

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

Artillery

Item number: 13/31/40

Title: Headquarters, 3rd Australian Field
Artillery Brigade

December 1917



AWM4-13/31/40

War Diary

3rd Army Brigade Australian Field Artillery.

Volume 23

Page 418

September 1st.

Time	Battery	Target	No of Rounds	
			Shrap	H.E
All Batteries fired as per Appendix 3. H.G.D.A Instn 89 & were cutting as per Instn 4.				
	7 th	File P.	521	522
	8 th	do.	689	305
	9 th	do.	655	495
	103 rd	do.	-	402
	A/52	do.	345	345
	122 nd	do.	480	460
	C/52	do.	465	252
	D/52	do.	-	540

Guns in action. 18 - 18 Pdr 6 - 4.5" Hows.
 Weather. Fine. Observation Good.
 Strength of Bde. 31 Officers 906 O.Ranks.

September 2nd

All Batteries fired in accordance with Instruction				
	7 th	ho. 89. Concentration	120	119
	8 th	do.	101	100
	9 th	do.	130	120
	103 rd	do.	-	106
	A/52	do.	96	90
	122 nd	do.	80	70
	C/52	do.	72	72
	D/52	do.	-	192

Weather. Fine. Observation Good

September 3rd.

Place	Date	Hour	Battery	Target	No of Rounds
		7-15 am	all Blys fired Concentration as per Instn 89.		
		3-30 P.M.	7 th	Navigation fire	388 174
		"	8 th	do.	336 336
		"	9 th	do.	108 108
		"	103 rd	do.	- 346
		"	A/52	do.	330 329

Alfred

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

(Erase heading not required.)

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Forms C. 2110/13. D. D. & L. Ltd. 8/16 750,000 8/16 1687 4973 5834

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<u>War Diary</u>				
3 rd Army Bde Australian Field Artillery				
Volume 23				
Page 419				
no of Rounds				
Sharp H.E				
Our Artillery Target				
Time Battery All Blys fired Coherent				
7-15 am as per Instr 89. H.A.M.				
3-30 P.M. 122 nd Linc.				
				232 232
			C/52 do.	284 262
			D/52 do.	- 312
Weather Fine Observations Good.				
<u>December 4th</u>				
5 am to 4.30 P.M. Coherent by all Blys as per Instr. 89 & Range				
			7 th as per File P.	1062 353
			8 th do.	939 277
			9 th do.	1176 384
			103 rd do.	- 777
			H/52 do.	520 510
			122 do.	707 280
			C/52 do.	660 265
			D/52 do.	- 1740
Weather Fine Observations Good				
<u>December 5th</u> All Blys fired Coherent as per Instr 89 & ok.				
			4 P.M. 7 th Jolies & Journal Wood.	900 539
			8 th do.	560 283
			9 th do.	520 520
			103 rd do.	- 630
			H/52 do.	404 426
			122 nd do.	400 361
			C/52 do.	692 273
			D/52 do.	- 500
Weather Fine Observations Good				
M. Stevenson Lt Col				
C/52				

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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.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Remarks and references to Appendices

Summary of Events and Information

War Diary
of
3rd Army Bde Australian Field Willey.

Volume 23. Page 420
Opn Artillery Target. No of Rounds
Tine Battery. Sharp HE.
December 6th

Concentration by all Blys.
on pr. S.F. Post^m & Hostile
Bly position at N. 25° E. 95.50
- 1.30.0.40.50 and N. 25° E.
00.50 were subjected to

H.P.M.	7 th	Bursts of fire.	120	120
"	8 th	do	176	176
"	9 th	do	46	47
"	103 rd	do	.	144
"	A/52	As above - harassing fire	143	72
"	122	do	.	.
"	C/52	do	540	520
"	D/52	do	.	140

Weather. Fine Observation Good.

December 7th

Relief The personnel of 3rd Army Bde A.F.A. was relieved in the line by 2nd Army Bde K.Z.F.H. on 7th December 1917 in accordance with Bde Order no. 166 attached.

Gun, sights & stores were handed over in position

Detail of Casualties in 3rd Army Bde A.F.A. week ending 7-12-17

Reg. no	Rank	Name	Unit	Date	Casualty.
2710	J. Bdr	Philbey, A.J.	7 th Bly	1-12-17	S.W. Slight.
3797	Gnr.	Lucy, R.H.	do	4-12-17	Gassed.
22076	Bdr	Henry, G.A.	8 th Bly	3-12-17	Wounded.
5366	Lieut.	Kearsley, J.A.	do	do	do
2278	Gnr.	McLennan, D.	7 th Bly	6-12-17	do
26164	Lieut.	Marshall, J.G.	8 th Bly	10-12-17	do
27245	Gnr	Rock, H.S.	do	do	do.

[Signature]

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
				<u>War Diary</u> <u>of</u> 3 rd Army Bde Austn Field Artillery
				Page 421
				Volume 23.
				December 8 th 1917
			In accordance with R.A. 2 nd Army Co. 29/30 the 3 rd Army Bde A.F.A. moved to Belleh in Bolschepe. (March Order no. 2 attached)	
				December 9 th 1917
			In accordance with 1 st Army Corps Order no. 233 dated 5-12-17 & March Order no. 3 attached the 3 rd Army Bde A.F.A. moved to 1 st Army Corps Area on 9-12-17 to Wagon Line as shown, & came under the orders of G.O.C., R.A., 1 st Army.	
				December 13 th 1917
			On moving into 1 st Army Corps Area the 3 rd Army Bde. A.F.A. formed part of the Artillery in close support (See O.O. no. 1 attached)	
			The positions which would be occupied to reinforce present line, Corps Defensive System ^{of Army Defense} are set out in Appendices 1, 2 & 3.	
			The positions set out have been recognised by Battery Commanders.	
				December 28 th 1917
			In accordance with 1 st Army Corps Order 250 dated 28-12-17 the 3 rd Army Bde A.F.A. is held in G.H. Q reserve & ready to move by road or rail at 48 hours notice.	
			In accordance with First Addendum to 1 st Army Corps Order no. 250 the 3 rd Army Bde A.F.A. will cease to be in G.H. Q Reserve from midnight 2 nd /3 rd January 1918.	

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W. H. M. [Signature]

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p>War Diary of 3rd Army Bde Australian Field Artillery Volume 23. Page 422</p> <p>Training etc 9th 12-17 to 31-12-17</p> <p>During the first week attention was chiefly given to completing building of stables & accommodation for men, cleaning of harness, vehicles & muzzling the general turnout of personnel.</p> <p>Syllabus of training worked on was as under,</p> <p>Gunners: Laying, Fuze-setting etc daily under instruction of Battery Officers.</p> <p>Drivers: Work on horses, harness etc.</p> <p>Specialists: Training in visual and telephone work.</p> <p>December 31st - 17</p> <p>Guns on Charge 6-18 Pdr 1-4.5" How.</p> <p>Weather: Frosty, Visibility fair</p> <p>Strength: 32 Officers 964 O.R.</p> <p>Casualties: Nil.</p>	
			<p><i>McEverson</i> Lieut Col. Commanding 3rd Army Bde Aust Art</p>	
			<p>This is the last page of War Diary for month of December - 17 Volume 23, pages 418 to 422 (inclusive) War Diary for January 1918 will be Volume 24</p> <p><i>McEverson</i> Lt Col <i>AM</i></p>	

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Appendix I

Positions to which 3rd Army Bde A. S. A (in support area) would move to reinforce the present line -

	<u>Hollabeke Group Area</u>	<u>Oostoverne Group Area</u>	<u>Messines Group Area</u>
1 st Bty	O 8 B 20.54	O 19 C 65.35	U 7 B 80.65
2 nd Bty	O 8 C 23.03	O 19 C 50.60	U 8 A 20.40
3 rd Bty	O 14 A 60.20	O 13 C 80.40	U 7 C 50.70
4 th Bty	O 8 D 30.05	O 25 B 55.35	V 2 D 10.50

Appendix II

Positions to which 3rd Army Bde ADA. (in support area) would move to reinforce 2nd or Corps defensive system.

	Northern Area	Centre Area	Southern Area
3 rd Bly	N 18 C 2.6	N 28 B 2.4	T 14 A 70.80
M -	N 23 D 8.8	N 29 C 2.7	T 6 C 11. 11
W -	N 17 D 5.8	N 35 A 5.2	T 6 C 70. 45
3 rd -	N 17 C 6.1	N 29 C 45.50	T 14 A 10. 50

Appendix III

Positions to which 3rd Army Bde ADA (in support area) would
move to reinforce 3rd of Army defensive system.

	<u>Southern Area</u>	<u>Centre Area</u>	<u>Northern Area</u>
3 rd Bde	N 31 A 40.40	M 18 A 00.60	M 18 B 11.11
1 st M	M 36 A 70.45	S 5 D 30.80	M 18 A 55.15
2 nd M	M 35 A 65.65	S 5 B 30.70	M 18 C 80.95
3 rd M	M 36 B 60.40	M 18 B 70.80	M 18 C 55.80

Secret

B. Brigade Order No. 166
 By Major A. P. Crisp
 Command B. Group Arty.

5.12.17.

Ref. map. 1/40,000 Sheet 28.

Relief:- The personnel of the 2nd N.G. F. A. Bde will relieve personnel of 3rd Army Bde. ABA. on 7th Dec Relief to be completed by 4 pm on that date.

The reliefs will be carried out as under:-

	Location	Relieving Unit
H.Q. 3rd Army Bde. ABA.	TOILLERIE	2nd N.G. F. A. Bde
7th Bty	J2D 15.70	2nd Bty
8th "	J2C 80.50	5th "
9th "	J14A 45.80	9th "
103rd	J7D 71.99	6th "

Advance Parties:- The CO or Adj., the Sig officer, 2 telephonists & 2 Batmen and Bty Cmdr & one other officer and 4 other NCOs per Bty will report at BIRR Cross Roads at 12 noon on 6th Dec. Btys of 3rd Army Bde will arrange to accommodate the advance parties for the night of 6th Dec.

Guides:- Each Bty will have a guide at BIRR Cross Roads at 12 noon on 6th Dec to guide the respective reliefs to the Bty positions.

Handing over:-

Guns & stores with sights complete and ammunition will be handed over in position. Stores will not be handed over. All maps, orders, photos & information relating to the position will be handed over and receipts taken in duplicate.

One copy of the Transfer Certificate for Guns lights and ammunition will be forwarded to this office on 7th Dec, and will show registered numbers.

Completion of Relief:-

On completion of relief personnel of Btys of 3rd Army Bde will proceed to their wagon lines. Completion of relief will be reported by telephone to this office.

Move:- Separate orders for move on 8th Dec will be issued later.

Command:-

From 4 pm on 7th Dec Btys of 52nd Army Bde ABA come under the tactical control of C.O 2nd N.G. F. A. Bde.

Acknowledge.

Copies:- Btys - 8
 ABA 1 File 1
 2nd Bde 1 Arty &

M. Mumpsey Capt.
 Maj B. Group

15

ND

Copy No. 8

3rd Army Bde. Aus. I. A.
 March Order No. 2
 By Major A. P. Cusp Comdg.

6.12.17

Move

Ref. Map. Hagelbronn 1/10,000.

1.

In accordance with R. A. II Angae No. 29/32 dated 3.12.17. The 3rd Army Bde A.S.B. will move from present wagon lines to BOESCHEPE, on 8th inst.

Order of March

2.

Bde H.Q., 103rd Bty, 7th Bty, 8th Bty, 9th Bty & Bde Amm. Column.

Starting Point

3.

KAVISTRAATHOEK Cross Roads. Head of Column will pass the Starting Point at 10.15 am. 103rd Bty will be ready to move at 10 am.

Route

4. Haals

Cafe Belge, Die Rebusch, Ouderdom, Reninghelst, Boeschepe.

5.

Haals of 10 minutes will be made at each hour.

Advance Party

6.

One N.C.O. & one other rank from each unit will report to H.Q. at 10 am ^{on 7th inst} with bicycles 24 hours rations to be carried.

Rear Parties

7.

Each Unit will leave one officer & 4 other ranks to see that the lines vacated are left in a thoroughly clean & sanitary condition.

March Discipline

8.

Special attention is drawn to standing orders for march discipline.

Supplies

9.

Supply arrangements will be notified later.

Copies to:-

1- 7th2- 8th3- 9th

4- 103

5- Bde

6- 7. 8. 9 Gram

10. File

M. Humphrey Capt
 Adj. 3rd Army Bde A.S.B.

MS
 [Signature]

Copy No. 8

Ref. March Order No 2 issued today.

Ref map. 1/40,000 Sheet 27.

Route

1.

In accordance with 1st Army Corps Order No 233 dated 5.12.17 the 3rd Army Bde will move via HACHETTE on 8th Dec.

Distances between Blip & Sections of B.A.C.

2.

A distance of 100 yards will be maintained between Blip & Sections of B.A.C.

Accommodation

3.

On arrival in 1st Army Corps Area the 3rd Army Bde will be accommodated as under:-

Bde HQ.	at	T 2 C 4.7
7 th Blk.	at	S 29 A 8.3
8 th "	at	N 32 A 5.8
9 th & 10 th	at	S 12 A 8.1
BAC	at	T 7 D 9.9

Echelons

4.

Rations

All Echelons will move full.

5.

With 8th Dec rations will be drawn from 5th Aus. Div. ~~Per~~ Parc Train at BRULBOZE Railwayhead.

Copies

1-7th2-8th3-9th4-10th

5-BAAC

6-7. 8. 9. - Diary

10-File

M. Humphrey Capt.
Adj. 3rd Army Bde area.

copy

Secret

W D

Copy No. 8

3rd Army Bde. Aus. I.A.

Operation Order No. 1

Bd Major A. P. Crisp Comdg.

13. 11. 17

Ref Map Sheet 28 1/40,000.

General

1.

The 3rd Army Bde A. I.A. at present forms part of the I. Arty which is in close support and which can be brought into action at short notice.

Reinforcement of Arty.

2.

In the event of the necessity arising for reinforcement of the I.A. covering the Corps front, the positions set out in Appendix I will be occupied.

In the event of a retirement to the second or Corps defence system the positions set out in Appendix II will be occupied.

In the event of a retirement to the 3rd of Army defence system the positions set out in Appendix 3 will be occupied.

Responsibility for knowledge of various positions

3.

Bde Commanders will make themselves thoroughly acquainted with the positions they may have to occupy when reinforcing, by personal reconnaissance of the positions, themselves, and of their routes of approach. The actual positions which the respective Bde's will occupy will be decided between the CRAs in the line and the Commanders of their supporting Artillery. F.Os must similarly know the O.P.s they may have to occupy and their probable system of communications.

Reports

4.

Reports will be rendered to 3rd Army Aus I.A. Bde. H.Q. when these reconnaissances have been carried out.

Acknowledgement

5.

- copies 1/11
- 1/11
- 9/11
- 10/31
- File

RA 1st Ausac
Diary

M. Humphrey Capt.
Cof. 3rd Army Bde.

[Signature]