

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/5/6

Title: 5th Infantry Brigade

December 1915



AWM4-23/5/6

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
DUPLICATE.
TRIPLICATE.

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

5th Aust Inf Bde

FOR

Dec. 1st to 31st — 1915

*Compiled
July 15th 1919*

*Byrd. Holmes
in command*

Signature of Officer compiling

*Byrd. Holmes
Shippington*

Signature of Officer Commanding

(from notes)

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WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

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.

Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place

Date

Hour

Courtney's Two enemy M.G. positions are reported at $\frac{80 \times 4}{A. 11}$ & $\frac{80 \times 1}{C. 65}$

Quinn's Hostile aeroplane approaching from a Southerly direction passed well out in front of our position retired E under Artillery fire.

Popes At 1040 ketosene flare was thrown by enemy in front of this position. At 0145 white rocket was thrown in the direction of Courtney's.

Courtney's glowing lights were noticed at points along the German officer's trench last night & the night before. They appeared to be the reflections from bayonets in the trenches.

Quinn's Hostile aeroplane approached from the North East, passed along the front of our position. She was fired on by our artillery & disappeared in a South Easterly direction. This aeroplane opened fire with a machine gun, which she was carrying.

Courtney's During the magnificent light between 1300 & 1600 three gun positions could be distinctly seen. They are at 68 F 300 yds from South & 140 yds from West; bushes covering gun brown, two Turks were sitting in front of the position at 1500 No 2 gun is at 80 U 50 yds. from South 300 yds from West; bushes light yellow 10 feet high, saps in the bushes very prominent. No 3 gun was seen to fire at 1630. It is at 80 S 470 yds from South 500 yds from West. There is a very large white circular stone, about 4" in diameter just above the position. During the night the enemy threw several flares, green white & red opposite Courtney's.

No. 21. Ironash Gully

WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	3/12/15	0600	<p><u>Quinn's</u>: Between 1600 & 1612 Green & white followed by red & white rockets were sent up by enemy front benches opposite our northern in the direction of Popes. These rockets were imitated by us. At 1820 Enemy sent up one white rocket from vicinity of German Officer's Trench.</p> <p><u>Popes</u>: Between 1600 & 1650 enemy threw Red, green & white rockets opposite our front. Between 1800 & 1900 enemy threw several Kerosene flares. at 2140 Searchlight from East South East played on Popes for about 10 minutes & then intermittently until 2400.</p>	
	4/12/15	0600	<p><u>Courtney's</u>: The enemy continued, at intervals during the night, to throw flares.</p> <p><u>Quinn's</u>: At 2045 three white flares were seen to go up from direction of Lone Pine, where heavy rifle was heard. for a limited period.</p> <p><u>Popes</u>: Nothing to report.</p>	
	5/12/15	0600	<p><u>Courtney's</u>: Enemy machine gun has been located at 80x1. The Intelligence Officer 18th Coy reports that at 2200 on the ^{C35} 3rd a machine gun set the German Officer's trench fired 3 single then a pause, then 2 single, then a burst corresponding to ... — S.H. This was repeated ^{opposite} Russell's Top then further along to the left.</p> <p><u>Quinn's</u>: Nothing to report.</p>	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	5/12/15		Popes Enemy threw kerosene flares opposite right of Popes at 30 minute interval during the night until 0400	
	6/12/15	0600	Courtneys } Popes } nothing to report. Quinns }	
	7/12/15	0600	Courtneys } Quinns } nothing to report. At 1530 hostile aeroplane approached from South West flying over this position. When over Bloody Angle she dropped two bombs which landed in gully between Quinns & Popes, without doing any damage, one bomb failing to explode. This machine also opened fire with a machine gun which she without doing any damage. After flying South for some distance, she turned north when over this position she dropped darts, some of which landed in the vicinity of Bde H.Q. She then flew East followed by our anti-air fire.	
	8/12/15	0900	Popes At 1930 enemy searchlight played on this position for about 30 seconds and again between 0400 + 0500. Courtneys } Quinns } nothing to report.	

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Place Date Hour

8/12/15

Popes Between 1815 & 2130 enemy threw Kerosene flares continuously from their trenches opposite left of Popes. At 2100 Searchlight was again active.

9/12/15 10 25

Blatt's horse following instructions have taken over that portion of front-gully from Courtney's to Union trench inclusive.

10/12/15 09 00

Courtney's Nothing to report.

Quinn's At 1650 hostile aeroplane on N.E. course passed well out in front of our position. Under our artillery fire she flew east. This machine fired four bursts from a machine gun. Between 2015 & 2025 two red flares thrown by enemy opposite our central position and again between 2055 & 2115 two more were thrown. 2150 another red flare thrown towards our Southern trench. Between 0215 & 0430 five red flares thrown by enemy towards our central and northern positions.

Popes Between 2100 & 2200 numerous kerosene flares were thrown by enemy opposite this position.

11/12/15 07 00

Courtney's The Turkish Crater at $\frac{80 \times 1}{C36}$ is apparently a shallow one not more than 18 inches deep.

Quinn's Nothing to report...

Popes Report their Scouts visited Monash Valley today & report more digging by enemy in trench ~~80-52~~ $\frac{80-52}{A10-17}$. They also found that more earth has fallen in dump below sandbagged hole at $\frac{80-52}{A2-5}$ & believe that earth is thrown out from this hole at night & not from over the trench parapet above.

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(10340) W1 W5300/P713 750,000 3/18 E 2668 Forms/C2118/16.

Blatt's Monash Gully

Enemy kerosene flares accounted for by "Silent Stunt" preparatory to illumination.

WAR DIARY

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<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Ad. Qm. Mamashully</p>	12/12/15	0700	<p><u>Courtneys</u>. Breastwork spoken of yesterday is now because of sandbags higher. Earth has been taken from side of the trench $\frac{80 \times 1}{1.3 = 1}$ to throw on front wall. Threw about 20 grenades on enemy trenches. neither Garland or 3.7 Howitzer fired.</p> <p><u>Quinn's</u>. A short new trench has been dug by enemy during past two nights about 20 yds long from 80-51 (Trench Map 10) down into Dead Mansully. Enemy continues to build earthworks on trenches along the Ridge back also 80-55 (Trench Map 10) $\frac{C12-464}$ Enemy has done a little work out from gallery No. 34 but sounds are distant. the trench Enemy has been heard working about No. 45A.</p> <p><u>Popes</u>. Reports sign of much digging in enemy front trench opposite middle & left Popes. Gun on other trench parapet raised & sandbags in place. Enemy threw kerosene flares opposite Popes at about hourly intervals. Enemy put 6 rounds of shrapnel on Russell's Top from rear. Chew board at 0915 & at 1545 10 10 rounds shrapnel for Baby job on Stat's Post.</p>	
	13/12/15	0110	<p><u>Courtneys</u> nothing to report.</p> <p><u>Quinn's</u> Enemy threw four red flares towards central & northern Quinn's, at about 30 minute intervals: no action followed.</p>	
	14/12/15	0430 0530	<p><u>Russell's Top</u> 2073^h took over Russell's Top from 26th Bn.</p> <p><u>Popes</u> <u>Courtneys</u> } nothing to report.</p> <p><u>Quinn's</u></p> <p><u>Popes</u> Enemy threw three kerosene flares 2210. Small green flares observed back of bluff in Mamashully Valley lasting about 2 or 3 seconds.</p>	

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	14/12/15		Russells Top Sgt. Conran of Engineers (5 th P.) while reconnoitering near cliff face overlooking Malone fully & in vicinity of L II Tunnel saw in Turkish Sap 5 boxes dynamite. Some Turks were in Sap taking dynamite; afterwards disappeared, presumably into enemy works.	
	15/12/15		<p>Courtneys About 3 days ago it was noticed that the fire of the Turks by night was very "nervy" & by day rare. Very few periscopes were seen & they were raised & lowered hurriedly. These indications point to the presence of new troops, probably a relief.</p> <p>Quinn's Hostile aeroplane from East passed over & returned East. Appeared to have black squares instead of black cross markings. 1515 Bingle call from rear of Enemy's trenches opposite north Quinn's.</p> <p>Popes Valley Scouts report no changes $\frac{8052}{A 1077}$ or loophole $\frac{8052}{A 25}$. No sign of any work by the enemy in the line. 2030 Enemy threw several Keromet flares from hole $\frac{8048}{C 33}$. Light as from a fire seen on NEK near crater for about a minute. 2300 a fire was seen on the NEK & at the same time a stench was noticed as of bodies burning.</p> <p>Courtneys A new breastwork at $\frac{80x1}{B 28}$ in front of Courtney's Post.</p> <p>Quinn's Nothing to report.</p> <p>Popes Lamp seen seen as if signalling at Russells Top near Bully Beef seen fully seen again at 2300 & 2045 to 2315 small flashing light seen on lower Chers board.</p> <p>Russells Snipers NEK was occupied yesterday by an observer. He did not snipe. He used his periscope sparingly as our snipers & those of the Light horse were very watchful.</p>	

Hd Qm
Monash fully

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>Adm. G. Monash Jolly.</p> <p>MIIDROS. 28st. 12/15</p>	<p>17/12/15</p>		<p><u>No daily notes available</u></p> <p>Silent Stunt recommenced and general preparations for the evacuation of Gallipoli. General Staff selecting Rear Guard positions. 1st line abandoned + new line prepared.</p> <p>Brig. Genl. Paton appointed to T/Command 5th Bde. Genl. Holmes to Temp. Command 2nd Aust Div vice Genl. Legge evacuated Sick. Woods appointed</p> <p>Brig Genl Paton to command. Rear Party* with Major Wisdom as Staff Officer. Lt Col. Lamrock 20th Psn to T/Command 5th Bde (Vice Paton) Capt Hale as Staff Officer.</p> <p>Details of evacuation completed. 5th Bde final dispositions prior to evacuation: - Walker's Ridge, Russell's Top, Popes Post, Queen Post - Combings Post + Skuts Post, about a little over half of the Anzac Front.</p> <p>For full details see Genl. Paton's report on the Evacuation.</p> <p>Bde HQ was closed & Lt Col. Lamrock took command of front line with HQ at Russell's Top. Capt Hale to 2nd Aust Div to assist in guiding + directing troops to barges etc.</p> <p>Weather good but threatening.</p> <p>Bitterly cold + raining. Settling in camp. Pitching Tents etc.</p> <p>Boxes, mail + parcels airmail.</p> <p>Resting & Training when possible was carried out when possible until the Bde left for Alexandria (en Route for Sinaï Pen.) on 4th Jan 1916</p>	<p>"DIEHARDS"</p>