

APPENDIX No. 1

EXPANSION OF THE FIELD ARTILLERY OF THE A.I.F.

The gradual development of the field artillery of the A.I.F. and the numbering of its batteries and brigades are puzzling to outsiders, but the following explanation may help towards an understanding.

The 1st and 2nd Australian Divisions were at first provided with artillery on the low establishment of thirty-six 18-pounders (and no howitzers) to a division.¹ They were organised in 4-gun batteries as follows:

<i>1st Division</i>	<i>2nd Division</i>
1st Brigade (1, 2, 3 Bties.)	4th Brigade (10, 11, 12 Bties.)
2nd Brigade (4, 5, 6 Bties.)	5th Brigade (13, 14, 15 Bties.)
3rd Brigade (7, 8, 9 Bties.)	6th Brigade (16, 17, 18 Bties.)

Before transfer to France, in order to bring the Australian artillery to the normal New Army establishment, it was increased by adding one battery to each brigade of field-guns and also by forming for each division a howitzer brigade (consisting, however, of only three 4-gun batteries). At the same time a large number of new batteries had to be formed for the new divisions,² each division now having 60 guns.

1st Division. 1st Bde. (1, 2, 3, 22); 2nd Bde. (4, 5, 6, 23); 3rd Bde. (7, 8, 9, 24); 21st How. Bde. (101, 102, 103).

2nd Division. 4th Bde. (10, 11, 12, 19); 5th Bde. (13, 14, 15, 20); 6th Bde. (16, 17, 18, 21); 22nd How. Bde. (104, 105, 106).

3rd Division (formed in Australia). 7th Bde. (25, 26, 27, 28); 8th Bde. (29, 30, 31, 32); 9th Bde. (33, 34, 35, 36); 23rd How. Bde. (107, 108, 109).

4th Division (formed in Egypt). 10th Bde. (37, 38, 39, 40); 11th Bde. (41, 42, 43, 44); 12th Bde. (45, 46, 47, 48); 24th How. Bde. (110, 111, 112).

5th Division (formed in Egypt). 13th Bde. (49, 50, 51, 52); 14th Bde. (53, 54, 55, 56); 15th Bde. (57, 58, 59, 60); 25th How. Bde. (113, 114, 115).

At the time of the arrival of the I Anzac Corps in France the British organisation was in process of change, howitzer brigades being abolished and their batteries being distributed to the 18-pounder brigades, each howitzer battery displacing one field battery. The displaced 18-pounder batteries (which, in the A.I.F., were the last batteries of each brigade) were formed into new brigades (which, in the A.I.F., took on the numbers of the old howitzer brigades).³ In the Australian and some British divisions, which had only three howitzer batteries, one of the four brigades in each division was then without a howitzer battery. The organisation was then:

1st Division. 1st Bde (1, 2, 3, 101); 2nd Bde. (4, 5, 6, 102); 3rd Bde. (7, 8, 9, 103); 21st Bde. (22, 23, 24).

2nd Division. 4th Bde. (10, 11, 12, 104); 5th Bde. (13, 14, 15, 105); 6th Bde. (16, 17, 18, 106); 22nd Bde. (19, 20, 21).

3rd Division. 7th Bde. (25, 26, 27, 107); 8th Bde. (29, 30, 31, 108); 9th Bde. (33, 34, 35); 23rd Bde. (28, 32, 36, 109).

4th Division. 10th Bde. (37, 38, 39, 110); 11th Bde. (41, 42, 43, 111); 12th Bde. (45, 46, 47); 24th Bde. (40, 44, 48, 112).

5th Division. 13th Bde. (49, 50, 51, 113); 14th Bde. (53, 54, 55, 114); 15th Bde. (57, 58, 59); 25th Bde. (52, 56, 60, 115).

¹ See Vol. III, p. 37.

² It will be noted that the new field batteries were given numbers over 18 (that being the number already existing). But the howitzer batteries were numbered from 101, and the howitzer brigades from 21. Some of the new field batteries were irregularly allotted, 19-21 going to the 2nd Division and 22-24 to the 1st.

³ It is said that in at least one case the guns and the title of the batteries, but not the men, were exchanged.

It will be seen that the reorganisation was not quite regular, the newly formed 18-pounder brigades in the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Divisions being allotted howitzer batteries, and one of the older brigades in each case going without; whereas in the 1st and 2nd Divisions howitzer batteries were given to all the old brigades and the new brigades went short.

In July 1916 the Army Council decided to "standardise" all brigades, and Australia was asked to raise an additional howitzer battery for each division—five in all. By the wish of the Army Council notified shortly afterwards, these were created from Australian artillery reinforcements in England (although by then special personnel had already been raised in Australia). The 3rd Australian Division, which was training at Salisbury, formed its own. These additional batteries were numbered 116-120; but only that of the 3rd Division (the 118th) had joined its brigade (the 9th) when the artillery was again reorganised in preparation for the spring offensive of 1917. To economise battery commanders, whose numbers were short, all batteries were raised from four guns to six, the number of *divisional* brigades being reduced by half, but "army" brigades (three in number in the A.I.F.) being formed (The "army" brigades were thenceforth moved wherever required, not being permanently tied to any infantry division) In the A.I.F.—

In 1st Division the 1st and 2nd Bdes. absorbed the 21st Bde and the 116th (new) How. Bty.

In 2nd Division the 4th and 5th Bdes. absorbed the 22nd Bde. and the 117th (new) How. Bty.

In the 3rd Division the 7th and 8th Bdes. absorbed the 23rd Bde. including the 109th How. Bty.

In the 4th Division the 10th and 11th Bdes. absorbed the 18-pdrs. of the 24th Bde. and part of the 119th (new) How. Bty.

In the 5th Division the 13th and 14th Bdes. absorbed the 18-pdrs. of the 25th Bde and the 120th (new) How. Bty.

The 3rd and 6th (Army) Bdes. (surplus from the 1st and 2nd Divisions) absorbed the 15th Bde. and the 115th How. Bty.

The 12th (Army) Bde. was given the 112th How. Bty., and absorbed half of the 9th Bde. which included the 118th (new) How. Bty.*

There were thus left over half of the 9th Brigade, part of which had not yet crossed from England but part of which (including the 118th Battery) was in France. The unused part of this brigade was broken up and used as reinforcements.

The brigades thenceforth were as follows:

1st Division. 1st Bde. (1, 2, 3, 101); 2nd Bde (4, 5, 6, 102).

2nd Division. 4th Bde. (10, 11, 12, 104); 5th Bde. (13, 14, 15, 105).

3rd Division. 7th Bde. (25, 26, 27, 107), 8th Bde. (29, 30, 31, 108).

4th Division. 10th Bde. (37, 38, 39, 110); 11th Bde. (41, 42, 43, 111).

5th Division. 13th Bde. (49, 50, 51, 113); 14th Bde. (53, 54, 55, 114).

Army Bdes. 3rd Bde. (7, 8, 9, 103); 6th Bde. (16, 17, 18, 106); 12th Bde. (45, 46, 47, 112).

After this final reorganisation each divisional artillery comprised 48 guns and howitzers, and each "army" brigade 24. A division holding an important sector was always, if possible, reinforced by several "army" brigades and/or by the artillery of other divisions whose infantry was out of the line.

* A circular of the General Staff of I Anzac Corps states that part of the 119th How. Bty. went to the 112th.