

1ST DIVISION

39TH BRIGADE R.F.A.

WAR DIARY 1915

JULY MISSING

1st Division

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89th Bde RFA.

Vol. IV 1.1 - 28.2.15

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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. 100, Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively will be prepared in manuscript.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

39th Brigade R.F.A.

Hour, Date, Place

Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

1915
30th Bde Hd Qrs & battery positions as before
7th Jan

Everything continued as usual & the enemy were quiet in our front.

On the 7th January the 3rd Infantry Brigade were relieved by an Indian Cavalry Bde - During the next ~~five~~ ^{seven} days there 4 Indian Cavalry Brigades occupied the trenches originally held by the 3rd Bde - the first three Indian brigades remaining for 48 hours & the last for 24 hours -

14th Jan -

On the 14th January the line originally held by the 3rd Bde was taken over by the 5th Bde of the 2nd Division & the 39th Bde cooperated with them from the same positions -

25th Jan

About 8 am on this morning the Germans attacked the village of GIVENCHY - On the NE of this village they were seen advancing from their trenches

L. J. L. Farley
Comd. 39th Brigade R.F.A.



WAR DIARY

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

39th Brigade R.F.A.

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Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Jan 25 th	to ours by the observing officer of the 46 th Battery + the fire of that battery was directed with considerable effect on them = + this battery also cooperated in the successful recapture of their trenches by the 3 rd Bde who were then holding the village of GIVENCHY-	
Jan 26 th to Feb 5 th	All was quiet in front of the 5 th Inf Bde during this period - The batteries were able on several occasions to disperse the working parties of the Enemy at night-	
Feb 5 th	After sundown the brigade was relieved by the 36 th	
to Feb 28 th	Brigade R.F.A of the 2 nd Div ⁿ + the 39 th Bde marched that night to the village of LOZENGHEM where the batteries were billeted till 1 st March - During this period drill was carried on - to train the new officers + also men of the reserve + all the equipment of the batteries was completed	

W. J. G. R. A.
216 RFA
Coys 39th Bde RFA

1st Division

12/5314

39th Bde R.F.A.

Vol V 13. — 30.4.15

12/5314

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

39th Brigade Royal Field Artillery

(Erase heading not required.)

Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
March 1 st LOZENGHEM	Orders were received for the brigade to again go into the positions vacated by it on Feb 5 th -	
March 2 nd 2.15 am	The brigade marched from LOZENGHEM via CHOCQUES and BETHUNE to LOISNE where the batteries relieved the batteries of the 36 th Bde R.F.A. and each battery went into the same position as it had been in before as follows. From right to left 46 th - 51 st + 54 th on the straight portion of road South of E of LOISNE with Bde H & Q ^{rs} near the western end of that road. The battery zones were from the cross roads 400 yards SW of the L in LA QUINQUE RUE to a point about 400 yards South of the 2 nd E of FESTUBERT + this ground was held by the 3 rd Infantry brigade with which the 39 th Bde was in cooperation.	
March 3 rd to March 9 th	These days were spent in registering again the enemy's trenches + communications on our zone.	
March 10 th 7.30	At this hour a general bombardment of the enemy's trenches took place for about an hour - The 46 th Battery fired on the trenches East of the village of GIVENCHY to support an attack of the 6 th Infantry Brigade 2 nd Division - the 51 st + 54 th bombardment was in the nature of a demonstration to conceal the real point of attack - This was all taking place at the same time as the attack on NEUVE CHAPELLE - The attack near GIVENCHY was not successful + a further bombardment was ordered + another attack was ordered but did not take place.	
March 11 th	Fire was continued slowly along the front to prevent if possible reinforcements from being sent by the Germans to the	GAS far by Col Cor 39 to Bde R.F.A.

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39th Brigade R.F.A.

Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
March 11 th (cont)	Neighbourhood of NEUVE CHAPELLE.	
March 12 th to March 25 th	Everything quiet along our front during these days. The 2 nd infantry brigade relieved the 3 rd infantry Bde on the 14 th March. An attack on the enemy's position between the villages of FESTUBERT and GIVENCHY was to have taken place on the 17 th March but was indefinitely postponed the day before.	
March 26 th	<p>In the morning the batteries of the brigade were relieved by the batteries of the 36th Brigade R.F.A. 2nd Division & moved to new positions in the neighbourhood of the village of RICHEBOURG-ST-VAST as follows.</p> <p>39th Bde Hd Q^{rs} near the church in the village of RICHEBOURG-ST-VAST</p> <p>46th Battery $\frac{1}{2}$ mile E of RICHEBOURG Church and near the <u>O</u> of RICHEBOURG ST VAST.</p> <p>51st Battery by the <u>N</u> of <u>NEUVE CHAPELLE</u>.</p> <p>54th Battery at the road junction 500^x S.E. of the <u>C</u> in CROIX BARBEE.</p> <p>Lines from northern corner of BOIS DE BIEZ to the the <u>A</u> of RICHEBOURG DAVOUE covering the front of the 3rd Infantry Brigade.</p> <p>Two observing stations in a brewery in the village of NEUVE CHAPELLE & one about 100^x W of the <u>B</u> in BRULOT in the RUE DU BOIS.</p>	

Col. H. H. H. H. H.
Comd 39th Bde R.F.A.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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39th Brigade R.F.A.

Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
March 26 th to April 14 th W. RICHEBOURG ST VAAST-	These days were spent in registering but the ammunition was limited to 3 rounds per gun per day. After the fresh few days the batteries did not fire at all hardly as everything was quiet on this front.	
April 15 th	The DEHRADUN Brigade of the MEERUT division took over the area and the 39 th Bde cooperated with them for three days while the line was being readjusted.	
April 16 th	The 46 th Battery which for several days in succession had been shelled for about an hour a day moved to a new position about 500 ^x S of the E in LACOUTURE.	
April 17 th	The 54 th Battery, whose position was required by a battery in the MEERUT division moved to a new position about 100 ^x N of the S (W) in RUE DES CHAVATTES.	
April 18 th	A new zone was taken over by the Bde from the E in RICHEBOURG AVUE to a point about 200 ^x SE of the C in RICHEBOURG AVUE. with observing observing stations in the RUE DE BOIS - J.	
April 19 th to April 30 th	After registering on the new zone the batteries did not fire at all hardly. The brigade was not cooperating with any infantry during this period. On the 25 th Major C F Hawkins of the 46 th Battery was killed by a shell while standing just outside his observing station.	

Col. S. J. Fairley
 Col.
 Comd 39th R.F.A.

1st Division

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39th Bde R.F.A.
Vol VI

~~May~~ + June 15

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WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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39th Bde RFA.
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Hour, Date, Place

Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

May 1st to May 5th
near RICHEBOURG ST VAAST

The batteries remained in the same positions covering the same Zone but without firing as Everything was quiet in front -

May 6th

The batteries changed their positions to get within 2000^x of the German trenches in order to be able to cut wire -
The new positions, which were moved into just after dark, were as follows -

46th about 200^x W of the O in RICHEBOURG ST VAAST

57th & 54th about 100^x E of the same point -

H & Q^{rs} did not move.

May 7th - 18th
May 9th = 8th

These days were spent in registering the wire along the front
Major R. Maygat was posted to 46th Battery.
At 5 am a bombardment was commenced which lasted for forty minutes - the batteries cutting lanes in the wire in the zone of the 3rd Infantry^{Bde} attack -

At 5.40 the 3rd Bde attacked but were unable to get into the enemy trenches - only a portion of MUNSTER Fusiliers being able to do so -

a slow intermittent fire was kept up during the day till 3.20 pm when another bombardment of the enemy's trenches took place, the batteries of the 39th Bde firing on the enemy's breastwork as the wire had been sufficiently cut in the previous bombardment and during the intermittent fire afterwards - at 4 pm the 3rd Infantry Brigade again attacked but were unable to capture the enemy's

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Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>May March 9th (Cont) RUE DU BOIS May</p>	<p>During the day the H^d Q^{rs} of the 39th Bde was at the observing stations in the RUE DU BOIS but at 8.30 pm they returned to their billet in RICHEBOURG ST VAAST.</p>	
<p>May March 10th RICHEBOURG ST VAAST</p>	<p>The 5th Bde of the 2nd Division took over from the 3rd Infantry Bde & the 39th Brigade remained in their previous positions cooperating with the 5th Bde - The 39th Bde also came under the orders of the C.R.A 2nd Division -</p>	
<p>May March 11th - 12th</p>	<p>The batteries fired intermittently during these two days to cut the wire in front of the German trenches completely & to prevent any repairs to the parapets which had been much damaged on the 10th. The Germans put up a certain amount of wire during the nights but this wire was destroyed during the next day -</p>	
<p>May 13th 14th</p>	<p>Intermittent fire kept up during the day and night on wire and destruction of parapet.</p>	
<p>May 15th</p>	<p>Heavy firing on both sides all day up till 11.30 pm. at a steady rate. At 11.30 pm. The 5th Infantry Brigade made a night attack and succeeded in taking the enemy's first line trenches from the track leading from the RUE DU BOIS to 3rd DU BOIS to a pt. about 500 yards to the south. This attack was carried out by two Battalions (Oxfords and Worcesters), 46th and 51st Batteries sent officers forward to accompany Battalion comp commanders. There was no firing from</p>	

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Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
May 16 th	<p>11.30 p.m. to 3.0 A.M. At 3.0 A.M. a 1/2 bombardment was ordered to assist the 7th Division who were attacking from the QUINQUE RUE. Artillery Group consisted of eleven Batteries. All the wire on the 39th Brigade front was satisfactorily cut. Batteries fired about 1000 rounds each during the twentyfour hours.</p>	
May 17 th	<p>Two further bombardments took place during the day to assist attacks on the Fme DU BOIS. Captain D'A Willoughby Osborne 51st Battery was wounded. Enemy's fire very much heavier during the day. About 7.0 A.M. about 500 prisoners were taken by the 6th Infantry Brigade. Batteries fired most of the day on the Fme COUR D'AVOUE and Fme DU BOIS in support of various attacks on these farms. Major G.T.A. Drought commanding 51st Battery was wounded about 4 p.m. the battery was taken over by Captain A.H. Burne. Up to this time the forward observing officers remained in the Infantry trenches but their telephone lines were usually broken and very little news came back from them, these officers were withdrawn from the infantry trenches.</p>	
May 18 th	<p>Batteries fired throughout the day to prevent the enemy constructing trenches. In the evening the 5th Infantry Brigade were relieved by a Brigade of the NEERUT Division. 39th Brigade H.Q. remained in the RUE DU BOIS.</p>	
May 19 th	<p>Batteries continued firing on the enemy's trenches. 39th Bde H.Q. went back to their billet in RICHEBOURG ST VAAST. Two sections per battery were relieved by a French 75th Battery at 8 p.m. and marched</p>	

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Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
May 20 th	<p>into billets in BETHUNE. 1st Division were holding the line immediately S of the LA BASSEE Canal. 1st Batteries were in action 46th at VERMELLES CHATEAU, 51st Battery 500 yards S.E. of ANNEQUIN - 54th Battery 500 yards N.W of TOURBIERES. 39th Brigade HQ. moved via BETHUNE (where they stopped one night) to CAMBRIN. The remaining sections joining up with their batteries.</p>	
May 21 st	<p>Captain A.K.G. White took over command of the 51st Battery - Captain E.C.A. Schreiber was posted to 51st Battery from 115th Battery - Captain E.H. Burne became Adjutant of the Brigade. Lieut R. Blewitt was posted to the 54th Battery. Captain C.W.R. Tuke was posted to the 46th Battery from the 6th Division. About this time Captain R.E.F. Wemyss handed over the Ammunition Column to Captain L.J.W. Robinson.</p>	
May 27 th	<p>51st Battery moved to a position on the TOURBIERES road just N of LA BASSEE road observing from house near GUINCHY VILLAGE.</p>	
June 2 nd	<p>Colonel G.G.S. Carry who utilized the 39th Brigade and brought it out France was posted to the 27th Division as Brigadier General R.A.</p>	

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June 3 rd	46 th Battery moved to a new position 400 ⁺ N. of the 54 th Battery, + 100 ⁺ S of the LA BASSEE Canal -	
June 4 th - 15 th	A very quiet period - Very little firing except registration on the zone from the LA BASSEE road to the LA BASSEE Canal. The 51 st Battery covered the Right Battalion, the 46 th + 54 th Batteries covered the Left Battalion. Lieut. D. SCOTT posted to 54 th Battery R.F.A. for D.A.C.	
June 16 th	Arrangements made in cooperation with the 14 th Siege Brigade RGA under the command of Colonel Rich to assist the attack of the IV th Corps from GIVENCHY. Attack took place at 6pm. 39 th Bde. did barrage work along the line of the Canal and between CANTELEUX and VIOLAINES - Light very bad - Attack did not progress. Firing ceased about 10pm.	
Evening		
June 17 th	No firing by the Brigade till 4.45pm when fresh assault took place and the same programme as yesterday was carried out - Again only	

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<p><u>June 18th</u></p>	<p>slight progress was made - Firing ceased about 9 pm. All the ground won was lost in the night. Bde H.A. moved back to billets from the fighting station at the corn house which had been occupied during the fighting -</p>	
<p><u>June 19th</u></p>	<p>Lt. Col. A.E. WARDROP posted to the command of the 39th Brigade from the Canadian Division. Went out with Division for Rest. - marched west every day for a week. Then returned into action guarding line from LABASSEE BETHUNE Road to LES BRIQUES - 1st mile west to S. Head Qd at SALLY LA BOURSLE. Carried out usual occupation of a normal front line. 46th Battery in VERMELLES with 114th Battery. 30th REA Humberly in 51st Battery near CAMBRIN. 54th in LABASSEE CANAL. Much digging done. Major West went home was relieved by Major C. S. N. Ingham in command of the 54th Battery. Captain CA Birch</p>	

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<p><u>1915</u> 19th June to 1st August</p>	<p>took over command of 39th Bde Am^l Column from Major Robinson posted to 4th Divn. 2^d Lt. Adams. only officer via Lt. Drummond Hay. 39th Bn^l worked in group with 114th & 130th Battalions</p>	

39th Brigade R.F.A.

July missing

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DIARY

Headquarters.

39th BRIGADE, R.F.A.

(1st Division)

AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

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39th Brigade R.F.A.

Army Form C. 2118.

WAR DIARY

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Hour, Date, Place

Summary of Events and Information

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August 1st - 31st

August 5th

August 8th

August 16th

August 18th

August 23rd

August 31st

September 2nd

Still guarding line from LA BASSEE ROAD - LES BRIQUES Batteries remain in the same positions. A quiet part of the line + little

Capt W.A. Bur Battery, Capt Lt S.C.M. Arce Capt C.W.R. Lt A.G. Paris promoted to a new Battery. Lt F.A. Har rise Lt. A.G.

Head Quarters moved to CAMBRIN leaving house in the grounds of the CHATEAU DES DRES at SAILLY LA BOURSE Lt Col. A.E. Harthrop went to England on duty The Brigade was relieved by the 51st Brigade 9th Div returned into action 46th + 57th Batteries in GRENAV

11-11-15
J. Under Major R.A. i/c R section
S.A.A.G.
39th Brigade R.F.A.
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Official
1/c R.A. Records.
What is true, please?
Manuel
M.A.L.L.

39th Brigade R.F.A.

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Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
August 1st - 31st	Still guarding line from LA BASSEE ROAD - LES BRIQUES Batteries remaining in the same positions. A quiet part of the line + little firing done during this period -	
August 5th	Capt W.H. Burne returned to England to command a new Battery, Capt C.W.R. Tuke taking over duties as adjutant from 46th Bty Lt S.C.M. Archibald from I Battery R.H.A. replacing	
August 8th	Capt C.W.R. Tuke at the 46th Bty -	
August 16th	Lt A.G. Parsons returned to England on leave + was promoted to the rank of Captain + given the command of a new Battery.	
August 18th	2Lt F.H. Husband joined the 57th Bty from the S.H.A. vice Lt. A.G. Parsons -	
August 23rd	Head Quarters moved to CAMBRIN leaving houses in the grounds of the CHATEAU DES PRES at SAILLY LA BOURSE	
August 31st	Lt Col. A.E. Hardrop went to England on duty	
September 2nd	The Brigade was relieved by the 51st Brigade 9th Div returned into action 46th + 57th Batteries in GRENAVY	

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September 3 rd - 10 th September 11 th	<p>54th between GRENAV + FOSSE NO 7. 25th Bde + 3rd Bde - 21st London Battery - 24th Siege Battery + C 109 + 39 Bde all Grouped together under command of Lt Col A.E. Wardrop. All Batteries hard at work digging themselves in, + burying Telephone wires.</p>	
September 12 th - 18 th	<p>Lt Col A.E. Wardrop was posted to the Guards Div as C.R.A. Lt Col C.B. MacNaughten D.S.O. took over the Group + posted to the 39th Bde from the 25th Bde.</p>	
September 21 st - 24 th	<p>Batteries registered on wire + were allotted their different Zones the 54th Bty doing Defence Battery. The Brigade firing from North Loos to point of DOUBLE CRASSIER slow bombardment + wire cutting, very little retaliation from German Artillery.</p>	
September 25 th	<p>The infantry attacked at 5 A.M. Gas being used. LOSS + DOUBLE CRASSIER were taken with little difficulty HILL 70 taken but lost later in day.</p>	

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Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
September 26 th	<p>At night fall Brigade advanced to positions in open near German fire trench taken by us during morning. at G 23 A. 76</p> <p>Bombarded HULLUCH from 10 AM - 11 AM. Brigade shelled heavily during day with 6" + field guns.</p> <p>24th Div Infantry man, came through the gun positions leaving 39th Brigade without any support. large gap in line from HULLUCH to LOOS. 46th + 51st Batteries, caught German Infantry advancing in open.</p> <p>At dusk Infantry sent up to support 39th Brigade</p> <p>At 1 AM. Brigade withdrew to positions in VERMELLES.</p> <p>Bombarded HULLUCH during afternoon. GUARDS Div attacked at 4. PM.</p>	<p>54th Bty Lt C. Faivell wounded</p> <p>54th Bty Lt W. S. Durrward wounded</p> <p>54th Bty Lt. H. B. B. Williams wounded chock</p> <p>54th Bty one gun out of action</p>
September 27 th	<p>bombarded HULLUCH + CITE' ST ELIE at intervals during the day</p>	<p>2nd Lt H. D. Fletcher joined 39th B.A.C. vice 2nd Lt. C. M. Mason to the 54th Bty</p>
September 28 th	<p>All Batteries doing Counter Battery work firing in + round HULLUCH + ST ELIE</p>	
September 29 th + 30 th		

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1st Division

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39th Base R.F.A.

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Oct 15

Vol VIII

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WAR DIARY

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Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
October 1st 6th	<p>All batteries doing Counter Battery work on the 4th 2nd Lt T.S. U. de Guerin joined Brigade & took over duties as orderly officers from Lt. A. Drew who joined the 5th Battery.</p> <p>2nd Lt J. Milay joined Brigade to 4th Battery</p> <p>2nd Lt W. Pritchard " " " " " "</p> <p>Lt A.P. Hodges from 4th Bty to 5th Bty</p>	
October 7 th	<p>Took over defence of the line covering 1st Bde 1st Div.</p> <p>burst of fire on HOLLUCH & ST ELIE</p>	
October 8 th	<p>All batteries doing counter-battery work. German attack on our positions repulsed with heavy losses. Major Ingham left 5th Battery for 73rd Brigade 1st Div.</p>	

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October 9 th	Batteries in action against Mulluch & St. Olive. 46 th Bty burst a gun by premature in the bore. No casualties.	
October 10 th	Batteries, having registered, are cutting wire	
October 11 th	Wire cutting continues.	
October 12 th	Wire cutting continues.	
October 13 th	The 51 st Battery was heavily shelled with 6" this morning at about 8 am. One shell obtained a direct hit on a dug-out killing four men. Gunners Jennings & Beckett, though belonging to another detachment, went to the dug-out and under heavy shell fire proceeded to dig out the men in the hope of saving life. Gnr Beckett was wounded but Gnr Jennings worked on until he was satisfied that none of the buried men were alive. He has been recommended	

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October 14 th	for the Victoria Cross & Beckett for the D.C.M. All Batteries on retaliation work.	
October 15 th	All Batteries on retaliation work.	
October 15 th	One Section of each battery relieved by a Section of the 71 st Brigade, 15 th Division.	
October 16 th	Remaining sections relieved by 71 st Brigade. Move into billets at Marles-les-Mines.	
October 17 th	2 nd Lt T. S. U de Guernon posted to 46 th Bty from H.Q.	
October 18 th	Captain Tuke posted to Command the 54 th Battery from H.Q. 2 nd Lt R. Thorp posted to H.Q. as adjutant, from 46 th Bty.	
October 19 th	The brigade moves to new billets at Ames.	
October 23 rd	The A.D.V.S gave a lecture to Subalterns of 1 st Div Artillery at Ames. Mr Rev Blackburne C.F. gave a Kinematograph entertainment.	
October 27 th	The A.D.V.S gave a lecture on Horsemanship at Liens	

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Oct 28 th	The Adjutant (2 nd Lt R Thorp) was injured at a football match and was removed to Hospital. 2 nd Lt J. Miley was posted to the Brigade Staff as Orderly officer.	
Oct. 30 th	2 Lt E. A. Meredith Joined the Brigade— Posted to Brigade Ammunition Column.	

39th Bde. R.F.A.

Nov: Dec. 1915

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WAR DIARY

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<p>AUCHEL Nov 13th</p>	<p>The Brigade remained at AUCHEL. Battery commanders and Battery Leaders went up in a motor lorry to reconnoitre the positions in the neighbourhood of FOSSE NO 7 de BETHUVIE which were to be taken over from the 70th Brigade 15th Division</p>	
<p>LOOS SALIENT Nov 14th</p>	<p>One section of each Battery moved in to action arriving at dusk.</p>	
<p>Nov 15th</p>	<p>One section of each Battery moved into action arriving at dusk. The remaining section was left at the wagon lines pending the construction of two more gun pits by each Battery. The B.A.C. moved up to HOUCHEV. Brigade H.Q. were established at MARSDEN'S KEEP. Lt. Col. Magnaghen being in hospital, the Brigade was was commanded by Major Mansell.</p>	

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<p>LOOS SALIENT</p> <p>Nov 16th</p> <p>to</p> <p>Dec 7th</p>	<p>The three Batteries with 117th Battery formed a group commanded by Lieut. Col. Hinton.</p> <p>Observing stations were constructed, by the 51st in RAILWAY ALLEY and by the 46th and 54th in LOOS ALLEY.</p> <p>The zone covered by the Brigade extended from the junction with the French N of HILL 70 to a point about 500 y North of the CHALK PIT.</p> <p>A position for a hermit gun was constructed in LOOS by Lieut A.P. Hodges 46th Battery. This gun was not fired.</p> <p>One liaison off The Group was acting in support of the infantry. The 46th & 51st Btys were covering the front of the right battalion & the 54th & 117th the front of the left battalion of the Right Brigade.</p>	

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<p>LOOS SALIENT</p> <p>Nov 16th</p> <p>to</p> <p>Dec 7th</p>	<p>Observers were in telephonic communication with Battalion H.Q. by day and an officer slept with each battalion at night.</p> <p>Gun lines were in the neighbourhood of Force No 7. Each Battery constructed two more gun pits & moved up their remaining section when ready.</p> <p>The wagon lines of the 70th Brigade not being satisfactory, other positions were found in NOEUX LES MINES, among the towers. After the mines of NOEUX had been shelled every day for a week wagon lines were moved to GOSNAY. They returned however to NOEUX at the beginning of December. Under the circumstances everything possible was done in the way of erecting horse shelters and improving standings.</p>	

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<p>LOOS SALIENT Nov 16th to Dec 7th</p>	<p>A programme of Artillery offensive activity was carried out during this period. Selected points in the enemy's lines were subjected to intense bombardment for periods usually of 4 minutes by 18 pms and 6 minutes by howitzers. Deliberate bombardments were also carried out with a view to blowing in lengths of enemy trenches. During bombardments of the enemy front line an officer was sent up into our front trench to observe the effect of our fire. Night firing was frequently carried out to prevent repairs to targets during the day and to disorganise enemy transport.</p> <p>A great many rounds were fired in retaliation to enemy shelling of our trenches, and working parties were frequently engaged.</p>	
	<p>Enemy artillery was active during this period.</p>	

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<p>LOOS SALIENT</p> <p>Nov 16th</p>	<p>Our trenches were frequently subjected to heavy shell fire. Battery positions were heavily shelled on several occasions, but the casualties were very slight.</p> <p>A fatigue party of 1 N.C.O. & 36 men was found to</p>	
<p>Dec 7th</p>	<p>Temp² Lieut S. McCaughey was posted to the Brigade supernumerary to the establishment. He was attached to 51st Battery & later to 46th.</p>	
<p>Dec 8th</p>	<p>The enemy was particularly active about the end of November, as it appeared he expected to be attacked on the 29th. AUCHEL & BRUAY were shelled by 15" guns during the month.</p> <p>Lt. Col. Macnaghten rejoined from hospital and took command of the group via Lt. Col. Hinton who had proceeded to England on leave.</p>	

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LOOS SALIENT Dec 9 th to Dec 12 th	No change in situation. But Programme of Artillery offensive action continued.	
Dec 13 th	Brigade H.Q. moved from MARS DEMS KEEP to PARK LANE.	
Dec 14 th & 15 th	No change in general situation. Batteries shelled on afternoon of 15 th .	
Dec 16 th to Dec 18 th	Three very misty days. Observation was almost impossible & there was very little Artillery activity.	
Dec 19 th	Bombardments lasting for 15 minutes were carried out by Batteries, 250 rounds of Amalut being fired at the trenches round PUIVS 14 BIS. & 250 rounds ^{total} in the enemy front trench further North. Latter bombardment appeared most effective.	

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LOOS SALIENT Dec 20 th	A very misty day. Little artillery activity on either side.	
Dec 21 st & 22 nd	Dull misty days. Usual retaliations. Batteries shelled with 4.2" from the direction of CITE ST AUGUSTE.	
Dec 23 rd	The Right Group carried out a bombardment of the enemy front line from H 26 a 1.2 to H 25 b 9.6 with H.E. from 12.15 pm - 12.30 pm and of the second line trench to the left flank with the shrapnel and H.E. from 12.25 pm - 12.40 pm. Bombardment appeared effective.	
Dec 24 th	The group carried out a hurricane bombardment from 12 noon to 12.4 pm on P.VITS 14 BIS Trench A. Not very effective. Fire was stopped between 2 pm & 6 pm in order to lead the Germans to imagine that we had settled down for Christmas. Between 6.0 pm and 8.15 pm, the group carried out surface bombardments of the enemy front line & comm. trenches.	

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LOUIS SALIBERT Dec 24 th	Bombardments appeared effective, but the surprise of element was absent owing to the fact that the Germans started a precisely similar bombardment at 5.30 pm	
Dec 25 th	no bombardment. Usual relations	
Dec 26 th	The 51 st Battery fired 200 rounds of H.E. at a new trench said to be joining up the sap-heads south of PUIVS 14 BIS	
	The shooting was excellent, 30% hits being obtained, but owing to the spongy nature of the ground and consequent failure of the shell to detonate, the effect was disappointing.	
Dec 27 th	Enemy Comm. trenches were shelled with shrapnel between 4.30 pm and 5 pm apparently effectively. The Batteries were shelled all day by 4.2 from the direction of the CITE ST AUGUSTE. No damage was done. A direct hit was obtained on a gun pit of the 54 th Bty, but neither gun, pit, nor occupants were any the worse.	

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LOOS SALIENT Dec 27 th	During the day batteries fired bursts of 12 rounds at selected points in the German front line. The high wind militated against accurate shooting. The usual retaliation was carried out.	
Dec 28 th	<p>Great enemy aerial activity was noticeable all day. 4 Saunages were seen. Seven fighting planes patrolled the enemy lines and prevented our planes from getting across. One of ours, a Vickers fighter, was shot down & landed behind Hill 70 in the German lines.</p> <p>Short bursts of fire were fired at the enemy front line during the day, and at 7 pm, & 11 pm ^{respectively} short bombardments were carried out against the trenches round P V I T S 14 B 15 and H 19 a 8-0.</p> <p>The Batteries were shelled at 10.0 am and again at 4.30 pm this time heavily. A direct hit was obtained on a 54th Bty gun pit, but no damage was done.</p> <p>57th Observing station was shelled heavily at 11 am and 2 pm.</p>	

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<p>LOOS SALIENT Dec 29th - 30th</p>	<p>Double salvos of H.E. were fired at intervals during day & night on selected points in the enemy front-line. On the night 30th/31st the 117th Bty was shelled a new trench dug across the re-entrant North of P VITS 14 BIS is at half-hour intervals with time sharpened to prevent the Germans working on it.</p> <p>The usual retaliatory fire took place, and the Batteries received their usual shelling without any harm being done.</p> <p>A group Battle Station was selected at 51st Oberving Station near 65 metre point. A direct line was established from here to Group H.Q. and the observing stations of all Batteries were linked up by trench & buried wires to this point.</p>	

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LOOS SALIENT Dec 31 st	<p>During the morning RAILWAY ALLEY and the junction of POSEV ALLEY and GUN ALLEY were heavily shelled by a composite Battery of 5.9" x 4.2" from the direction of WINGLES. The shooting was very accurate and much damage was done.</p> <p>Otherwise no incident. The usual double salvos of H.E. were fired at selected points in the enemy front line, and short bombardments of 5 minutes duration were fired at the trenches round PUIT 14 BIS at 7 pm and at H 19 a.s.o. at 11.0 pm. 150 rounds of mixed shrapnel and high-explosive were fired on each occasion. As far as could be judged, the bombardments were effective.</p>	