

I offer my heartiest congratulations and warm thanks to all ranks of the Australian Corps, though I feel that whatever words I may use, all Australians realise that "Victory is her own reward." It was a splendid performance and as fine a feat of arms as any that even this war can produce.

(Sgd.) H. RAWLINSON. General.
Commanding FOURTH ARMY.

H.Q. FOURTH ARMY.
16th. August, 1918.

The following is an extract from a letter received by me from the G.O.C., R.A. Fourth Army:-

August 8th. was a great day for the Artillery.

Will you please convey to all ranks of the Artillery under your command, my admiration and appreciation of their work.

I consider the following points to be particularly noteworthy:-

1. The manner in which difficulties were overcome in putting guns and ammunition into position.
2. The accuracy and effect of the barrage fire and heavy artillery bombardment without previous registration.
3. The effective counter-battery work.
4. The bold and successful way in which the advance of the Artillery in support of our Infantry was carried out.

In forwarding this to you, I wish to add my sincerest thanks and appreciation of the work and energy displayed by those under your command in carrying out of the many tasks which confronted you.

My best congratulations and wishes for continued success to you and those under your command.

(Sgd.) WALTER A. COXON.
Brigadier General.
G.O.C., R.A., Aust. Corps.

The brigade took up a position north of the Somme on 21st. August, between Bray-Corbie Road and Malard Wood in support of an attack by the 3rd. Division Infantry on Bray.

On 22nd. August, the barrage was opened at 4.45.a.m. The Infantry captured and held the high ground north and west of Bray. Orders were received to take up an advanced position in support of a further attack on Bray. Some of the batteries actually got to their positions, but owing to a powerful counter attack on the front on our left held by the "Tommies," Fritz had succeeded in regaining ground. The situation caused some anxiety until the section of Australian Infantry from their newly won trenches, cut in behind the advanced Fritz and cut them off, this smart move of the Aussies added more prisoners to their bag.

On the morning of the 24th. at 1.a.m. another barrage was fired, and with this support, our 3rd. Div. Infantry took Bray, on the following morning at 2.20. another barrage was put down so that the infantry could capture the hills beyond Bray, in the valley 107th. Battery had four men killed and several wounded.

Everything being successful, orders were received for the Brigade to move forward, but owing to the density of fog, the gun teams had some difficulty in locating the guns. The guns came into action on the hill to the east of Einshem, but no shots were fired. Before midday another move was made in the vicinity of the Bray Railway Station which was on the east of the town, but before reaching Bray, the guns and teams had to negotiate a fast trot on a stretch of road for a couple of miles which was in full view of the enemy, fortunately no shells fell near. Passing through Bray, everybody got a small issue of gas, as the village was reeking with it.

On the 27th. our next position to be occupied was to the north of Susanne, this village was, prior to Fritz's drive in March 1918, G.H.Q. for British Army. On the morning our advance carried the Brigade to a position well to the east of the village.

About noon on the 29th. saw the guns again on the road, this time our course ran along side the River Somme to Curlu and we came into action to the east of this, that was, as only a few bricks mark where the village once stood.

This description also applies to Hem and Clery. It was a common sight to see at almost every vantage point that covered the approaches to these places, German machine guns with the dead crew alongside, a silent testimony to the wonderful stalking methods of our own infantry.