

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

Artillery

Item number: 13/29/28

Title: Headquarters, 1st Australian Field
Artillery Brigade

March 1917



AWM4-13/29/28

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

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Field -	1/3/17		In accordance with BM 640. fire was maintained on TILL TRENCH during the day as instructed in BM 638. 50 rds per group per hour being expended.	BM/640 BM/638
		1800	At 1800 F.P. wanted fire to worry party at N9A 8.0 to N9C.9.8. 2 nd Battery was ordered to fire 1 st B7 at 10" to stop for 5 minutes. then repeat. stop another 5 th and again repeat.	
		1920	At 1920. BM 645 was received giving S.O.S. lines for the night. Our position (Centre group) N2B00.20 to N1B65.75 to N1A55.75 was split up amongst batteries as follows. 1 st Battery. N1A55.75 to N1B35.75; 2 nd Battery N1B35.75 through B65.75 to N2A12.55. 3 rd Battery N2A12.55 to N2B00.20. while 101 st Battery was laid on points H32D20.40, H31D60.60 and H31C60.85.	BM/645
		1700	1 st Aust Div Art Order No. 87 and BM 643 were received by special order. In order to free 2 nd Aust Div for this operation (ie to attack MALT and CAMP TRENCHES) the front of 1 st Aust Div was re-adjusted as follows. Right Boundary - from N70 central to N8D6.0 to H33C55.00 - Left Boundary - from N17 central to 12A75.75 to G29D45.00 Dividing line between Brigades N1B85.45 to N7B70.85 to N7D30.30 and thence along the road to CHEESE RD. BM 647 received at 2100 giving zero hour 3 am 2/3/17.	
			During day & night 2 nd & 3 rd Batteries kept a light barrage on TILL TRENCH from N3C10.80 to H32D15.40	
	2/3/17.	0630	LO reported enemy activity increasing. and that they were firing a considerable number of gas shells. Observation very bad owing to mist.	
		0930	LO shifted to LUISENHOF FME as Battalion H.Q. were moving up there also	

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Field	2/3/17	1050	<p>Received orders to put up barrage from N8 Bq.0 to N8 B 7.6. Ordered 3rd Battery to fire 50 rounds on this line. DA then ordered us to stop. F.O.D. reported later that fire was not effective being over and to the right of working party. but that as soon as it started they made off.</p> <p>The day was otherwise quiet. Fire was maintained on TILL TRENCH. by 2nd and 3rd Batteries until 7.40 when DA ordered "stop".</p> <p>"S.O.S" lines were ordered 1st Battery N1A 55.75 to N1B 35.75. 2nd; N1B 35.75 to N1B 65.75 to N2A 12.55 - 3rd; N2A 12.55 to N2B 00.20; 101st Battery on points H32 D 20.40 and H31 D 60.60 and H31 C 60.85</p>	BM/653
	3/3/17		<p>Situation normal, and very quiet</p> <p>101st Battery moved to new position at 0600. N19C 60.36.</p> <p>S.O.S. line same for night 3/4 as for night of 2/3rd</p>	BM/653.
	4/3/17	10.20	<p>Through L.O. Infantry Battalion asked for retaliation on N1B 35 to N2B.14 - In response the 1st Battery fired 42 rds searching + sweeping N1B 35 to N2A 20.45 and 3rd Battery same amount on N2A 20.45 to N2B 10.40 -</p>	BM/660.
		1040	<p>Infantry asked for more retaliation so 1st Bty fired 50 rounds on N1B 9.5 to N2A 6.6 and 3rd Bty same amount on same line. 101st 30 rounds in Brickfields at N2A central.</p>	
		1110	<p>Infantry advised this fire was effective and asked us to keep up undisturbed throughout the day so 2nd Bty instructed to fire 2000. B.F. every 20 minutes on N1B 9.5 to N2A 7.5 & back to N2A 27 to A87. - 2nd Battery ordered to stop at 1530.</p>	
			<p>S.O.S lines for night 4/5 as for previous night; Batteries were instructed accordingly.</p> <p>All batteries in group fired series for calibration purposes.</p>	BM/661.

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Field	9/3/17	1010	<p>1st Aust. Div Art Order No 88 received. and Batteries instructed to be ready to move at early moment. S.O.S. Lines for night 5/6 inst. same as for night 4/5 inst. 1st Aust. Div Art Order No 89 received at 1600 and 1st F.A. Bde Op Order No 41 issued to all Batteries -</p> <p>6/3/17 1st Aust. Div Art No 89 supplementary order received at 1130. and Supplementary issued to 1st F.A. Bde Op Order No 41. to all Batteries - At 1800 Batteries ceased firing and commenced to withdraw to WL's. By 2300 101st 101st and 112th had successfully reached WL's. Owing to difficulty in getting tramway trucks the 2nd Battery did not get to their WL until 0430 on 7th inst. At 0900 Head of column passed starting point (X 29 D 1.2 Albert - 1/40.000). in following order: B.H.Q.; 101st Battery; 1st Battery; 3rd Battery; 2nd Battery. The 112th Battery marched on its own. being over an hour late in starting on account of getting a gun bogged. The Brigade marched via - BECORDEL - ALBERT - MILLENCOURT - HENENCOURT - BRAIZIEUX - BEHENCOURT. where Brigade went into Bivouacs. Brigade had all arrived by 1600. At 1600 - 3rd Battery proceeded to Bivouacs at Esbart. and were attached to 1st ANZAC CORPS. ART. SCHOOL to act as Depot Battery.</p>	<p>1st Aust. Div Art. No 88. 1st Aust. Div Art. No 89.</p>
	7/3/17			
	8/3/17			

2449 Wt. W14957/M90 750,000 1/16 J.B.C. & A. Forms/C.2118/12.

K. Whiston
 Lieutenant 1st F.A. Bgde. A.I.E.F.

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9/3/17 10 31/3/17			<p>1st, 2nd, & 101st Batteries - while in rest at BEHENCOURT, spent time in refitting and training - The days being spent in grooming, exercising horses - digging mud from horse standings and draining them - gun drill - Fuzze setting & Battery gun drill - Driving drill and later Battery manoeuvre. Signalling etc</p> <p>During the period the Brigade showed very considerable improvement and smartened up very considerably.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Richard W.</i> Lieutenant 1st F. A. Bgde. A. I. E. F.</p>	