

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

Artillery

Item number: 13/31/12

Title: Headquarters, 3rd Australian Field
Artillery Brigade

July 1915



AWM4-13/31/12

(47)

Charles Rosenthal Lieut Col
O.C. 3rd FA. Brigade

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
JULY 1 st		A 4.2 gun opened on us today from direction of OLIVE GROVE but have been unable to locate it. Write Chief Inspector, Woolwich Arsenal recommending alteration in No 3 Director to admit of Vertical Angles up to 45° being read. War diary for June forwarded to Base.	
JULY 2 nd		5" Howitzer Battery registered CHESS BOARD in morning, and in evening registered new work on PINE RIDGE followed up by 2 surprise rounds at 10 PM also 2 rounds from Hughes Battery. Col Hobbs inspected and approved sites selected by me for Howitzer Batteries. Enemy shell got into Hughes No 1 Pit this afternoon killing one man and wounding another. Major Hughes very ill.	

C.11056.

(48)

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
JULY 3 RD		Transport 4.2 gun from OLIVE GROVE. Fired several rounds one of which burst close to Hughes Battery, killing one man and wounding another. Col Hobbs informed me we were to get a 4.7 naval gun on the flank. I have been using this for some time. Heavy Artillery fire down South. Activity on part of enemy manifest on Hill 600.	
JULY 4 TH		Col Hobbs inspected site selected by me for 4.7 and approved same. Major Hughes very ill, left for Hospital Ship.	
JULY 5 TH	4. AM	A terrific Artillery bombardment opened this morning one shell burst on 8 TH Battery, killing a Corporal and wounding three other men. Two enemy guns located near GABA TEPE, silenced by 5 TH How Battery	

C.11.56.

(49)

23

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
JULY 6 TH		<p>Caumade ceased about 7 AM. A little later 8 rounds of 11" shell came on from direction of MAIDOS. As for No 24 on other side of DARDANELLES HARROWS has three 11" guns mounted I conclude it came from that fort although Head Q^rs say they came from a narrow way into the DARDANELLES.</p> <p>A huge column of smoke like a land mine was seen South at 6.18 AM in the enemy position. Looked like a stack of ammunition being blown up.</p> <p>Replacement for 4" 7 commenced by BAC.</p> <p>No 1 6" How. moved to new emplacement on Right Hand prepared by 3rd BAC. Conference with Col Hobbs and Col Johnston re use of Artillery in case of</p>	

C.11156.

(50)

3.4x

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
JULY 7 TH		enemy attacking with Asphyxiating Gas Bombs. Decided that Purple Commanders act as they think fit. A little shelling of shipping late in afternoon. Around No 1 Section with General Burdwood inspecting gun emplacements. He informed me my old 5" How. Batts from Australia for which I had begged had been approved.	
JULY 8 TH		Around all Station with Lt Hobbs. General Legge met us at 4.7 emplacement. A good deal of fire drawn from Enemy during evening - our Artillery being active. About 50 emplacements around and were posted to 3rd BAC. Work on 4.7 Emplacement continued by my BAC.	

C.14(50)

(51)

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9

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
JULY 10 th		General Birdwood with Col Hobbs made a complete inspection of all Artillery in Section. Indicating position to Naval Officer on Hill 600 which required shelling. At 2.30 PM HMS LORD NELSON commenced a vigorous bombardment of Hill 600 and did good shooting. At 6 PM an Aeroplane service was carried out with 3 "How" 4" 7 Gun armed during night.	
JULY 12 th		At 4.30 AM commenced Howitzer bombardment of enemy position preparatory to a demonstration here made to hold enemy to his ground and prevent him re-occupying the South where our forces are to day making an attack.	

C.11/56.

(52)

3.6

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
JULY 14 TH		<p>At 8.15 AM all our Artillery opened fire, and our Infantry tried all sort of ruses to induce the enemy to man his trenches. Immediately they did we attacked with bomb. A demonstration to night in front of NZ & A. Division. Very heavy bombardment of ACH BABA by heavy during the day. Our forces with the South made a substantial advance. General Birdwood at my Head Quarters discussing Artillery work. Enemy 4.2 from OLIVE GROVE opened early. Major Miles placed in Command of Heavy Battery. Approval seemed for party of Gunners to have a few days rest at IMBROS.</p>	

C.11150.

(53)

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
JULY 15 th		<p>Capt Jopp Adjutant taken for work as Ainalbwerer. Visited all Batteries with Col Hobbs. General Council Present. Col Sheppard of Lowland Bde & Col Hobbs at my head @ fixing position for Hombgen. Sent the Brigade 50 men and two teams of horses to bring their guns etc. along. Received pay from Field Cashier and disbursed at Head Quarters. News maps issued. All batteries of 2nd Bde shooting during evening. Brigade Casualties to date Killed 10, wounded 69, Total 79-</p>	
JULY 16 th		<p>OLIVE GROVE guns early shelled beach. Monitor later shelled the position. Col Hope Johnston</p>	

C.11-56.

(54)

3.3

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
JULY 17 TH		<p>of 69th How. Brigade at my Head Quarters seeking and receiving information. Capt Joffe left for Aerodrome at Tenidas.</p> <p>At 6 AM. an Enemy's Aeroplane passed over our position dropping two bombs, one large one landing near the beach and doing no damage, the other smaller one landed on SHELL GREEN about 300+ from my Head Qs. This did not detonate. I secured it and forwarded to Head Qs.</p> <p>Party of 26 from 3rd F.R.B. left for a few days rest at IMBROS. During afternoon 5th How Battery dropped shells in VALLEY OF DESPAIR drawing fire from enemy's guns all round in consequence.</p>	

C.11156.

(53)

3.9

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
JULY 18 TH		<p>Late in the evening a chance shell landed in No 1 Pt 8th Battery, killing two men and wounding another. Another fell into No 4 gun pit 7th Battery damaging a wheel but causing no casualties. Lt Col Horn and men of 15th How ^{69th How} and Brigade allowed to assist in placing 4.7 on its platform. My staff made Telephone switchboard for Major Stewart 5th How Battery, and Major Miles Heavy Battery.</p> <p>Adjutant ahead conducting Aeroplane series with 5th How Battery. 9th Battery engaged in Artillery duel with enemy. One High Exp^e shell fell in corner of 9th Battery pit slightly wounding one man.</p>	

C.11056.

(36)

89.10

Date	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
JULY 19 TH		The 69 th How Bde (Col Johnston Johnston) has now completed disembarkation. Received advance issue of new GALLIPOLI maps. HMS HUMBER engaged OLIVE GROVE gun with no effect. 5 th How found an aeroplane service.	
JULY 20 TH		At 5 AM made a thorough reconnaissance of country in vicinity of TASMANIA POST. with a view to road for advance and new gun position. At 11.30 AM Collett's came round the position and agreed with my proposals. Declined with O.C.D.A. names of men for recognition for acts of gallantry. Recommended 3 from 7 th & 3 from 8 th Batts. Wounded by rifle bullet at 8.30 PM, beside left knee.	

C.11.56.

(57)

3.11

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
JULY 21 ST		<p>Have had to spend day in bed. Col Hope Johnston round early during morning comms and in the afternoon Col Hobbs brought Col Sheppard, O.C. Lorland How Brigade. Aeroplane series this afternoon. New How Battery repositioning targets and getting ready for action. Enemy's 6" Hows again opened today but no damage done.</p>	
JULY 22 ND		<p>Plenty of How shells flying today. All new Battery repositioning. Aeroplane series during afternoon. About 50 shells and plenty of machine gun fire directed at it. All men issued with Respirators & gas helmet. Party returned from IMBROS. Mr. Richards orderly officer sent to hospital.</p>	

C.11-56.

(58)

3.1.2

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
JULY 23 RD		<p>Howitzer kept up slow rate of fire during night on Valley, where enemy is known to congregate.</p> <p>Rumored that enemy has been reinforced by 100,000 men.</p> <p>Interviewed OC Engineer No 1 Section re road forward via BOLTON HILL.</p>	
JULY 24 TH		<p>Attack expected today has not developed.</p> <p>New HQ and new post for Heavy Battery -</p> <p>Still have to remain in bed.</p>	
JULY 25 TH		<p>Enemy's artillery trying to get 9th Battery upper guns this afternoon. Many of their HE shells did not detonate. Another airplane seen this evening.</p>	

C.11.56.

(59)

3.1.20

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
JULY 26 TH		<p>The 4.7 today fired its first rounds amid much cheering from the Infantry. It registered 3 targets. 9th Battery got into a heap of transport, animals, vehicles etc. - at 7150' using aneroid elevation. Quite unexpected as far as enemy was concerned. General Leffe with a number of officers & others yesterday left for Egypt in connection with new Division. Fairly hot fire from OLIVE GROVE field gun and how. during evening. 9th Battery silenced them - M.O. Capt Mark sent to Hospital - Capt Dargatzidis AMEC taking his place. Wrote in to OCDA drawing attention to fine work done by Capt Mark since first day of landing -</p>	

C.11-56.

(60)

B.14

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
JULY 27 TH		According to Greek Consul at CONSTANTINOPLE the	
JULY 28 TH		Tent were expected to attack on or before this date ANAFARTA gave shelling persistently. Andrews had Lowland Brigade & 6 th Batty arrived during night. I supplied team & men to assist them. Lt Ordway ADC to General Birdwood killed by shell during night. Gen O'Connell Col Webb & Col Sheppard at my head Quarters of Lowland Brigade defined and allotted. Enemy firing 6 hours at us today - no damage done. Arranged for how to shell new trenches South of CHATHAM POST.	
JULY 29 TH		Lt Edwards ordered to HELLES as Capt 6 th Batters Lt Goulby attached to 6 th Batters	

C.11/56.

3.6

(6)

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
JULY 30 TH		<p>Colone Both promoted Brig General -</p> <p>Hostile Aeroplane over the afternoon - Dropped two bombs both falling in sea at BRIGHTON BEACH.</p> <p>At 5 PM Chem can along the line because of victory before BACH-DAD. 24 guns now employed in this Section. Provided working party of 75 for 58th Division guns - Arranged for new telephone lines in case of an advance - Interviewed with General MacLagan re bombarding SNIPERS RIDGE works.</p> <p>Le Team transferred to the Brigade - Capt Gresh sent off last night to Hospital.</p>	
JULY 31 ST		<p>Hostile Aeroplane over at 7.10 AM. Dropped many iron darts and 3 bombs. No damage</p>	

C.11.56.

(62)

3.16

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
		<p>done. Last night received Phil's order from Base showing our casualties. Operation tonight against new enemy trenches on eastern slope of HOLLY SPUR. Details posted August 1st diary -</p>	

C.11/56.