

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

Artillery

Item number: 13/11/3

Title: Headquarters, 2nd Australian
Divisional Artillery

May 1916



AWM4-13/11/3

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.

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Artillery

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
France.	1/5/16.		<p>Hostile aeroplanes were active during the early morning - one enemy aeroplane was brought down by a direct hit by 37 Anti Aircraft section and fell into the enemy's lines opposite Laventie. The enemy shelled the vicinity of Bac St Maur station in the early part of the morning - no damage - one man injured. During the afternoon the 104th & 105th How Batteries opened fire on a battery - with with aeroplane observation - the results were not very satisfactory - as we were obliged to use up some old cordite cartridges - shooting was erratic. Two trenches opposite LE PERIDOUX were shelled for some time with 5.9" 4.2" & 77mm - not much damage - we located some enemy's batteries.</p>	<p><i>Artillery</i> <i>Al 3</i></p>

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23

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
France.	2/5/.		<p>Enemy's aeroplanes were active in the early morning & two balloons were up during the day. Their artillery was active also. CHAPELLE ARMENTIERES was shelled during the morning. In the afternoon the enemy shelled the vicinity of the 17th Bty position with 5.9" & 4.2" about 150 shells were fired - very little damage & no casualties.</p> <p>The cross roads at L'ÉPINETTE were also fired on thus were a few casualties.</p> <p>We located one of the enemy's batteries at the and the 104th & 105th How batteries engaged it.</p> <p>Later in the day about 3pm the enemy again opened fire on the 17th Bty position - another 100 shells were fired, without doing any damage.</p>	

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France	3/5/15		<p>In the early morning enemy's aircraft was active and at 7.30 am. enemy opened fire with 5.9" in region of LA VESÉE + GRIS POT. Later in the day enemy opened heavy artillery fire on cross road in vicinity of L'EPINETTE, no material damage - at about 4 p.m. the 104th Bty and 11th Bty opened fire on FLEUR D'ECOSSE. Two buildings were set on fire - one blazing furiously for a short time and appeared to contain ammunition or explosives. Later in the evening enemy fired several more heavy shells in the L'EPINETTE area district. The hostile battery was beaten, the 104th + 105th Btys opened fire + enemy ceased firing shortly afterwards.</p> <p>The 17th Bty commenced to get its guns into a new position during the evening. Having previously arrived at the late part of the day was quiet on both sides.</p>	

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Coty du Bac.	4/5/16		<p>Enemy's aircraft was active all day. The Railway close to Nieppe was heavily shelled by 8.9" - no casualties. but a certain amount of damage to material and roadway. Our trenches 48 & 49 were heavily shelled & we retaliated on enemy's trenches & on his observation posts. One of our aeroplanes was brought down by enemy gun fire. We used one of our guns at night (having previously taken it out of its battery gun pit) & shelled enemy's billets.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Poiridoux	5/3/16	9 am	<p>Enemy aircraft very active during the morning - were observing for the shelling of Pac 4 MAUR station & also the railway near Erguaghans. The fire was very heavy for some time - no material damage. We observed two hostile battery positions and opened fire on them.</p> <p>Lt General Plummer Army commander visited the 2nd Aust Div. & interviewed Brig Gen Johnston.</p> <p>At about 7.40 p.m. the enemy commenced a heavy bombardment of our trenches at the POIRIDOUX SALIENT with guns of different calibres. We replied with 105 & 106 ^{105 & 106} mm howitzer batteries & several 18 pr batteries on the enemy's trenches opposite the salient.</p> <p>The enemy made a small infantry attack - but were driven off - we had several casualties. The shelling ceased about 9.15 p.m. -</p>	

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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France	6/5/16		A very quiet day - enemy fired several rounds in our trenches 52. 53. 54. otherwise nothing to report.	
"	7/5/16		Very little activity; enemy shelled communication trenches at intervals. We shelled a few of their O.P.'s	
"	8/5/16		Very quiet day - nothing to report	
	9/5/16		Wet day & very hazy - enemy generally quiet - we had one casualty in 11 th Battery from a stray shell.	
"	10/5/16		Enemy were active all day & shelled our trenches. Both front line & communication. There were a few casualties in the Infantry. Our batteries retaliated on enemy's trenches and observation posts. 4 hostile balloons were up later in the afternoon.	

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France	11/5/16		<p>The morning was misty & enemy were quiet - in the afternoon there was intermittent shelling of BOIS GRENIER-LAVESKÉ and our front line trenches 57-58.</p> <p>Our batteries fired on some working parties and at enemy's support trenches & earthworks and also engaged a battery close to CHATEAU D'ESPÈRE; whilst the 114th How Battery was engaging this latter target, the aeroplane which was observing for us - was hit by hostile fire & fell in our lines - the pilot Capt Lilley was killed - the observer was saved.</p>	
	12/5/16		<p>Enemy were active most of the day & shelled our front line trenches. LILLE POST & TRAMWAY avenue were also shelled.</p> <p>The 17th Bty & 106th Bty shelled PUCK'S FOLLY - MARTIN'S CORNER & several other O.P.'s & billets.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
France	13/5/16		Hostile artillery was almost inactive. A few rounds were fired at our BRIDoux salient. It was reported that the enemy had built a machine gun or other emplacement in their front line trench opposite our 57. The 105 th How Bty engaged this & completely destroyed it. Other Batteries fired a few rounds at o.p.'s.	
	14/5/16		Very wet & misty - enemy were inactive in the morning & shelled our front line trenches. The 20 th Battery shelled a machine gun emplacement in process of construction by the enemy and destroyed it.	
	15/5/16		A very quiet day enemy did not shell at all. The 17 th , 18 th , 105 th & 106 th Batteries shelled various enemy's observation posts.	

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France	16/3/.		<p>Aeroplanes were active during the morning - 3 hostile aeroplanes were seen. One of our heavy batteries was heavily shelled by the enemy - no damage to material -</p> <p>The 13th & 14th batteries engaged Anti Air craft guns</p> <p>The 105th engaged an enemy battery at Epurmesic with aeroplane observation</p>	
	17 th		<p>Enemy were quiet. The 104th & 105th Batteries engaged battery at LA HAUTE LOUE. considerable damage to O.P.'s in vicinity</p> <p>The 10th + 21st + 14th batteries engaged working parties & O.P.'s</p>	
	18 th		<p>Enemy aeroplanes were active during the morning & then artillery was active in the afternoon against BOIS CRENIER but howitzer batteries shelled Escobecques ESCOBECQUES area in conjunction with the heavy artillery</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
France	18/57		<p>The 21st Battery engaged working parties and the 17th & 13th batteries also shelled enemy's works & other posts.</p> <p>The 10th Battery engaged hostile batteries at EPERONNERIE with aeroplane observation and obtained good results.</p>	
	19/		<p>Enemy aeroplanes were active during the afternoon & 3 enemy observation balloons were up. Enemy heavy batteries & mortar shelled one of our heavy batteries & caused some damage to material. The Battery was located and engaged by our 10th Battery with the result that two loud explosions were noticed and heard; aeroplane reconnaissance was made & it was seen that buildings in vicinity of battery are destroyed.</p>	

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France	19/5/		The 20th & 19th Batteries engaged machine gun emplacements. The 11th battery shelled enemy's front line trenches.	
	20/5/		Very clear day & much aeroplane activity. Enemy shelled our support trenches in the vicinity of the Rue de BOIS Salient. We retaliated on trenches opposite this point with good effect - by the 19th Battery. Several series were carried out by aeroplane observation against enemy's battery positions.	
	21/5/		Hostile aerial activity in the early part of the morning & 3 balloons also working. - Enemy heavily shelled the position of our heavy batteries - no damage to structure.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	21/3/		<p>We shelled enemy's trenches and also Radonq here doing considerable damage. Enemy retaliated later in the day by shelling "Birmingham" doing some damage & causing some casualties. General Jellibron was wounded. -</p>	
	22/3/		<p>Enemy heavily shelled the Right section of the 10th Battery, about 1.50 5.9" shell was fired at the Battery. One gun was put out of action - no casualties to men. We retaliated on enemy's infantry in communication trenches & support lines. The 104th Battery engaged Battery in CHERONNERIE</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
France	23/17		<p>Enemy's aeroplanes were active in the morning. In the afternoon the enemy heavily shelled the 10th Battery (fight section) one gun was slightly damaged & put out of action. No casualties to personnel. We retaliated on enemy's trenches, & also shelled certain sniper posts.</p>	
	24/17		<p>Hostile aircraft active in the early morning. We shelled Reduyhem - and some observation posts much damage was done. Enemy retaliated on trenches. We also shelled Metz Macquart with good effect machine gun emplacements in the enemy's parapet were damaged - by 19th Battery</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
France	26/5/		<p>A fairly quiet day. We shelled working parties. The 19th Battery destroyed a steel cupola in enemy's parapet. Some shelling of our trenches & we retaliated on enemy's trenches. Operation order 13 (attached) was carried out.</p>	
	26/5		<p>Enemy heavily shelled one of our screens in front of a battery position. Screen was demolished - no other damage. Between 5 & 6 p.m. we carried out operation order No 14 attached. Several breaches were made in enemy's parapet and an ammunition dump was set on fire, enemy's wire was badly knocked about. etc -</p>	
	27/5/		<p>A quiet day. several enemy balloons were up during the day. we shelled enemy's battery positions with the 105th & 106th Howitzer batteries.</p>	
	26/5/		<p>Enemy were not very active - we engaged battery positions with aeroplane observation with good effect.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
France	28/5/16		Between 2 and 2.30 am we shelled enemy's trenches + communication trenches.	
	29/5/16		Hostile aeroplanes were active in the morning and many enemy balloons were up during the day. We fired one or two series with aeroplane observation with good results.	
	30/5/16		A misty day - enemy very quiet. In the evening enemy shelled 1 st Div area and also shelled over 17 th Bty position and also 18 th Battalion - one jump pit + fan of the 17 th Bty was hit - one pit of the 18 th was also hit - no damage.	
	31/5/16		A very quiet day.	<p style="font-size: 1.2em;">G. W. Johnston</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Brig General</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">C. R. A. 2nd Aust Div</p>

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 Map Ref.
 Belgium and part of France.
 Sheet 36 N.W.

Headquarters,
 2nd. Aust. Div. Artillery
 May 24th 1916.

At 3.10.a.m. 26/5/16 batteries as detailed below will open fire on the points specified.

The 106th Howitzer Battery will shell enemy's front line trenches from I.31.c.9½.2. to O.1.a.5.8.

30 Rounds H.E.

The 105th Howitzer Battery will shell enemy's parapet and front line trenches from I.31.c.9½.3½. to I.31.d.6.6.

30 rounds H.E.

The 16th Battery will maintain a barrage from I.31.c.9½.3½. to O.1.a.5.8., and will search communication trenches close in rear.

4 rounds T.S.
 26 " H.E.

The 17th Battery will maintain a barrage from I.31.c.9½.3½. to I.31.d.6.6. and search communication trenches close in rear.

4 rounds T.S.
 26 " H.E.

The 21st Battery will search and sweep communication trenches O.1.b.5.4. to O.2.a.3.7. and main communication trench in O.2.a. and O.2.c.

30 Rounds T.S.

At 3.15.a.m. 26/5/1916 Trench Mortars will co-operate and shell enemy's front line trenches I.31.c.7.0. to I.21.d.4.7.

16 rounds.

At 3.20.a.m. 26/5/1916 The 106th battery will lengthen its range and shell support trenches in rear of area it has previously shelled I.31.d.0.0. to O.1.a.6.6.

30 rounds H.E.

The 105th Battery will lengthen its range and shell support trenches in rear of area it has previously shelled i.e., I.31.d. 0.0. to I.31.d.7.4.

30 rounds H.E.

The 16th Battery will direct its fire more to the right, i.e. it will keep up a barrage from I.31.c.7.0. to O.1.c.4.7.

30 Rounds H.E.

The 17th battery will direct its fire more to the left, i.e., it will keep up a barrage on front line trenches from I.31.d.2.4. to I.31.d.7.6.

30 Rounds H.E.

The trench mortars will fire on the support trench and works extending from I.31.d.1.1. to I.31.d.6.4.

16 rounds

The 21st. Battery will keep up its fire in the same area as previously ordered.

30 Rounds T.S.

Rate of fire to be evenly distributed over time allotted.

All firing to cease at 3.30.a.m.

Watches will be synchronised by Brigade-Major, 2nd. Divisional Artillery, at 10.p.m. 25/5/1916.

(Sgd) M Beasley Major,
Brigade-Major, 2nd. D.A.

- Copy No. 1. File
2 2nd. Aust. Division
3. C.O. Centre Group
4. C.O. Right Group
5. C.O. 5th Infantry Brigade
6. C.O. 7th Infantry Brigade
7. C.O., Loring's Group
8. C.O. 22nd. F.A. Brigade
9. R.F.C.
10. C.O. Left Group
11. 1st. Aust. Div. Artillery

12.

OPERATION ORDER No. 14.

COPY No.

Map. Ref.
Belgium and Part of France
Sheet b36. N.W.

Headquarters,
2nd. Aust. Div. Artillery
May 25th 1916.

At 7.p.m. 26/6/1916. The batteries as detailed below will open fire on the points specified.

1. The 104th Howitzer battery will shell enemy's front line trenches I.21.b.7.3½. to I.21.b. 9½.4.

30 Rounds H.E.

2. The 105th Howitzer Battery will shell enemy's front line trenches frpm I.21.b.2.2. to I.21. b. 4. 4.

30 Rounds H.E.

3. The 11th battery will search and sweep enemy's front line and communication trenches close in rear of I.21.b.7.3½. to I.21.b.9½.4.

6 rounds T.S.
24 " H.E.

4. The enfilading section of the 10th (i.e. 18th battery) will search and sweep enemy's front line and communication trenches I.21.b.5.0. to I.22. a. 7. 1.

20 rounds T.S.

5. The 19th battery will search and sweep enemy's front line and communication trenches in rear of I.21.b.7.3½. to I.21.b.9½.4½.

4 rounds T.S.
26 " H.E.

5. The 14th battery will shell O.P's in vicinity of DISTILLERY I.27.

20 rounds H.E.

7. At 7.5.p.m. Trench mortars will open fire on enemy's front line trenches from I.21.b.4.4. to I.21.b.7.3½.

20 rounds

8. At 7.15.p.m. The 104th battery will continue firing in area previously ordered.

30 rounds H.E.

9. The 105th battery will shell enemy's front line and support trenches I.21.c.7.4. to I.21.d.2.8.

30 rounds H.E.

10. The 11th battery will open fire on enemy's front line and support trenches I.22. a. 0.4. to I.22. a.4.7.

6 rounds T.S.
24 " H.E.

OPERATION ORDER No.14. (Continued).

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11. The enfilafing section of the 10th will continue firing on same area as previously ordered.

20 rounds T.S.

12. The 12th battery will open fire on enemy's front line and support trenches I.22.a.0.4. to I.22. a.4.7.

6 rounds T.S.
24 " H.E.

13. The 14th battery will continue firing in same area as previously ordered.

20 rounds T.S.

14. Trench mortars will continue to shoot in same area as previously ordered

20 rounds

15. The rate of fire of all batteries will be evenly distributed over time allotted.

16. All firing is to cease at 7.30.p.m.

17 Watches will be synchronised by Brigade-Major, 2nd.Divisional Artillery at 5.p.m.

(Sgd.) H. T. Beasley Major,

Brigade-Major, 2nd.D.A.

- Copy No.1. File
2. D.H.Q.
 3. C.O.4th F.A.Bde
 4. C.O.5th "
 5. C.O.6th "
 6. C.O.22nd."
 7. N.Z.Division
 8. 5th Inf.Brigade
 9. 7th Inf.Bde.
 10. Loring's Group
 11. R.F.6.
 12. 32nd. H.A.Group