

AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Artillery

Item number: 13/118/3

Title: 5th Australian Light Trench Mortar
Battery

September 1918



AWM4-13/118/3

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
~~DUPLICATE.~~
~~TRIPLICATE.~~



Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

5th A.L.T.M. Battery

FOR

September 1918

Signature of Officer compiling

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Signature of Officer Commanding

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WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

5TH AUSTRALIAN
TRENCH MORTAR
BATTALY.

No. _____

Date _____

Army Form C. 2118.

112

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.

Volume 9

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
off ap Reference 6 th 1/40,000	1-9-18	12 noon	Battery moved in accordance with order received, to position of reserves at I 19 centrally, France 62° 1/40,000, weather warm & clear. No. camp. night bombing by enemy, in and around bridges crossing Somme and Healler. Battery strength 3 Offs 28 OR in the line.	
Healler	2-9-18	12 noon	Battery reorganisation and general clean up, weather warm & clear, salvaging carried out. Enemy aerial activity decreased. Effective fighting strength 3 Offs 26 OR.	
4 misc	4-9-18	9 P.M.	Battery moved back according to attached appendix 1, to 4 misc. Weather warm & clear. Effective strength 3 Offs 26 OR.	off p. 1
4 misc	6-9-18	9 P.M.	Battery resting, cleaning & reorganising, swimming, parades, weather very warm. Effective strength increased by 3 OR from Base. Total strength 3 Offs 49 OR.	
4 misc	7-9-18	9 P.M.	Battery inspections in forenoon, weather wet, unfavourable. Strength 3 Offs 49 OR.	
4 misc	8-9-18	9 P.M.	March Parade, weather showery. Strength 3 Offs 44 OR. Two Corporals to school.	
4 misc	9-9-18	9 P.M.	Kit inspection, hair cutting, cleaning guns, weather showery. Lt. Hough reported from Base. 2 OR's from school. Strength 4 Offs 48 OR.	
4 misc	10-9-18	9 P.M.	Weather unfavourable, very wet. Strength 4 Offs 48 OR.	
4 misc	11-9-18	9 P.M.	Battery inspections, small arms exercises carried out, weather unsettled. Strength 4 Offs 49 OR. 1 OR from Base.	
4 misc	12-9-18	9 P.M.	Battery parade in forenoon, weather unsettled. Strength 4 Offs 49 OR. 1 OR to school.	
4 misc	13-9-18	9 P.M.	Battery parade in forenoon, attended B ^{de} sports in afternoon. Appendix 2. Strength 4 Offs 44 OR. 1 OR Paris leave.	off p. 2
4 misc	14-9-18	9 P.M.	B ^{de} inspections appendix 3. Weather fair & cool. Strength 4 Offs 44 OR.	off p. 3

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Volume 9.

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Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information
4AWC	15-9-18	9PM	Church Parade. Weather fair. Strength 4 Off. 44 OR's.
4AWC	16-9-18	9PM	Marched to 2 nd Lir Sports. Two teams competing. Weather warm. Strength 4 Off. 44 OR's. Appendix 1.4.
4AWC	17-9-18	9PM	Training & Btly. practice with live shells. Good marksmanship displayed. Weather windy. Strength 4 Off. 50 OR's.
4AWC	18-9-18	9PM	Btly. training with live shells. Good results obtained. Weather calm, dull. Sports in evening. Strength 4 Off. 50 OR's.
4AWC	19-9-18	9PM	Training. Open order drill & battery tactics. Weather calm & dull. Strength 4 Off. 52 OR's.
4AWC	20-9-18	9PM	Inspection of gas helmets & appliances by D ^{no} Gas Officer. Gas drill, arms drill, lecture on ammunition supplies. weather dull. Strength 4 Off. 52 OR's.
4AWC	21-9-18	9PM	Brigade route off march, full marching order, 3 hours afternoon, baths & sports. Weather showery. Strength 4 Off. 51 OR's.
4AWC	22-9-18	9PM	Church Parade. Weather fine, clear. Strength 4 Off. 51 OR's.
4AWC	23-9-18	9PM	Map reading, marching on compass bearings. Weather showery. Strength 4 Off. 52 OR's.
4AWC	24-9-18	9PM	Route off march. Cricket match. Lt. Shuttle from Corps School on visit to Btly. Weather clear & fine. Strength 4 Off. 52 OR's.
4AWC	25-9-18	9PM	Firing of dummy shells, firing on compass bearings. Route off march. Strength 4 Off. 56 OR's.
4AWC	26-9-18	9PM	Training, close order work, gun drill. Football matches. Weather fine. Strength 4 Off. 56 OR's.
Sheet 62 ^c E 10. C. 1.3.	27-9-18	9PM	Offspring to Beronne area by route off march, clear night, men in good spirits. Arrived destination 1.30 AM, everything quiet. Strength 4 Off. 5-.
Sheet 62 ^c E 24. C. 0.3.	28-9-18	9PM	At low, leave to England. Strength 3 Off. 58 OR's.
	28-9-18	9PM	Offspring forward as per appendix 1.6. Arrived destination E 24 C. 0.3 (sheet 62 ^c) at 12 midnight. No blankets or shelters. Weather cold & showery. Strength 3 Off. 61 OR's.
PO.	29-9-18	9PM	Resting. Making shelters for Btly. Weather showery & very cold. Strength 3 Off. 54 OR's.
PO.	30-9-18	9PM	Resting. Awaiting orders to move forward. Weather cold & showery. Strength 3 Off. 54 OR's.

WAR DIARY

OF

5th A.L.T.M. Battery

FOR

September 1918



LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
✓ <u>1</u>	Bde Order re - relief ✓
✓ <u>2</u>	Bde Sports ✓
✓ <u>3</u>	Bde Training Home No. 1 ✓
✓ <u>4</u>	2 nd Co Sports ✓
✓ <u>5</u>	Movement Order ✓
✓ <u>6</u>	Movement Order ✓

SECRET

Copy No... 2

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER No. 218Reference Map,
Sheet 62c N.W., 1/20,000Headquarters,
3rd September 1918.

1. The 2nd Aust. Division is being relieved in the line on the night 4th/5th September.
2. The 5th A.I.Bde. will concentrate in the area round FRISE in accordance with attached table.
3. Movement will be by small parties, at long intervals.
4. Advance parties have been arranged.
5. Completion of move and locations of new H.Q. will be reported to this office.
6. Transport lines will remain in present positions.
7. There will be no change in administrative arrangements.
8. Brigade Headquarters will remain at E.19.a.7.1.
9. ACKNOWLEDGE.

W. P. MacCallum

Major,

Issued at 7 a.m. 4th,
thro' Sigs.

Brigade Major, 5th Aust. Inf. Bde.

D i s t r i b u t i o n

Copy No. 1	17th Bn
2	18th Bn
3	19th Bn
4	20th Bn
5	5th A.L.T.H.Bty
6	6th A.M.G.Coy.
7	5th Field Coy.
8	5th Field Amb.
9	15th A.A.S.C.
10	2nd Aust. Division.
11	6th A.I.Bde.
12	7th A.I.Bde.
13	File
14/16	War Diary.



5
APPENDIX

112

Move Table to accompany Brigade Order No. 216

Serial No.	Date	Unit	To	Clear present Bivouac at	Route
1	4th Sept.	5th ALTM Bty	FRISE Area	12.15 p.m.	Via OLMIDCOURT los CLERY - BOSCOURT cemetery H.16.a. - Cross Roads H.14.b.6.1.
2	do	17th Bn	do	12.30 pm	do
3	do	20th Bn	do	1.15 pm	do
4	do	19th Bn	do	2 - pm	do
5	do	18th Bn	do	2.45 pm	do

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADES P O R T S

* PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

1. Heats - 100 yds Championship
2. Heats - Sack Race
3. Tug-o-War - 18th Bn pulls 19th Bn
" 17th Bn pulls 20th Bn
4. Heats - 220 Yds Championship
5. Three-logged Race 1st - 30 Frcs: 2nd 10 Frcs.
6. Inter-battalion Teams Race 1st - 80 Frcs.
7. 380 Yds Championship 1st 30 Frcs: 2nd 15 Frcs:
3rd - 10 Frcs.
8. FINAL - 100 Yds Championship 1st 30 Frcs: 2nd 15 Frcs:
3rd - 10 Frcs
9. FINAL - Sack Race 1st 20 Frcs: 2nd 10 Frcs:
3rd 5 Frcs:
10. Long Jump 1st 30 Frcs: 2nd 15 Frcs:
3rd - 10 Frcs:
11. Officers' 100 Yds
12. FINAL 220 Yds 1st 30 Frcs: 2nd 15 Frcs:
3rd - 10 Frcs:
13. Hop, Stop and Jump 1st 20 Frcs: 2nd 15 Frcs:
3rd - 5 Frcs:
14. Band Quick Stop
15. Heats, 120 Yds Hurdles
16. Tug-o-War - FINAL - 1st 140 Frcs:
17. 440 Yds Championship 1st 35 Frcs: 2nd 15 Frcs:
3rd - 10 Frcs:
18. Wrestling on Horseback 1st 40 Frcs:
19. Final - 120 Yds Hurdles - 1st 30 Frcs: 2nd 15 Frcs:
3rd - 10 Frcs.
20. Flag Race 1st 40 Frcs;



W. G. L. BAIN, Lieut.,
Hon. Sec. and Treasurer,
5th A.I. Bde. Sports Committee.

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADES P O R T SO F F I C I A L P R O G R A M M E

-----ooo000ooo-----

To be held at PRISE, on 13th September 1918, commencing
at 1-30 p.m.

O F F I C I A L SCOMMITTEE

Major	S.A. MIDDLETON
Captain	C.G. FINLAY
Licut.	H.A.S. HUGHES
Licut.	G.D.J. LOW
Licut.	F.J. BROWN
Licut.	L.W.S. SEABORN
Licut.	W.G.L. BAIN

JUDGES

Licut-Col.	F.W.D. FORBES, D.S.O.
Licut-Col.	R.H. SADLER, M.C.
Major	W.P. MacCALLUM, M.C.
Major	W.R.C. ROBERTSON, M.C.
Major	S.A. MIDDLETON

STARTERS

Captain	S. BEDDIE, L.C.
Licut.	H.J. FLOCKART

SELECTION
COMMITTEE

Major	J.H. McDONALD, M.C.
Licut.	L.C. ROBSON, M.C.
Licut.	R.W. PETTITT

GROUND
STEWARDS

Captain	H.T. ALLAN, M.C.
Captain	J.A. BROADBENT, M.C.
Licut.	S.B.W. DANIEL
Licut.	E.L. HALL
Licut.	U.K. WALSH, M.C.

RECORDERS

Captain	J.R. PORTER
Captain	C.D. BATHMAN
Chaplain	F.W. TUGWELL.

6TH AUSTRALIAN TRENCH MORTAR BRIGADE.
No.....
Date.....

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

5TH AUSTRALIAN
INFANTRY BRIGADE
HEADQUARTERS,
11th September 1918.

17th, 18th, 19th, 20th Bns.,
5th A.L.T.M.Bty.,

No. 15/572

BRIGADE TRAINING MEMO. No. 1

Reference Map
Sheet 62c NW, 1/20,000

1. Brigade Ceremonial Parade will be held on Saturday 14th instant.
Parade Ground has been selected in G.5.d., G.11.b.
2. DRESS -
Officers - Hats, Sam Browne belt, Gas Helmets slung over right shoulder.
Other Ranks - Hats, Fighting order, Gas Helmet at the "Alert", water-proof sheet on belt.
C.O's., Seconds-in-Command, Adjutants and Transport personnel only, will be mounted.
3. TRANSPORT -
Transport will be loaded as per Div. Loading Table.
Lewis Guns will be carried in the Transport.
4. GUIDES -
Adjutants with right and left battalion guides will report to Brigade Major on parade ground at 8.45 a.m.
Adjutants will bring with them battalion flags to mark right flank of battalion and exact frontage to be occupied by battalion.
5. BANDS -
Bands will be massed in rear of the centre of the Brigade under 18th Battalion Band Sergeant.
6. MARCH -
The Brigade, with Transport complete, will march to the parade ground. Head of unit columns to pass the starting point G.18.b.2.k. at the following times :-

5th A.L.T.M.Bty.	...	8-50 a.m.
20th Battalion	...	8-55 a.m.
19th Battalion	...	9-10 a.m.
18th Battalion	...	9-25 a.m.
17th Battalion	...	9-40 a.m.
7. DIAGRAM -
Diagram of parade ground and order in which units will be drawn up is attached.



Copies to -
War Diary
File.

W. P. MacCallum
Major,
Brigade Major, 5th Aust. Inf. Bde.

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

Brigade Headquarters
15th September 1918.

18/17/18

17th Sept 1918
Brigade Headquarters

ESCADE TRAINING MEMO. No. 1

Issue No. 1, 15/9/18

1. Brigade Cavalry Troops will be held on Saturday 14th
instant. Parade Ground has been selected for 6.30 a.m. 14.9.

2. The following order will be held on Saturday 14th
instants. The order will be held on Saturday 14th instants.

3. The following order will be held on Saturday 14th
instants. The order will be held on Saturday 14th instants.

4. The following order will be held on Saturday 14th
instants. The order will be held on Saturday 14th instants.

5. The following order will be held on Saturday 14th
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6. The following order will be held on Saturday 14th
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7. The following order will be held on Saturday 14th
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8. The following order will be held on Saturday 14th
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9. The following order will be held on Saturday 14th
instants. The order will be held on Saturday 14th instants.

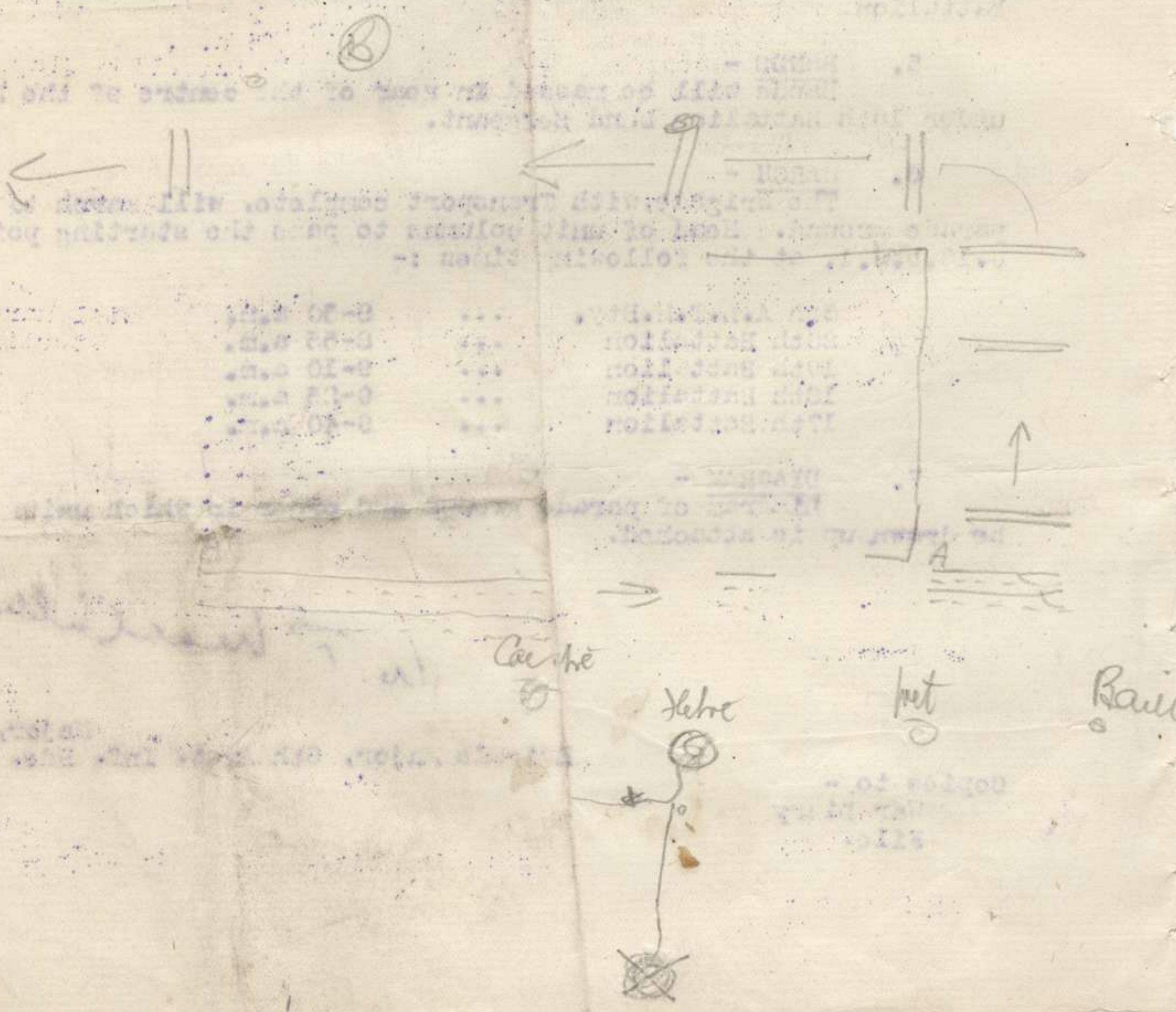
10. The following order will be held on Saturday 14th
instants. The order will be held on Saturday 14th instants.

11. The following order will be held on Saturday 14th
instants. The order will be held on Saturday 14th instants.

12. The following order will be held on Saturday 14th
instants. The order will be held on Saturday 14th instants.

13. The following order will be held on Saturday 14th
instants. The order will be held on Saturday 14th instants.

14. The following order will be held on Saturday 14th
instants. The order will be held on Saturday 14th instants.



FIFTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.
-----5TH AUSTRALIAN
INFANTRY BRIGADE,
HEADQUARTERS.

No. 15/578.

Date.....

Brigade Headquarters,
15th September, 1918.17th., 18th., 19th., 20th. Bns.
5th. A.L.T.M. Bty. ✓
-----Reference Map
Sheet 62c N.W. 1/20,000

1. The Divisional Sports are being held on Monday 16th instant at G 22 a 4 1, commencing at 10 a.m.
2. The Brigade, exclusive of competitors and special parties, will march as a Brigade to the Sports ground.
3. Two cooks will accompany each battalion to provide tea for the men. T.M.Bty. will arrange with 19th Battalion for provision of tea.
4. Dress will be, hats, belts, and haversacks slung over right shoulder.
5. Head of Units columns will pass the starting point - Road Junction G 24 b 0 4 - at the following times:-

18th Battalion.	-	8.55 a.m.
19th Battalion.	-	9.5 a.m.
20th Battalion.	-	9.15 a.m.
17th Battalion.	-	9.25 a.m.
5th. A.L.T.M.Bty.	-	9.35 a.m.
6. Men will be dismissed on Sports Ground.

Route will be Road along SOMME Canal to Road Junction at G 22 d 1 9.

W. P. MacCallum.

Major,
Brigade Major, 5th. Aust. Inf. Bde.

Copies to -

War Diary (3).

5TH AUSTRALIAN
TRENCH MORTAR
BRIGADE.

No.....

Date.....

SECRET

Copy No.

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER No. 217Reference Maps,
Sheet 62c. 1/40,000Headquarters,
26th Sept. 1918

1. The 5th A.I.Bde. Group will move by route march to the PERONNE Area on the night 27th/28th in accordance with attached table.
2. Except within the Brigade areas no other routes than those laid down will be used.
3. For the purpose of the move the Brigade Group will consist of -
 - 5th A.I.Bde.
 - 5th Field Coy. A.E.
 - 5th Aust. Fld. Amb.
4. Administrative Instructions are being issued separately.
5. Advance parties mounted or with bicycles, will report to Captain F.R. CORNEY, M.C. at Brigade H.Q. at 9 a.m. on 27th instant.
6. Dress - Marching Order. Lorries will be provided for blankets.
7. 1st Line Transport will accompany units.
8. Completion of move and location of H.Q. will be notified to Brigade H.Q.
9. Brigade H.Q. will close at H.19.a.7.0. at 9 p.m. and re-open at I.24.a.5.5. on completion of the move.
10. During the day of 28th instant, movement in the vicinity of quarters will be reduced to a minimum, and full precautions will be taken against observation by enemy aircraft. Battalions will dispose Lewis Guns in suitable positions for anti-aircraft work.
11. A further move to assembly areas will be carried out on the night 28th/29th September.
12. Brigade Group acknowledge.

R. J. ...
Captain,

Issued at 11.30 p.m.
thro' signals.

A/Brigade Major, 5th Aust. Inf. Bde.

D i s t r i b u t i o n

Copy No. 1	17th Bn	Copy No. 13	Bde. T'port Off.
2	18th Bn	14	Bde. Q.M.
3	19th Bn	15	G.O.C.
4	20th Bn	16	Bde. Major
5	5th ALTM Bty	17	Staff Capt.
6	5th Fld. Coy.	18	Int. Off.
7	5th Fld. Amb.	19	Bomb. Off.
8	15th A.A.S.C.	20	Sig. Off.
9	6th A.I.Bde.	21/23	War Diary
10	7th A.I.Bde.	24	File
11	2nd Aust. Div.	25/27	Spares.
12	10th A.I.Bde.		



MARCH TABLE TO ACCOMPANY BRIGADE ORDER No. 217

Serial No.	Unit in order of March	Time of passing Starting point Cross Roads at H.14.b.9.9.	Route	Take over area from	H.Q. to be at
1.	Bde. H.Q.	9 p.m.	FEUILLERES - HEM - CLERY - ALLAINES - BUSSU.	10th A.I.Bdo. H.Q.	I.24.a.5.5. (approx)
2.	17th Bn.	9.10 pm	do	40th Bn	J.14.central (approx)
3.	18th Bn	9.25 p.m.	do	39th Bn	J.20.a.3.3. (approx)
4.	19th Bn	9.40 pm	do	37th Bn	BUSSU
5.	20th Bn	9.55 pm	do	38th Bn	I.10.c.1.3. (approx)
6.	5th ALTM Bty	10.10 pm	do	10th ALTM Bty	I.10.c.1.3. (approx)
7.	5th Field Coy.	10.20 p.m.	do	10th Fld. Coy.	J.25.b.5.4. (approx)
8.	5th A.Fld.Amb.	10.35 p.m.	do	10th Fld. Amb.	I.16.c.8.4. (approx)

Intervals - The following intervals will be observed on the march -
 Between units - 200 yards
 Between Coys. 50 yards
 Between unit & its transport 100 yards
 Between each section of 6 vehicles - 25 yards.

Halts - Units will halt independently at 10 minutes to each clock hour and will move on at each clock hour.

APPENDIX 5

SECRET

Copy No.....

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER No. 218Reference Map,
Sheet 62c, 1/40,000Headquarters,
28th September 1918.

1. The 2nd Aust. Division is moving to the assembly areas on the night 28th/29th instant.
2. The 5th A.I.Bde. Group will move by route march (to LONGAVESNES - VILLERS FAUCON Area) in accordance with the attached table.
3. For the purposes of the move and for billeting, the Brigade Group will consist of :-
 - 5th Aust. Inf. Bde.
 - 5th A.M.G.Coy.
 - 5th Field Coy. A.E.
 - 5th Field Ambulance.
4. Advance parties have been arranged.
5. Dress - Fighting order - Greatcoats to be carried folded under haversacks.
6. First Line Transport will accompany units.
7. Completion of the move will be notified to be Brigade H.Q., giving location of new Headquarters, as early as possible after arrival.
8. Brigade Headquarters will close at 1.24.a.6.3. at 6 p.m. and open at 5.22.A.9.5 at the same hour.
9. Previous instructions as to precautions against observation by enemy aircraft, will be adhered to.
10. No movement will take place before 7.30 p.m., and moves are to be complete by 5 a.m.
11. After mid-day on the 29th September units will be held in readiness to move at two hours notice.
12. Brigade Group acknowledge.

R. Snowden

Captain,

Issued at 3.30 pm.

A/Brigade Major, 5th Aust. Inf. Bde.

through Signals.D i s t r i b u t i o n

Copy No. 1	17th Bn	Copy No. 13	Bde. T.Off.
2	18th Bn	14	Bde. Q.M.
3	19th Bn	15	G.O.C.
4	20th Bn	16	Bde. Major
5	5th ALTM Bty ✓	17	Staff Capt.
6	5th Field Coy.	18	Int. Off.
7	5th Fld Amb.	19	Bomb. Off.
8	5th AMG Coy.	20	Gas Off.
9	15th A.A.S.C.	21	Sig. Off.
10	6th A.I.Bde.	22/24	War Diary
11	7th A.I.Bde.	25	File
12	2nd Aust. Div.	26/28	Spare.



TABLE TO ACCOMPANY BRIGADE ORDER No.218

Serial No.	Unit in order of March	Time of passing starting point Cross roads at J.9.c.8.5.	Route	Destination	Remarks
1.	Bde. H.Q.	7.45 pm	BUSSU - road through J.9. - J.10., J.5., D.29. - LONGAVESNES	E.22.a.9.5.	
2.	17th Bn	7.55 pm	do do		Vicinity of E.20. and E.21. as pointed out to advance party.
3.	18th Bn	8.10 pm	do do		
4.	19th Bn	8.25 pm	do do		
5.	20th Bn	9. - pm	do do		
6.	5th A.L.T.M.Bty.	9.15 pm	do do		
7.	5th A.M.G.Coy.	9.25 p.m.	TINCOURG - LONGAVESNES.		Starting point for 5th AMG Coy. J. .b.9.0. 27.
8.	5th Field Coy.	9.35 pm	BUSSU - road through J.9., J.10., D.29., -LONGAVESNES.		
9.	5th Field Ambulance	9.50 pm	do do	do do	

Intervals - The following intervals will be observed -

Between Units	200 yards
Between Coys.	50 yards
Between units and its transport	..			100 yards

Halts - Units will halt independently at 10 minutes to each clock hour and move on at each clock hour.

APPENDIX 6