		" " CONCHY SUR CACHES to MONCHY-CAYEUX.	
DELETTRE.	18 th		" " MONCHY-CAYEUX to DELETTRE.	
CLERQUES.	19 th	6.30pm	" " DELETTRE to CLERQUES.	
ST. OMER.	20 th		" " CLERQUES to ST. OMER.	
COURTE CROIX.	21 st		" " ST. OMER to COURTE CROIX near TLETTRES.	
WULVERGHEM.	"	10pm	A/154 went into action taking over position from C/109, Bde, R.F.A.	
"	22 nd		B/154 " " in new position covering 50 ^m Divisional front.	
"	23 rd		B/154 move position 200 ^m further W. covering the river DOUVE.	
"	22.31 st		A/154, B/154 in action under normal trench warfare conditions.	
LOCRE	31 st		B.H.Q move from BRULOOZ near LOCRE to S. 23. a 7.6 Ref sheet 28 SW (near NEUVE EGLISE)	
"			C/154 remain at wagon line.	

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154, Bde R.F.A. vol 8
Lt. Col. J.C. Johnston, R.F.A.
Comdg

Place	AUGUST	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
PLOEGSTEERT	18-5			A/154 in action in disused Battery position. Did not fire during this period.	
WULVERGHEN	" "			B/154 " as last month.	
WHITE GATES	3rd			C/154 remains at wagon lines at T. 13 a. s. t. New Right Group constituted, consisting of 173 Bde & B/154 under command of Col. H.C. Simpson RFA, covering line from LA PETITE HOUVE FARM to BLACK SHED.	
IRANOUTRE	5th			C/154 took over guns of A/154 at position near WHITE GATES, one section going into action night of 4/5; remaining section night of 5/6.	
	5th			A/154 took over guns from C/154 at wagon line.	
	5th			A/154 (left section) took over A/252 position, A/154 (right section) taking over from A/252 night of 6/5.	
	12			B/154 wire cutting fired 75 rounds at ranges of 3,400* with satisfactory results.	
	16			B/154 came out of action & billet at wagon line.	
	16			C/154 wagon line moved to S. of IRANOUTRE.	
	16-18			C/154 came out of action, one section being with deacon regt of 16/17, remaining section night of 17/18.	
	17			B/154 wagon line moved to S. of IRANOUTRE.	
	18			Lv. R. LLOYD THOMPSON. RFA adjutant posted to command A/153.	
	"			2/LT H. ABBOT posted to 154 Bde from 172 Bde R.F.A.	
	19			No. 27125 B/4 CARDER. F V/36 TM 13 th severely wounded by Minenwerfer.	
	20	1.15am		B.H.Q. Camp at S. 23 a 7.6 bombed by hostile aircraft. 3 bombs dropped according Bds UNWIN & GNR HILL, killing 3 horses & wounding 4.	
	23/24	10pm		B/154 (left section) advanced into action at N. 15 a 9.9 taking over from a section 13 th Canadian Bty.	
	"			C/154 " " " N. 16 a 4.8.	
	24/25			B/154 & C/154 (right section) " " N. 15 a 9.9 & N. 16 a 4.8 respectively. 19 th Div. Area.	
	"			B/154 & C/154 included in RIGHT Group of 4 th Canadian Division Comdg by Colonel RAINFORTH-HANNAY.	
	"			The group consists of 3 batteries 89 th Bde (19 th Div) & B/154 & C/154 R.F.A. The front covered being from VIERSTRAAT-WYCHAETE road to DIEPENHAEL-BEEK.	
WULVERGHEN	27			B/154 fired at damaged hostile M.G. emplacement reached pumping apparatus.	
	28			A/154 in action under normal trench warfare conditions.	
	29			No. 99577 Env. HARVEY. R A/154 killed by shell fire while laying wire from trench to O.P.	
	31			B/154 fired 143 rounds in retaliation for hostile T.M.'s.	
				No. 30462 Env. STOCKWELL. A.E. V/36 TM Bty. Killed by shell fire at COURT DIREVE FARM.	

