

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

Artillery

**Item number:** 13/25/2

**Title:** Headquarters, 36th Heavy Artillery  
Group

March 1916



AWM4-13/25/2

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

36<sup>th</sup> (Aust.) H.A.G

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1-3-16.	11.0 am.	Left for POMMERA by car, O.R. marched.	
		11.45 am.	Arrived POMMERA and billeted in Cures house.	
		4.30 pm.	C.O. and Adjutant to Corps Artillery H.Q. (PAS) to see General Buckle, new organisation explained and H.Q. told to move to BEAUMETZ - les - LOGES.	
	3-3-16.	9.30 am.	C.O. & Adjutant to 6th H.A.R. H.Q. (SAULTY) ; thence with General, Brigade Major, O.C. 114 H.B. (60 pr) to BERNEVILLE and BEAUMETZ.	
		3.0 pm.	Returned to POMMERA.	

(Original of above written on same sheet as entries for end of previous month and filed with volume for that month).

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36<sup>th</sup> (Aust) Heavy Artillery Group

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<del>3/3/16</del>				
POMMERA	3/3/16	6 pm	Left for BEAUMETZ in lorry	
BEAUMETZ	3/3/16	7.30	Arrived at BEAUMETZ, and arranged billets with town majors	
"	4/3/16		Waiting for arrival of batteries + H.Q. M.T.	
"	"	5.30 pm	4 whizz bangs fired into village; one burst near church	
"	5/3/16	9 am	Moved into new billets, no 3 ARRAS ROAD	
"	"	10.30 a	Bde Major came in to see about telephones; went with C.O. to 9 <sup>th</sup> Bty position	
		12.30 p	O.C. 114 <sup>th</sup> Bty called base C.O.	
		2 pm	O.C. 9 <sup>th</sup> Bty reported to C.O.	
		2-6 p.	H.Q. laying wires to 9 <sup>th</sup> + 114 <sup>th</sup> Btys	
		3.47 p	9 <sup>th</sup> Bty fired 3 rounds aeroplane observation; no success	
	6/3/16	a.m.	O.C.'s 9 + 114 came in to see C.O.	
	"	1.45	C.O. left for SAULTY for conference with General + Bde Commander; returned 6 pm.	
		1 p.	2nd Lt Ponder reported at BERNEVILLE for duty with 114	
	7/3/16	9.30 a	O.C. 114 came to see C.O.	
		a.m.	H.Q. out cutting telephone poles.	
		2.30	O.C. 9 came to see C.O.	

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BEAUMETZ	7/3/16	pm.	One horse of 9 <sup>th</sup> H.B. slightly wounded by blind A.A.C. shell	
"	"	"	message received for 36 H.Q. to move to 17 <sup>th</sup> Corps at short notice	
"	"	8 pm	O.C. 114 moved to position; reported guns in action 12.50am	
"	8/3/16	8.50a	O.C. 9 <sup>th</sup> H.B. reported aeroplane from S.E., friendly colours, dropped two H.E. bombs into Q 35 d 7.7; no damage, plane flew off in S direction at about 3000 ft.	
		11 am	M.O. & O.C. 611 M.T. Co A.S.C. arrived from FRÉVENT	
		11.30a	" " returned to FRÉVENT	
		3.30p	114 H.B. fired 5 lbs shrapnel at M 32 a 0.2, observed from Q 29 b 3.3; not successful.	
"	9/3/16	11 am	movement order for H.Q. to FRÉVENT to move at 2 pm	
		12 noon	" " " " " cancelled	
"	"	2 pm	C.O. & adjt went to see O.P. selection by 114 H.B.	
		3.30p	R.F.C. officer from 8 Squadron came to arrange wireless installation at 114 H.B. position	

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BEAUMETZ	10/3/16	10:30 am 3 pm	SOC. 6 <sup>th</sup> HAR visited H.Q. to discuss new site for 114 <sup>th</sup> Bty Received movement order for ETRUN via AUBIGNY. Wrote to M.O. & Ministry M.T. from FREVENT	
MAROEUIL	11/3/16	10:15 a 11:30 a 3 pm	SOC 6 <sup>th</sup> from HAR. visited 114 <sup>th</sup> Bty. Major Buggs-Davison OC 9 <sup>th</sup> ABty took over Brigade Left BEAUMETZ for AUBIGNY. arrived 4:30 pm; no tickets available for officers, obtained B.G.R.A.'s permission to go to FREVENT; arrived there 9:20 p.	
	12/3	9 a p.m. 7 pm	Left FREVENT for AUBIGNY; received orders for MAROEUIL; arrived MAROEUIL 12 noon. cleaning up tickets. Lt Col Perkins arrived.	
	13/3.	9 a 12 p. 3 p. 4:30	CO Bae to Bty positions with Orderly Officer, M.O. & interpreter. H.Q. Lorry arrived with balance of kits. CO visited 54 <sup>th</sup> Bty position S.O. Rd 17 <sup>th</sup> Corps came & see OC Bde	4

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MAROEUIL	13/3/16	9 pm.	C.O. went out to see 54 laying two platforms in place of the French ones.	
"	"	"	55 <sup>th</sup> Bty (guns & tractors) left FREVENT <del>and</del> on night 13/14 march, and marched to ACO, arriving about 10 am 14/3/16	
"	14/3/16	"	54 and balance of 55 moved to TINQUE	
"	14/3/16	3 pm	C.O. visited 55 <sup>th</sup> position. <sup>Line through to 54 kt.</sup> Adjutant in bed.	
"	15/3/16	8 pm	55 <sup>th</sup> Bty in position at 6.30 am.	
"	15/3/16	9 pm.	C.O. went out with Lt Col Perkins to see position for	
"	"	"	Battle O.P.	
"	"	2-10 pm	Line through to 55 <sup>th</sup> Bty Bileli. Enemy shelled 55 Bty Bileli for 25 minutes. 2 killed & 10 wounded other ranks.	
"	16/3/16	8 am.	54 Bty in position night 15/16.	
"	"	4 pm.	8" Bty fired 9 rounds for registration of Line. 55 + 54 Btys improving position.	

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Marocuit	17/3/16	9 am.	Both Bys improving position during the day.	
		2 pm.	54 By fired 10 rounds for registration purposes. Wes of fire sent through. Rounds fired at 596.1 - 33.1	
			55 By fired 15 rounds for registration of line at A 6.97.	
		7.30 to 9.59 am.	2 Salvoes fired by 54 + 55 Bys. 54 By 2 salvoes at 598.5 55 By fired at tqs 596.2 and 596.95 32.6 } and 32.99 } 32.2 } 32.99 }	
"	18/3/16	9 am.	C.O. went out to Tinque to see of Lt Col re ration & supply	
			of ammunition.	
		12 noon	Shells falling near 55 By.	
		3 pm.	C.O. saw Sgt Johnson T. put back for F.B. Co. Sgt Osborne came up to see C.O.	
		4.30 pm.	C.O. with Sgt. Perkins went to see 55 Bys O.P.	
		8.45 pm.	C.O. 11 5 By came to see Adj. re new song on leave.	
	19/3/16	11.30 am.	54 By fired 8 rounds in retaliation, at tqs 597.13 } and 599.12 } 36.95 } and 31.90 }	
			55 " " 16 " for registration purposes, at T 19.609.	
		2.30 pm.	R.A.C. arrange vehicles at H.Q.	
		7.30 pm.	C.O. saw two By. bombardier re promotion.	
		4/44 pm.	6 rounds fired by 55 By in retaliation at tqs 597.46 } 34.1 }	
		12 noon	54 By fired 11 rounds for registration purposes at tqs 596.1 } 33.1 }	

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Marocuil.	20/3/16	9.30 am	CO. went to see 54 Bty O.P.	
	"	2.30 pm	54 Bty fired 6 rounds in retaliation at 19 597.48 } 34.1 }	
	21/3/16	8 am	Major Hurst in to see CO. & R.T.C. officers re aerial observation & also firing on battery.	
		9 am	Major Hurst in to see CO. & R.T.C. officers re aerial observation.	
		am	S.O.C. 17th Corps A visited Bde H.Q.	
		4 pm	OC 55 fired 22 rounds at crater; telephone lines cut and battery heavily shelled while shooting.	
"	22/3	am	C.O. visited 55 Bty during morning, and 54 Bty in afternoon	
		pm	S.O.R.A. 17th Corps visited H.Q.	
	23/3	am	M.G. RA + S.O., B.G. RA 17th Corps + ADC visited H.Q., then to 54th Bty with C.O. HA 17th Corps	
		pm	Adj and M.O. visited 611 M.T.C. at TINQUES	
		pm	O.C. 55 Bty unable to carry out scheme in pm.	
			Snowed heavily during night 23/24.	
	24/3	am	S.O.R.A. 17th Corps came out to see Lt Col Perkins	
		pm	Major Marsh OC. 13 Squadron R.F.C. came to see H.Q. Snowed most of the day, Capt Field left for 6th Corps AA	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MAROEUIL	25.3. 16	10.30 a	B.G. R.A. 17 <sup>th</sup> Corps came to H.Q. and then went on with OC 23 <sup>rd</sup> Bde	
		12.30 p.	55 <sup>th</sup> Bty position was shelled, two killed four wounded	
		3-3.45 p.	55 <sup>th</sup> Bty carried out shoot against B6 (15 rds); Bty was being shelled all the time.	
		4.5 p.	54 <sup>th</sup> Bty fired 8 rds retaliation into each of SB8. 5.6 and 592.8-33.8 no missfires or <del>hits</del> blinds	
		6.30 p.	O.S.C. 54+55 came in to see OC 36 Bde about promotions	
		7 p.m.	S.O.R.A. 17 <sup>th</sup> Corps came to discuss new position for 55 Bty	
		7.30 p.	Orders sent out for half 55 Bty to move out on night 25/26	
		8.30 p.	OC. 611 M.T. Co arrived and went on to 55 Bty position	
"	26/3/16	6 a.m.	C.O. and Orderly Officer went out to meet OC. 55 for inspection of sites for 55 Bty.	
		10 a.m.	C.O., OC. H.A. 17 <sup>th</sup> Corps + OC 55 went out to visit proposed sites for 55 Bty	
		2 p.m.	Party out again looking at proposed sites for 55 Bty	
		6 p.m.	Brigade fired one salvo at S30 d 7.3. (55 Bty fired one rd. instead of two).	
		6.30 p.m.	S.O.R.A. 17 <sup>th</sup> Corps visited H.Q. to discuss new sites for 55 Bty.	
		"	OC. 11 Siege Bty came in to see OC.	
		7 p.m.	Instructions received to send two caterpillars to 70 <sup>th</sup> Bty to DOULLENS	
		12.30 a	Acknowledgement received from OC. 611 Co M.T., with information as to time of departure + arrival at DOULLENS, which was passed on to 17 <sup>th</sup> Corps Q.	

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MAROEUIL	27/3/16	9.30a	C.O. and OC. HA 17 <sup>th</sup> Corps visited site for 55 Bty	
"	"	4.30p.	54 Bty unable to carry out aeroplane shoot owing to bad weather.	
"	"	3 pm	SORA 17 <sup>th</sup> Corps visited H.Q., and site for 55 Bty was settled	
"	"		OC. 54 + one subaltern went to aerodrome SAVY for practice in spotting.	
"	28/3/16	9.30a	C.O. + adjt visited new position of 55 Bty	
"	"	11 am	C.O. + orderly officer went on to 54 position	
"	"	12 noon	54 fired one salvo at trench mortar on ARRAS - LILLE RD, about 1166.	
"	"	10 am	Two officers from 54 Bty went out to SAVY to practice spotting.	
"	"	2.30p	Adj. + orderly officer went to SAVY for spotting	
"	"	6 pm	Lt Col RFC + OC 13 Squadron RFC were at H.Q. discussing the aeroplane shoot.	
"	"	6.30 pm	SORA 17 <sup>th</sup> Corps came out to H.Q.	
"	"	8 pm	OC. 611 Com.T. reported that the two caterpillars arrived at DOULLENS but found no 70 <sup>th</sup> Bty RGA report to.	
"	29/3/16	9 am	54 <sup>th</sup> Bty fired 3 rds A.A. series with plane, then plane went home	
"	"	10 am	FG.C.M. on Rd met Johnston 54 Bty, BC, RA 17 <sup>th</sup> Corps visited H.Q. + 55 <sup>th</sup> Bty with C.O. + OC HA 17 <sup>th</sup> Corps.	
"	"	3.30p.	C.O. visited 54 position	
"	"	5p.	OC 55 + OC M.T. 30 <sup>th</sup> Mps visited H.Q.	
"	"	1.30p	54 Bty fired 2 salvos at VIMY, at 15' intervals	
"	"		60 rds mortar withdrawn from 55 <sup>th</sup> old position to Park during night 28/29.	
			work proceeding at 55 <sup>th</sup> new position.	

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MAROEUIL	30/3/16	9 am	C.O. and Adjt went to 54 Bty base aeroplane sites; only one round fired	
		10 am	F.G.C.M. of 32 m/s Johnston continued.	
		12.15 p.	54 Bty fired 2 rds BYF at A23 a 3.7.	
		2.30 p.	C.O. and M.O. left for 55 new position	
		5.30 p.	OC 23 Bde visited 54 Bty	
		6 pm	54 Bty fired 2 rds BYF	
	30/31/16		Nos 2 + 3 guns moved into new position	
"	31.3.16	9.30 a	OC 6 <sup>th</sup> and OC 54 Bty went out to select alternative positions for 54 Bty.	
		2.30 pm	SO. RA 17 <sup>th</sup> Corps and SO. M.G. RA III Army came to H.Q.	
		8 pm	Temporary (Rock) night lines sent out to Bty.	
"	1.4.16	9.30 a	C.O. + Adjt inspected alternative sites for 54 Bty.	
		11 am	C.O. + OC. HA 17 <sup>th</sup> Corps visited alternative sites for 54 Bty	
		11 am - 4 pm	54 Bty registered their 4 night points; 15 rds fired, one not observed	
		2.30 p.	OC 55 + Adjt visited OC. M.T. 36 Bde at TIRAVUES.	
		5 pm	OC HA 17 Corps, OC 36 Bde, OC 55 Bty, and OC M.T. 36 <sup>th</sup> Bde inspected 55 new position to arrange ammunition supply	
		9.30 p.	55 Bty fired two rds at T19 a 9.3 to empty guns.	