

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

Artillery

**Item number:** 13/7/2

**Title:** Brigadier General, 1st ANZAC Corps  
Heavy Artillery and Headquarters,  
Australian Corps Heavy Artillery

May 1916



AWM4-13/7/2



WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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ANZAC H *Army Form C. 2118.*  
 Vol 1

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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BAC SIMAUR	May 1 <sup>st</sup>		BAC SIMAUR railhead shelled with about 25 rounds of 5.9" Howitzer. We retaliated on BEAUCAMPS. Other was a quiet day, fine.	Refce sheet 36 1/20,000
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3-5 pm	a fine day. Shelled 4 hostile batteries in N23d. in conjunction with 1 <sup>st</sup> Australian Divnl. arty.	
		5-50 pm	A field Battery in H 23 was fairly violently shelled. We at once fired on Battery at 01068-8 which was thought to be the active Battery.	
		6-20 pm	all quiet	
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	12-50 pm	Enemy started to shell ÉPINETTE with 5.9" Howitzer. At once retaliated with 8" Howitzer on LOMME	
		3-4 pm	ÉPINETTE again shelled so 10 more rounds of 8" How were fired into LOMME	
			The enemy again shelled ÉPINETTE towards dusk, on this we took no action	
			A fine day.	



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BACS MAUR	4 <sup>th</sup>		<p>A fine day.                      A 5.9" Howitzer Battery, from the direction of PETIT RIEZ (N. 35°) shelled a Battery position in G 36.c.                      We were unable to reply owing to the presence of hostile aircraft.</p>	
	5 <sup>th</sup>	8:35am to noon	<p>a hostile 5.9" Howitzer shelled BAC ST MAUR railhead and the vicinity of 109<sup>th</sup> Heavy Battery with aeroplane observation steadily between these hours. Rounds fell at about 2 minute intervals. The shooting made was not good &amp; little damage done other than to telephone lines.                      We were unable to reply until 11am owing to the presence of 3 hostile aeroplanes.</p>	
		11am	<p>23<sup>rd</sup> Sige Battery (6" Hows) fired 30 rounds at FROMELLES STATION, 109<sup>th</sup> Heavy Bty (4.7" guns) fired at RADINGHEM, ENNETIÈRES, and ESCOBEQUES, 110<sup>th</sup> Heavy Battery (4.7" guns) did counter battery work. A fine day.</p>	

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FORT ROMPU	6 <sup>th</sup>		Head Quarters moved to FORT ROMPU (H 7 d 6. 3). A fine day	
	7 <sup>th</sup>		A quiet uneventful day, overcast + unsuitable for aeroplane work.	
	8 <sup>th</sup>		Corps Commander visited all Batteries of Augac Heavy Artillery. A rainy and windy day - no activity.	
	9 <sup>th</sup>	4:30 pm	O.C. and Adjut of 32 <sup>nd</sup> H.A. Group reported this Head Quarters	
	10 <sup>th</sup>	1:30 pm	Head Quarters of 32 <sup>nd</sup> H.A. Group arrived and were accommodated in their Head Quarters.	
	11 <sup>th</sup>		Arrangements made for handing over Siege Batteries to this Group Head Quarters on 17 <sup>th</sup> leaving LORINGS GROUP with Heavy guns.	
			A fine day. Some counter battery work was undertaken	



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FORT ROMPU	12 <sup>th</sup>		A fine day and quiet	
	13 <sup>th</sup>		A wet and dull day with little activity. B.G.H.A attended Corps Commanders Conference	
	14 <sup>th</sup>		Dull and overcast little activity	
	15 <sup>th</sup>		Dull and rainy day. Order received that 40 <sup>th</sup> Siege Battery and WARWICKSHIRE HEAVY BATTERY would be handed over to Auger Heavy Artillery by 20 <sup>th</sup> inst. This order afterwards altered to 41 <sup>st</sup> Siege Battery and WARWICKS.	
	16 <sup>th</sup>		Fine day. Visit by M.G. R.A. Army WARWICKSHIRE Heavy Battery fairly severely shelled with no casualties to personnel or equipment	
	17 <sup>th</sup>		Fine day. Great aerial activity. Personnel of 87 <sup>th</sup> Siege Battery arrived during night & were sent to 23 <sup>rd</sup> Siege Battery, one half of the personnel going to the Section of 23 <sup>rd</sup> Siege on loan to XI Corps. Heavy Batteries stood by at dawn for counter Battery work against A-A Guns in conjunction with R.F.C.	



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FORT ROMPU	17 <sup>th</sup>		<p>The day was however found unsuitable by the R.F.C. to carry out their full programme.</p> <p>Our heavy Batteries shelled an area in which one of our machines had made a forced landing.</p>	
	18 <sup>th</sup>		<p>A fine day. A shoot with aerial observation against a Battery at 010 d 85 which had been giving trouble, gave good results.</p> <p>Staff Captain went on leave.</p>	
	19 <sup>th</sup>		<p>A fine day.</p> <p>30<sup>th</sup> Siege Battery was heavily shelled from 5.40 pm to 7 pm by hostile 5.9" Howitzers. One howitzer badly damaged and put out of action. We retaliated on all likely batteries but were unable to stop shelling. No casualties to personnel.</p> <p>WARWICKSHIRE Heavy Battery and 41<sup>st</sup> Siege Battery taken over from 12 noon.</p> <p>Unusual hostile aerial activity reported over FLEURBAIX and BOIS GRENIER.</p>	

GRENIER.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FORT ROMPU	20 <sup>th</sup>		<p>A fine day. The 66<sup>th</sup> Siege Battery did a very successful shoot against a hostile a-a gun obtaining one direct hit and 3 rounds within 25 yards of the target.</p> <p>Serjt Artillery Clerk Wilson posted as W.O Clerk to join on 26<sup>th</sup> on return from leave.</p>	
	21 <sup>st</sup>		<p>109<sup>th</sup> Heavy Battery severely shelled in evening by over 200 rounds of 5.9" Howitzer. No damage to personnel or equipment. A fine day.</p>	
	22 <sup>nd</sup>		<p>109<sup>th</sup> Heavy Battery again shelled in the morning by a 5.9" Howitzer battery and again without effect. Shooting clearly indicates that exact Battery position is known.</p> <p>Visit by HQ RA &amp; Army.</p> <p>The Section 66<sup>th</sup> Siege Battery left this command &amp; marched to IV Corps under orders received at 3.25 pm.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">A fine day with showers in afternoon.</p>	



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FORT ROMPU	23 <sup>rd</sup>		a fine day and exceptionally quiet	
-	24 <sup>th</sup>		a fine day and hot. The section of 23 <sup>rd</sup> Siege Battery on loan to XI Corps returned to Head Quarters. Section 41 <sup>st</sup> Siege Battery carried out a shoot with aeroplane observation. this shoot proved unsatisfactory owing to a number of blind shells	
	25 <sup>th</sup>	7.59am	The whole of the personnel of 23 <sup>rd</sup> Siege Battery left ANZAC CORPS by rail. Guns taken over by personnel of 87 <sup>th</sup> Siege Btry. <i>fine</i>	
	26 <sup>th</sup>		Fine and hot, slight mist in afternoon Staff Captain returned from leave	
	27 <sup>th</sup>		Fine and hot NEWZEALAND Division reported the enemy to be shelling ARMENTIERES at 9.6 pm. We retaliated on PERENCHIES. A held battery in H29C was simultaneously shelled but no damage done.	



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FORT ROMPU	28 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>am</sup>	<p>Fine and hot</p> <p>A 4.2" Howitzer shelled FLEURBAIX. We retaliated with 4.7" on LE MAISNIL continuing for some time after the hostile battery had ceased</p>	
	29 <sup>th</sup>	12.30 <sup>pm</sup>	<p>A fine day with some rain in evening.</p> <p>NEWZEALAND Division reported enemy to be shelling ARMENTIERES. We retaliated on PREMESQUES and all known battery positions in that neighbourhood</p>	
		1.30 <sup>pm</sup>	<p>Shelling of ARMENTIERES ceased enemy having fired 130 rounds</p>	
		1.33 <sup>pm</sup>	<p>We shelled LE MAISNIL in retaliation for shelling of FLEURBAIX</p> <p>7<sup>th</sup> &amp; 16<sup>th</sup> Squadron Commanders R &amp; C attended H. a Head-Quarters for Conference.</p>	
	30 <sup>th</sup>		<p>A wet day</p> <p>At 8.30<sup>pm</sup> enemy shelled our trenches on front of 15<sup>th</sup> AUSTRALIAN Division</p>	



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	30 <sup>th</sup> (cont)		<p>fairly heavily.                      we retaliated with 6" Howitzers from his trenches &amp; were also heavily engaged in counter. Battery work                      At 9.55 pm all was quiet and we ceased firing.</p>	
	31 <sup>st</sup>		<p>A fine day.                      109<sup>th</sup> Heavy Battery shelled by 4.65<sup>th</sup> French pm.                      Our heavies engaged in counter. Battery work throughout the day.                      2<sup>nd</sup> AUSTRALIAN DIVISION twice during the day reported heavy shell over their left Brigade. Battery unlocated</p>	

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William Capta  
 Battery Aug 30 1918