

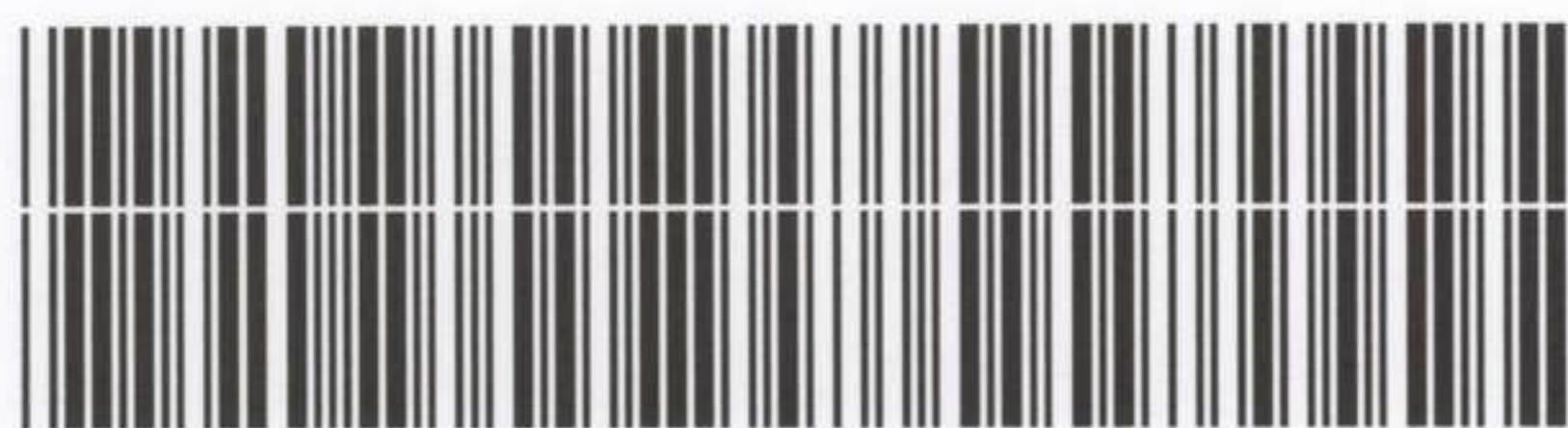
AWM4
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War**

Formation Headquarters

Item number: 1/44/10

Title: General Staff, Headquarters 2nd
Australian Division

May 1916



AWM4-1/44/10

[1/44/10]

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Place	Date MAY	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CROIX DU BAC	1st	6.0 am	<p><u>Morning report</u> 2.15 - 3.15 a.m. heavy rifle fire against trenches 50 and 51. Normal machine gun fire on enemy from our indirect positions.</p> <p>7.15 Enemy shelling BAC ST MAUR Station</p> <p>10 - 11 am Our O.P's shelled with 4.2" BOIS GRENIER and Fme DESPLANQUE district - little damage. Enemy shelling trench 47 - four 5.9" shells near 17th battery.</p> <p>1.30 pm Enemy shelling trench 47, 48 with H.E. also near 21st Bn.</p> <p>3 pm Enemy artillery active against our trench 48, wixx 11th Battery and O.P's. Our artillery retaliated with 25 rounds on trenches opposite, on billets and O.P's - Aeroplane observation difficult owing to haze.</p> <p>7 pm Weather fine and some haze. Wind E.S.E.</p> <p>8 - 9.30 pm Enemy rifle and machine gun fire brisk in BOIS GRENIER Area.</p> <p>2nd. 6-am Patrols report ground firmer in NO MAN'S LAND. Our machine guns fired on enemy's front and support line, QUEER Street and DISTILLERY - Enemy transport very active on LILLE-ARMENTIERES road.</p> <p>Disposition of Units of Division as per Appendix I</p> <p>10 am Enemy shelling new position, 12th Battery (5.9")</p> <p>11 am Desultory Art. fire on trenches 53 - 55. A few rounds on trench I.26.a.</p> <p>11.30 104th Battery firing on I.23.d.9.7.</p> <p>12.30 pm 104th Battery O.P. being shelled with 5.9" - 12 H.E. near to left of 10th Batt. O.P.</p> <p>1.30 Trenches 50 - 53 under shell fire</p> <p>2.30 A few rounds on 17th and 15th batteries.</p>	<p>Appx LI V</p>

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CROIX DU BAC	MAY			
	2nd	3.50pm	Shelling of CANTEEN FME ceased. 150 4.2" and 5.9" shells thrown - no damage	
		4 pm	Report that enemy heavily shelling 17th Battery (H.23) CANTEEN FME. Crews evacuated emplacements	
		4.55pm	Enemy re-commenced shelling RUE DES CHARLES	
		5 pm	Report from 2nd Div. Artillery that 300 5.9 shells had fallen near 17th and 13th Batt. positions 7th Brigade report CHAPELLE D'ARMENTIERES shelled at noon, otherwise quiet.	
		5.55pm	Enemy again shelling CANTEEN FARM	
		6.40 pm	5th Brigade report shelling - WHITE CITY with H.E. and shrapnel.	
		7 pm	7th Brigade report shells fell 4 p.m. on 7th Brigade Transport Lines - Farm burnt - 1 casualty.	
		7.30	Shelling of Salient and Chord with H.E. - 3 casualties.	
		7.0 pm	Wind changed to N.W., some showers: cloudy: cooler.	
	3rd	6.0 am	<u>Morning report.</u> - Normal night. Patrols report grass now long enough in NO MAN'S LAND to give cover - ground firm in BOIS GRENIER district.	
		9.30am	Desultory shelling vicinity of 16th and 21st Battery.	
		10.30am	Enemy dispersed one of our working parties near LA GUERNERIE. Shells falling on TRAMWAY AVENUE where work is being carried on. Our artillery quiescent.	
		12.30pm	XXXX Trench 47 under shell fire. 15th battery in action against enemy troops north-east of LA FLEUR D'ECOSSE. 14th Battery dispersed enemy working party north of LES BASCHAMPS.	
		12.50pm	6th Inf. Bde. report enemy shelling vicinity of L'EPINETTE. Target probably railway, a farm burnt down	
	2.10 pm	5th Brigade report salient (BRIDOUX) and chord line being heavily shelled H.E. - no damage. A few shells in trenches 47 - 48.		

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CROIX DU BAC	MAY			
	3rd.	3.30pm	Enemy shelling various points neighbourhood of 14, 15, and 21st Batteries.	
		5.0	Nothing to report	
	4th	6.0 am	<u>Morning report.</u> - Night generally quiet. Enemy wiring party discovered by our patrols dispersed with Lewis Gun dire - Grass in NO MAN'S LAND reported 1' high.	
		7.0 am	Neighbourhood of NEIPPE Station under fire - 21 cm and 5.9" guns.	
		10.30am	Some desultory shelling by enemy 77 mm guns.	
		11.15am	Some shelling of BOIS GRENIER district by 4.2" - Trench 50 under desultory shell fire.	
		12.30pm	Enemy shelling COWGATE AVENUE. 104th How. Battery retaliating on I.29.c.8.8.	
		5.0 pm	Salvoes enemy artillery against screen in front of 16th Battery.	
		8.0 pm	Normal day. Our mortars in BOIS GRENIER district registered on enemy parapets and did some damage. Our artillery shelled Fme. EPERONNERIE and FLEUR d'ECOSSE. Our parapet breached by enemy shelling in several places.	
	5th	6.0 am	Patrols report ground firm and grass growing \times fast. Machine guns fairly active during night.	
		8.0 am	Enemy shelling BAC ST MAUR - No damage reported.	
		9.55am	At 7.30 am shells began to fall south of Divisional Baths. Lieut. King, detention camp commandant killed.	
		10. 5am	Heavy shelling RUE DES ACQUETS- One building set on fire.	
		4. 5pm	Enemy reported to be heavily bombarding LA VESEE POST and surroundings.	
		7.46pm	Verbal message from 5th Inf. Bde. that enemy artillery had opened all along front and support lines of "B" Battalion with H.E. and Shrapnel. Artillery asked to retaliate.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CROIX DU BAC	MAY			
	8.2 pm	5th	8.2pm Signals at Div. H.Q. report General Gas Alarm received from 7th Bde. Not confirmed by 7th Bde. on reference by telephone. Gas Alarm heard but no traces of Gas on 7th Bde front.- Gas Alarm received from LORINGS GROUP.- Unable to say whence it originated.	
	8.17 pm		8. 10 pm Signal" 2nd Inf. Bde. report heavy firing on front line trenches on L, Bn. of that section. Think it may possibly prelude of attack."	
	8.25 pm		5th Inf Bde report enemy left trenches opposite trenches 52 & 53 Machine gun & rifle fire opened "C" & "D" Bns. 5th Bde. ordered to BOIS GRENIER line. No gas reported on 5th Bde. front.	
	8.38 pm		Div. Art. repeat report of enemy having left trenches opp. 51. 52. 53. Our Artillery in action against enemy trenches opposite those points.	
	8.47 pm		5th Bde reports telephone lines to Bns. cut. Div. Artillery that firing decreasing but concentrating fire against left of 2nd Inf Bde. and right of 5th Bde. No Artillery fire N. of trenches. 54.	
	8.55 pm		Div Artillery reports bombardment slakening. Enemy has lengthened range on to 17th Battery. Our Artillery still firing- 7th Bde. report situation on that front unchanged. Heavy shells falling near 7th Bde. H.Q.	
	8.57 pm		Div. Art. state report has been received from Inf. that artillery support ^{North} of trenches 55 no longer required.	
	9.2 pm		5th Bde. report situation in front of 20th Bn. easier. Rifle ceased. Artillery on both sides quietened down. No report yet as to enemy infantry who left trenches. Reported quiet on remainder of 5th Bde. front. Enemy still shelling left of 2nd Inf Bde	
	9.5 pm		Enemy still shelling 5th Bde. front. S of T 54. Communication with 20th Bn broken. A Coy. 19th Bn reports fire seems to have ceased on 20 th Bn front.	
9.13 pm		Enemy's artillery fire on trenches 52 & 53 slakened. Our artillery also eased off.		
9.25 pm		5th Bde. reports enemy firing shrapnel along their front trenches 53 to 56. Bombardment of 20th		

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CROIX DU BAC	MAY 5th	9.25 pm	Bn. still continuing, but not so intense. Green flares fired by enemy on left flank of Bn. Only one Battery required to fire on enemy's trenches opposite BRIDOUX Salient.	
		9.35 pm	5th Bde. report everything quietened down for present.	
		9.44 pm	5th Bde report everything normal on their front.	
		10.4 pm	Reserve Bns 7th Inf. Bde reported "stood down".	
		10.30 pm	5th Inf. Bde . in reply to message that telephone communication with Battalions must be re-established tonight, replied wires were being attended to.	
		10.45 pm	A.D.A.S. reports communication with Bdes. where broken by shell fire had been repaired from 5th. Bde. Company holding SALIENT compelled to evacuate, owing intensity enemy bombardment. CHORD line held up 2 Coys. of "C" Bn. (18th) Bn. had been sent WHITE city at disposal of 20th Bn. to clear up situation. 17th / Division reports situation now quiet.	
		11.55 pm	5th Bde. report 20 th BN. in full possession salient and all trenches evacuated now occupied. Communication established with all companies. Working parties engaged repairing damage	
	6th	4.15 am	Report of events from 7.40 pm to 10. pm received from 5th Bde. Acknowledged.	
		6.am.	<u>Morning Reports.</u> Patrols searched our front for enemy dead or wounded but found none.	Appx. LV 11.
		9.30 am	Enemy shelled some of our working parties working in BOIS GRENIER district.	(Report on enemy raid)
		11.am	Enemy shelled and dispersed our working parties S.E. of LA VESEE= Large percentage of shells did not explode.	
		12.30 pm	Some desultory shelling by enemy artillery on Junction Park Row and BOIS GRENIER line.	
		1.10 pm	Enemy appeared to be ranging on our trenches 52 (from 5th Bde)	
		3.pm	Enemy registering front and communication trenches 52.54.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	MAY			
CROIX DU BAC	6th	4.55 pm	5th Inf. Bde. reports enemy registering with 4 or 5 batteries on trenches 51-54.	
		6.38 pm	Enemy in full marching order reported by 5th Bde. to be moving in towards their front trenches opp. our 52 & 53.	
		6.45 pm	Enemy party reported above, estimated by observer at about 2 Coys. Our Artillery shelling enemy communication trenches.	
			<u>Weather ^{variable} rainable, some showers, Wind S.W.</u>	
	7th	6. am	During night our wiring parties were busy repairing and strengthening wire on both Brigades fronts.	
		8 pm	Some enemy shelling of our communication trenches during day. During afternoon enemy ^{enemy} artillery registered on emergency roads in Left Brigade Area.- and shelled billets in Rue Marle with shrapnel. Very quiet day otherwise. Gaps reported having been made in enemy wire opposite LILLE ROAD Salient Machine gun emplacement at I.16.d.8.1. destroyed our artillery fire-. Report on weeks operation attached.	Appx. LV (Weekly report)
	8th	6. am	A quiet night. Much work on wire in front put in- and repairs done to salient	
		8. am	A quiet day. Enemy artillery action less and usual. Some bombing in GRENIER District.	
	9th	6. am	Some enemy working parties dispersed by M.G. fire. Wiring parties out on our front.	
		2. pm	Some desultory hostile Art. fire during morning, no damage.	
3. pm		At about 1.45 pm enemy began shelling CANTEEN FARM (H.17.C.17.2.) and is still doing so- 77 mm falling near 17th Bn. ^{16th Battery}		
	3.20 pm	Shelling canteen farm ceased. Very high percentage of blind shells. No damage to billets. A		

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CROIX DU BAC	MAY	9th	3.20 pm gap in enemy wire reported at I.21.b.5.3.	
	10th	6.am	Listening post and covering parties out during the night to screen working parties. No enemy patrols seen. Enemy very quiet.	
		8.pm	Enemy artillery fairly active against our trenches, and working parties during day. No material damage done. Gaps in enemy at I.26.b.8 $\frac{1}{2}$.7 $\frac{1}{2}$. Our snipers were active during day and claim some successes	
	11th	6.am	Enemy reported to have been active on their wire during night. Working ^{parties} were dispersed by our fire. Enemy retaliated on our working parties	
		4.30.pm	One of our aeroplanes brought down by enemy M.G. fire near LILLE POST. Pilot reported killed and observer uninjured. Enemy shelling plane	
		8.pm	During day our artillery fired effectually ^{very} on enemy working parties & support trenches & against a battery at I.24.c.0.6. Snipers have been active on both sides. Enemy artillery quiescent during morning, but woke up in afternoon. BOIS GRENIER. LA VESEE & our front trenches were shelled. and parapets slightly damaged.	
	12th	6.am	<u>Morning Report.</u> Parties were engaged during the night putting out wire in front of our parapets covered by listening & bombing parties. No enemy patrols met with in NO MANS LAND.	
		8.pm	Enemy's snipers more active during the day. Our supports trenches heavily shelled during day and a good deal of damage done to our parapets. About 400 shells 77mm and 4.2 fired by enemy Art. during day at LILLE POST. Trenches 59. 60. and at RATION & BILLET farm. Our artillery shelled the MOUNDS. PUCK'S FOLLY and MARTIN'S CORNER. Several enemy O.P. were also shelled and one observer believed to have been killed. Snipers claim that Mark VII Star. S.S.A.A. pierces enemy's loopholes and that they are replaced after a few holes have been made.	
	Weather Cloudy and changeable- Some rain.			
	13th	6.am	Patrols were active during night and directed M.G. fire on to ^{enemy} our working parties. A hostile	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CROIX DU BAC	MAY 13th	6.am	patrol met was bombed, and retired at once. Our wiring parties in front were busy, and a large amount of wire was put out. Our M.G's were active against enemy working parties. Some rain during night.	
		8. pm	Enemy artillery almost inactive during day. A few rounds at BRIDOUX Salient and at H.23.d.7.1. Our artillery destroyed M.G. emplacement at I.26.b.8.7. with Howitzer fire. The potteries were also shelled & some enemy O.P's registered. Observation difficult owing to wet weather. Enemy's snipers inactive.	
	14th	6.am	Our M.G's active during the night. Our patrols encountered only one hostile patrol, which was fired at and bombed. Enemy disappeared. Morning, mist and rain.	
		11.50.am	Enemy artillery fired about 60 rounds H.E. (4.2 & 5.9) near junctions of trenches 56 & 57 breaching our parapet in two places. 100 rounds of 77mm on to trenches 59 & 60 and near distillery.	
		8.pm	During day our batteries registered several points, and shelled a M.G. emplacement at I.26.b.7.5. with good effect. Observation difficult on account of mist and rain.	
15th	6.am.		Our M.G's active during the night with indirect fire. An enemy patrol bombed one of our listening posts & retired. 7th Bde relieved Bns front line. Relief completed 11.30.pm Much wiring done in both Bde. areas. Owing to a bright moon patrolling was difficult .	
		8.pm	Enemy artillery generally quiet during day, only a few rounds being fired at our front trenches. Our artillery fired about 100 rounds at buildings and trenches damaging ^{enemy parapets} trenches opposite 59-61	
16th	6.am		Enemy Machines ^{guns} and rifles fired at 11.30 am for two minutes against trenches 48 & 49. Estimated 1 rifle to every 10 Yds of trench. An enemy patrol encountered, bombed one of our patrols & attempted to surround them. Our men replied with bombs & were able to withdraw.	
		2.30.pm	Enemy shelling F o me Grande Flamangerie	
		7.pm.	Enemy artillery fairly quiet during yday. Only a few rounds being fired at our front trenches.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TROIX DU BAC	MAY 16th	7.p.m.	Since 2.30 pm about 250 rounds of 5.9 have been fired at one of our heavy batteries in H.11.d. gradually increasing in intensity. Buildings destroyed and one gun damaged. Our artillery fired on various points, a few rounds at a time, during the day. Our aeroplanes active. Weather improved.	
	17th	6.am	Owing to bright moonlight no patrols were out, and work on wiring much hampered. Our M.G's fired on enemy front trenches at intervals during the night.	
		8.p.m.	Enemy artillery generally quiescent. Our guns shelled enemy O.P's, working parties and a house at I.22.b.5.0. Enemy's snipers active on left Brigade front	
		6.50pm	Report from 7th Inf Bde. that gas alarms sounding to N of ARMENTEIRES. No gas reported on 5th Bde. front.	
		7.20	Div Art report no firing.	
		8.25	Gas horns again reported to be sounding by 5th Inf Bde. coming from North.	
		8.28	4th F.A. report gas gongs sounding. Artillery standing to.	
		8.45	Right Bn N.Z. Div. on our left reports gas alarms sounding to north. This report repeated by Rt Inf. Bde. 1st Aust Div and by N.Z. Headquarters.	
		9.p.m.		
		8.55	4th F.A. Bde. reports enemy aeroplanes moving N.E. Heavy M.G. fire. Short bursts of Heavy Artillery fire heard on N.Z. front. (from B.M. Div Art) <u>Weather</u> Fine and warm Wind S.E.	
18th	6.am.	Machines guns active during the night. Bright moon hampered patrolling		
	3.15.p.m.	Our artillery shelling an enemy battery at I.23.c.2 $\frac{1}{2}$.8 $\frac{1}{2}$.		

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CROIX DU BAC	MAY 18th	4 pm.	Our 105th Battery in conjunction with heavy artillery shelling enemy's billet and O.10.b.8.8., O.11.c.4.8., & O.4.c.8.7.	
		4.5 pm	Enemy shelling vicinity of H.4.d.4.5. with 5.9 (6th Inf Bde.)	
		6 pm.	Gas alarm reported from 14th Battery heard to the North. Our Artillery shelled from 4. to 4.40 pm. Enemy gun positions in O.10.b & O.11.a. & c. Pucks Folly and Periscope House.	
		9.55 pm.	6th Inf Bde. report heavy shelling with 5.9 near their H.Q. Our heavy Artillery asked to retaliate.	
		10.25 pm	6th Infantry Bde report shelling ERQUINGHEM ceased.	
	MAY 19th	6 am.	Few patrols sent out owing to bright moon. Usual traversing and searching fire by M.G. during the night	
		6 pm.	7th Bde reports gas alarms sounding far on their right. No gas on our front, Above report repeated by 5th Inf Bde.	
		6.20 pm	Our artillery shelled enemy machine gun emplacement at I.21c.1.5. and at O.P.	
		6.30 pm	Enemy artillery showed average activity during day. In evening in retaliation for shelling of our heavy artillery a well directed and accurate fire was opened against position of our 8" Howitzers with 5.9." H.E. Two farms burnt out and one gun damaged. Enemy aircraft active during day. Lecture on trench by Commandant Mortar School. Berthen.	
		6.0 am	Our patrols active during night. Wiring parties out. Our M.G's. fired on enemy wiring parties	
3.20 am		Enemy aeroplane flew over our lines flying East Dropped a green starred light.		

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CROIX DU BAC	MAY 20th	8.35 am.	7th Inf Bde report bombing duel proceeding in Rue du BOIS Salient and enemy shelling support trenches, in rear. Bombardment not of unusual intensity.	1st Anzac informed.
			Enemy artillery fairly active during day. About 180 shells 77mm 4.2 & 5.9 being sent into our lines, over 100 of which into the DESTPLANQUE area. Our artillery was active during day, shelling enemy working parties. A M.G. emplacement at I.32.c.1.9. and trenches with good effect.	
	21st	6 am.	Patrols were active during night covering our wiring parties- normal night. Enemy aeroplanes were again flying last night. Our wiring parties in front of 52 had to be withdrawn on account of enemy fire.	
		12 noon.	A quiet morning.	
		2.20pm	Div. Art. report receipt of a message from R.F.C. that Chateau at I.24.c.0.6. a suspected gun position and ammunition store- has disappeared. This Chateau was shelled by our artillery. (104) Howitzer on 14th inst at 7.30 pm & at 10.30 pm	
		3.0 pm	Enemy artillery more active than usual during the day, over 550 shells being fired into our trenches and at our battery positions. Our artillery retaliated on enemy trenches, buildings and battery at O.11.b.1.9. latter was silenced.	
		6.25 pm	Div. Art. report that trenches 51&52 are being heavily shelled & Artillery are retaliating (by telephone)	6th 7th Bdes 1st Aust Div warned.
		6.25 pm.	Artillery message repeated to A.N.Z.A.C.	
		7.10 pm	5th Inf Bde report enemy shelling H.10.d.2.2. with H.E. Shelling commenced at 5.45. and is increasing in rapidity.	
		7.45 pm	Message repeated to A.N.Z.A.C. 6th & 7th Bds. Div. Artillery & 1st Division.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices	
TROIX DU BAG	MAY 21st	7.50pm	Message from 5th Fld Artillery Bde. reports shelling ceased (by telephone)		
		8.25pm	Message from 1st A.N.Z.A.C. stating that our aeroplanes will fly over our lines from 2.am till dawn 22nd.		
		8.45pm	Report that aeroplane with our markings flying very low, about 200 feet - fired with a M.G. on our trenches and a party of men.	Reported to A.N.Z.A.C. & Bdes & A.A. Battery.	
		8.30 pm	5th Bde. report enemy shelling firing and support trenches 57. No damage.		
		9.40pm	Message from A.N.Z.A.C. re aeroplanes flying over our lines, repeated to bdes. A.A. Battery, 2nd Div. Arty. & Pioneer Battalion.		
		10.40pm	5th Bde. report 220 shells put into H.L.O.d. between 5.40pm & 7.30pm.		
		9.45pm	6 shells put into ERQUINGHEM. Capt. McKenzie A.M.C. killed. General Gellibrand slightly wounded (from 6th Bde. by telephone)		
		11.pm	Div.Arty.report that plane did not fire on any of our men and that whole story was not justified Message received from A.N.Z.A.C. stating that aeroplanes would fly at lam instead of 2.am		
		12. midnight	7th report that aeroplane supposed to have fired on our people was similar shape to L.V.G. M.G. fire was heard but it was directed towards trenches		
		11.35pm	2nd Army reports that an attack on a fairly large scale is being made against 1st Army to our south. Enemy using <i>lachrymatory</i> shells. All our troops to be warned to be alert. Troops in reserve will not stand to. from 1st A.N.Z.A.C. (by telephone)	necessary orders issued to all concerned. Vide G 487 APPX LVII	
		22nd	12.52am	Message from 6th Bde (by telephone) Colonel Watson has taken over Command of 6th Bde. vice Genl. Gellibrand. Wounded.	
		6.am.		Night passed without incident other than normal M.G. fire. six patrols out. Bombs thrown at one of them, from enemy entanglements without success. Enemy working parties fired on.	
		3.55		Right section of the Battery being shelled with 5.9". About 120 shells fallen. One gun slightly damaged	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices	
CROIX DU BAC MAY 22nd		5.15.	Div. Arty. report one gun 10th Battery out of action.		
		8.30pm	Enemy artillery has been decidedly active during the day especially against our 10th Battery position (Right enflading section) Our artillery retaliated in enemy trenches and on a battery at I.24.c.0.6.		
		23rd	6.0am	One enemy patrol encountered during night. Attempt of one of our patrols to cut it off unseccessful. Our machine guns active. Grass cutting parties out in front of our wire.	
			11.20am	Message received from Div. Artillery that enemy battery at O.11.c.4.8. shelling vicinity of BOIS GRENIER. Our heavy Artillery opened fire in rataliation (by telephone)	
			3.5pm	Message received 5th Bde that at 2.15pm enemy started shelling trench 52 (I.32.A.2.7.) "A" Battalion has requested retaliaton from artillery.	
		5.pm	Div. Artillery ^{report} that at 3.30pm enemy shelled RUE du BOIS Salient. About 50 shells (by Artillery hourly report) 4th Bde artillery retaliated shelling enemy's salient opposite. 7th Inf. Bde. report trench martab activity		
		6.40pm	Div. artillery report that 5 German aeroplanes have passed over the north of ARMENTIERES. All fying N.E. at first. 3 then went North and 2 South 105th Battery fired 38 rounds in retaliation on enemy trenches in I.21.b & d at 4.pm		
		7.5.pm	7th Bde. report enemy fired 600 or 700 shells into front and support lines Fme DESPLANQUE District in retaliation for our trench mortar & artillery activity. Parapet breached in several places & considerable damage done to chorf and support lines in RUE de BOIS Salient. Communication trenches also blocked in several places. Eight casualties, all slight. Parties already effecting repairs to all damaged parts.		
		8.10pm	Message from A.N.Z.A.C. stating that one of our aeroplanes will fly tonight from aerodrome to ARMENTIERES, then east and will return same way. Hour of start 1.am	Warning sent to 5th 6th 7th Bdes C.R.A. & Pioneers 8.35 pm	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CROIX DU BAC	MAY 23rd	8.5pm	7th Bde report enemy shelling Hospital for insane. ARMENTIERES (I.2.a.) with H.E.	Repeated to A.N.Z.A.C.
		9.26 pm	Message from 7th Bde. Zeppelin observed MESSINES moving N.W. at 8.45.p.m.	Repeated to 5th, 6th, 7th, Inf. Bdes.
	24th	6.am	Working parties engaged in repairing damage to trenches done by enemy bombardment. Reported that a good deal of damage was done to enemy parapets by our trench mortars. Owing to relief in 7th. no patrols out, but listening posts put out.	
		4.p.m	Enemy for last two hours been dropping H.E. shells in vicinity of PARK ROW & trenches 57 Aerial torpedo bombs thrown into salient and failed to explode	
		8.p.m	Enemy's Artillery showed normal activity. About 130 shells fell in our area, doing little damage Our artillery retaliated on enemy trenches, PUCKS FOELY and on RADINGHEM Church.	
		10.39pm	5th Bde. reports wire having been cut in front of left Battalion, Left Bde 1st Australian Div. between N.6.b.10.7. and O.l.a.3. 7. and in front of third (3rd) Brigade. O.C. 8th Bn. expected possible offensive action by enemy tonight.	
	25th	8.am	Our artillery in Cooperation with trench mortars shelled enemy front line and communication trenches S.&S.E. of BRODOUX Salient with good effect	
		8.30am	Enemy retaliating on RUE DU BOIS Salient. Some damage to our parapets.	
		6.am	Our patrols active during night. No enemy patrols met. Machine guns fired on enemy working parties near snipers house and breaches in enemy parapets.	
		12 noon	Enemy shelled newly dug assembly trenches.	
8.30pm		Very little enemy shelling during the day. A few shells fell near RATION FARM & BURNT FARM doing no damage. BOIS GRENIER and trench 54. Some shrapnel on our communication trenches Our artillery shelled the distillery 12.15-4.p.m and enemy working parties when they appeared		

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CROIX DU MAY BAC	25th	8.30pm	A steel cupola in enemy parapets opposite trench 65 destroyed.	
	26th	3.15am	In accordance with prearranged scheme our artillery opened fire on enemy trenches in front of BRIDOUX Salient. Concentrating fire of two Howitzers and 3 15 pr batteries on a front of 400 yards.	
		4.10am	7th Bde report enemy shelling their front and communication trenches. About 400 shells including much H.E. on RUE DU BOIS Salient and CHORD. Our artillery replying.	
		4.45am	Trenches being shelled in 7th Bde area. 60-61-62. All normal on 5th Inf Bde front.	
		4.40	7th Inf Bde report enemy's shelling commenced 3.30am stopped 4.0am. Most of ^{enemy} evening shells fell on chord line, RUE DU BOIS Salient & CHORD. Our artillery replying. Wind Light South West.	
		4.45		
		8.35	Div. Art. H.Q. report our shelling of enemy trenches to have been satisfactory.	
		9.15am	7th Inf Bde reports parapet trench 59 breached two places but repaired. No serious damage. Communication trenches slightly knocked about. 700 shells fell and 100 bombs. Our artillery replied and enemy then ceased firing. No casualties.	Report to A.N.Z.A.C 9.40 am G 597 APPX LYIII
		4.15	7th Bde reports 30 yards knife rests ^{removed} from enemy wire near I.21.d.0.7.	
		5.0pm	Scheme in co-operation with our trench mortars carried out in accordance with artillery Op. order No 14. Results apparently satisfactory. Enemy retaliating on RUE DU BOIS Salient with bombs	
		5.45	and on EMMA POST. BRIDOUX. I.14.b.6.6. and support line.	
		7.15pm	1st Aust. Div. reports observed much unusual traffic on FOURNES-BEAUCAMPS RD and FOURNES-MAISNIL RD. May indicate relief.	
		7.30pm	Enemy registering trench 47 and BAY AVENUE since 4.30 pm & still firing	
		10.30pm	7th Inf Bde reports enemy retaliated vigorously with bombs & artillery for our artillery bombardment this afternoon. Estimated 520 H.E. shells and 100 T.M. bombs sent over. Considerable damage to our parapets and communication trenches. Casualties 5 O.R. killed and 1 officer and	Repeated A.N.Z.A.C 11.0pm G 622 APPX LIX

1875 W.C. W593/826 1,000,000 4/15 J.B.C. & A. A.D.S.S./Forms/C. 2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices	
CROIX DU	MAY 26th	10.30pm	11 O.R's wounded. In RUE DU BOIS Sector- parapet breached, chord intact. Enemy parapet opposite trenches 62 & 63 breached in three places- bombs caused most of the casualties.		
		27th	3.10am	Enemy opened on salient 5th Inf Bde (right) with shrapnel and H.E. 500-600 shell fired.	
		3.35am	Bombardment ceased on our artillery retaliating. Enemy parapet breached. Our front line slightly damaged and water pipe broken- 5 O.R's wounded. Enemy rifle and machine gun fire very brisk. Our patrols active.		
		6.0am	Our 3.7" and 2" T.M's fired with good effect on enemy trenches with good effect opposite RUE DU BOIS Salient. Patrols were active and were able to direct M.G. fire into enemy working parties repairing breaches to their parapets. In rear of FORT BRIDOUX. Enemy heard carrying sheets of iron.		
		1.20pm	"Enemy bombarding Bde on our right (from) 7th Inf Bde.) A few shells in our trenches". Artillery reports trenches 56 & 58 being heavily shelled. Our artillery retaliating on distillery and enemy trenches.		
		4.0pm	5th Bde report enemy shelled trench 57 between 1 & 1.30pm. About 90 shells mostly shrapnel 77mm and 4.2" slight damage- slow fire on vicinity of 17th & 21st Batteries.		
		5.30pm	105th & 106th Batteries in co-operation with LORINGS Group. Shelling hostile battery at I.35.c.5.0. and I.35.c. 3.1½. 7th Bde reports breaches in two places in trench 58 and M.G. position 50 W. of PARK ROW knocked in.		
		9.7pm	17th Battery position being shelled since 7.40 pm (200 shells)		
		9.10pm	5th Inf Bde reports 5 white flares dropped from aeroplane direction ESCOBECQUES 2nd Pioneer BN reports LA VESEE line being heavily shelled.		
		28th	6.0am	Machines guns active during the night. Enemy heard working hard on his defences and wire- Our patrols active. No enemy patrols encountered	
	9.0pm	Generally a quiet day. About 40 H.E. shells fired into cemetery area about 7.0pm Our artillery fired 20 rounds into enemy support trenches at I.25.a during morning. Between 4 & 5.0pm 2 batteries fired with aeroplane observation on O.5.a6¼.9. and I.33.a8½.9. Suspected battery POSITION			

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CROIX DU	MAY 29th	6.0am	From 2.0am to 2.20am a small operation carried out by the artillery involving shelling of enemy trenches, opposite 61 & 62 and communication trenches in rear. 300 rounds fired with apparently good effect. Our M.G's fired on enemy working parties during night. An enemy patrol approached our wire and was fired on. Our patrols heard enemy patrol, but were unable to intercept them. Enemy searchlight active. In retaliation for our morning shelling, enemy heavily shelled our right Battalion of left Brigade support trenches. About 600 shells. Casualties 3 O.R's killed and 11 O.R's wounded.	
		8.0pm	Enemy artillery showed little activity during day. Between 10.30 & 12.Noon a few bombs were fired into BRIDOUX Salient. No damage. Our T.M. in Fme DESPLANQUE District fired a few rounds. Our Artillery generally quiet, operations being confined mainly to retaliation for enemy shelling	
	30th	6.0am	Normal patrolling and machine gun activity during night.	
		2.0pm	Some artillery (enemy) activity against our trenches : caused a few casualties. Six observation balloons visible from our front, and enemy aeroplane active. Our artillery fired as targets offered about 300 shells.	
	31st	6.0am	Our M.G's dispersed enemy ^{wiring} working parties- our patrols active - No enemy patrols encountered.	
	31st	8.0pm	Our artillery generally quiet during day. Enemy also inactive except for a few shells fired at intervals at our trenches.	
			<p><u>General Summary</u> As the month progressed artillery activity on both sides has increased. For the first month during which the Division was in the line we pursued a policy limited to retaliation to enemy artillery, not initiating any offensive action until the defences had been made stronger and betterable to withstand a sustained bombardment- A very great deal of work has been done on them, every available man being employed, with excellent results, as evidenced by the comparatively few casualties sustained, despite several heavy concentrated bombardments. A change in the system of holding the line has also been initiated- work being put in hand to prepare a series of defended localities along the front line with the intervals patrolled and strongly wired in rear of our front parapet- details of the work done are given in Brigade War Diaries.</p>	
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Vol 2. 56

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CROIX DU BAC	MAY		<p><u>GENERAL SUMMARY.</u> Much work has also been done on the BOIS GRENIER Line, which is now defensible throughout. A very large proportion of the M.G. emplacements were found to be of bad design and construction and it has been found necessary to rebuild them entirely. This work has gone on steadily during the month and about 12 are now bombproof. Machine Gunners dugouts are also being constructed near the M.G. emplacements and much wire has been put out in front of the line. Work on the L'ARMEE and LA VESEE lines has also made satisfactory progress and the posts on these lines of defense are being linked up by communication trenches. The month has been generally dry and fine, and the enemy has in consequence of his superior advantages for observation, been able to locate several of our batteries positions. With the result that 5 of our 18pr guns have been put out of action two were only slightly damaged and the repairs could be carried out without removing the guns from the emplacements. The other three had to be returned to Ordnance for repair. It has been noticeable that the enemy never lacks ammunition when he starts a bombardment, and his shooting is remarkably accurate. The guns employed against us have been mainly 5.9" 4.2" and 77mm. He appears to have a few "MINNENWERFER" which are employed almost entirely against our Salients.</p> <p><u>TRAINING.</u> The training of specialists e.g. Snipers, Trench Mortar personnel, Grenade and Machine guns, has proceeded steadily. A considerable number of officers and other ranks have attended classes at the Army Schools of training. In addition classes have been assembled at intervals of 6 days at the Divisional School. A class for "Stokes 3" T.M's." has also been started in connection with the bomb school under Lt GODFREY. A Divisional gas school at L'ESTRADE has been opened under MAJOR ANDERSON A.A.M.C. and a large number of officers and men instructed in the defensive measures to be taken against an enemy gas attack. Very valuable instruction has also been given to all Brigades at the Bayonet & Physical Training School at ERQUINGHEM under Sgt. Major WILCOX., 2nd Army Instructional Staff. The results have been excellent.</p> <p><u>INTER-COMMUNICATION.</u> The work of burying cable has proceeded as fast as material became available, and a portion of the newly laid line is now in use. An average of</p>	

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Headquarters 2nd Australian Division.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices															
CROIX DU BAC	MAY		<p><u>INTER-COMMUNICATION</u>, (Continued) 500 yards per night have been laid.</p> <p><u>OPERATIONS</u>. No other operations other than those undertaken by the artillery were carried out during the month, but steps have been undertaken to initiate raids on the enemy trenches. With this end in view a party of the 7th Inf. Bde. has been under training. A replica of a sector of the enemy trenches has been prepared from the aeroplane photographs. Two officers of the Canadian Corps who have had previous experience in raids have been lent to the Brigade for training, and their advice has proved of the greatest assistance. With the exception of the raid on our trenches at BRIDOUX SALIENT, on the night of the 5/6th May the enemy has not taken any offensive action. Patrolling in NO MAN'S LAND has been carried out regularly and systematically, and much valuable information collected. Very few enemy patrols have been met with. The enterprise shown by Battalion scout officers has resulted in rather a high percentage of casualties, caused by enemy machine guns traversing our parapets. Our machine guns have also been active against points in the enemy's rear defences, and against parties working on his parapets and his wire in front. This is known to have caused a number of casualties.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Our casualties during the month have been:-</p> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto; border: none;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"></th> <th style="text-align: center;">Killed.</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Wounded.</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Missing.</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Total.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: left;">OFFICERS.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> <td style="text-align: center;">16</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">23</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: left;">OTHER RANKS.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">74</td> <td style="text-align: center;">336</td> <td style="text-align: center;">10</td> <td style="text-align: center;">420</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p style="text-align: right; margin-top: 20px;"><i>L.A. Arthur</i> Major-General, Commanding 2nd Australian Division.</p>		Killed.	Wounded.	Missing.	Total.	OFFICERS.	6	16	1	23	OTHER RANKS.	74	336	10	420	
	Killed.	Wounded.	Missing.	Total.															
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