

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

Artillery

Item number: 13/29/6

Title: Headquarters, 1st Australian Field
Artillery Brigade

May 1915



AWM4-13/29/6

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ANZAC.	1. 5. 15	-	Awaiting orders. All ammunition 15 th and S. AA on charge of 1 st B. A. C. on Transport A 16. Indian sent ashore. At 0600 one gun of 3 rd Bty and 13 dr. horses were sent ashore, in charge of Major King & Lieut Sinclair. The gun detachments & horses remained on shore and the 2 officers were returned to the ship.	M.H.
"	2. 5. 15	-	Oramary routine. Lieut Sinclair 3 rd Bty sent ashore to endeavour to locate gun & detachments of 3 rd Bty. Lieut Playfair & 2 telephonists 1 st Bty sent ashore as F.O.O's for Navy.	Lieut Sinclair returned with one 3 rd Bty. gun and horses & 3 rd Bty personnel.
"	3. 5. 15	-	Capt. Johnstone, Lieut. Walker, and Hold Party of 1 st B. A. Bde disembark. Enemy shell transports in boat. Orders received from Divisional Artillery Headquarters for transports containing 1 st F. A. Bde to proceed to Cape Hellen and to commence disembarkation at 4 am on 4 May. Transports leave for Cape Hellen at midnight.	Lieut Sinclair returned with one 3 rd Bty. gun and horses & 3 rd Bty personnel.
Cape Hellen.	4. 5. 15	-	Lt. Col. Robinson, Capt. Lloyd, and Medical officer arrive on board Transport A 16. "Indian" presentation of Bde Hd-Quo staff and 2 Bty commenced. Horse boat leaves Transport "Indian" for shore at 5 pm. 1 st F. A. Bde Am Bde and personnel of other units not required ashore remain on transports and are returned to Alexandria. Batteries underground near landing place for night.	Lieut Sinclair returned with one 3 rd Bty. gun and horses & 3 rd Bty personnel.
"	5. 5. 15	-	Battalies ordered to take up position under cover at ZIMMERMANS. FARM, South of KRITHIA. Brigade Commander Adjutant, and Battery Commanders reconnoitre position. Brigade commanding observation station established on Hill 200. Telephonic communication established between Div. Hd-Quo, Infantry and Batteries. Zones allotted to Batteries and registration commenced. Infantry supported during night.	Lieut Sinclair returned with one 3 rd Bty. gun and horses & 3 rd Bty personnel.

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OR
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Cape Helles -	6.5.15	-	General forward movement commenced at 11 am. Co's Observation Station transferred to right flank. 1 st Brigade held as Reserve Brigade, Battery Commanders register zones <u>Casualties</u> - Lt. Burchitt - 1 st Battery wounded.	R. G. Hunt
"	7.5.15	-	1 st Battery move forward 200 yds. Registration of zones continued. No forward movement. <u>Casualties</u> - Lt. Hollis and Dr. Warren B.H.Q. wounded.	R. G. Hunt
"	8.5.15	-	1 st Bde. held in reserve. Infantry to advance at 5.30 pm. Steady bombardment commences at 5.20 pm and continued until 7 pm. ^(1st Bde allotted zones extending from windmills to right flank.) Infantry on right and left flanks advance. <u>Casualties</u> - Lt. King 2 nd Bty killed.	R. G. Hunt
"	9.5.15	-	Lt. Col. Christian to hospital suffering from Bronco. Pneumonia. Major Swetland, 1 st Bty to hospital suffering from nervous breakdown. Major G.H.M. King, 3 rd Bty to temporary command of Brigade, Capt H.W. Lloyd to temporary command of 1 st Bty, Lieut. J.H. Newmond to temporary command of 3 rd Bty - Lt. J.K. Cunningham B.H.Q. takes over duty as Acting Adjutant. Batteries register nearest enemy trenches. <u>Casualties</u> - Lt. Allison - 1 st Bty killed.	R. G. Hunt
"	10.5.15	-	Batteries continue registration of enemy trenches. 1 st Battery moved from right flank to position on left flank. One Battery of Brigade detailed for duty - tour of duty - extending from 6 pm to 6 pm following day - Battery for duty "stand by" all night. <u>Casualties</u> B.S.M. Schmidt + B.Q.M.S. Ferguson 3 rd Bty wounded. 3 rd Battery have no duty for night.	R. G. Hunt

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Continued

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Base Halls.	11.5.15	-	No forward movement. Registration continued. 2 nd Battery detailed for duty.	L. H. H. H.
"	12.5.15	-	Batteries allotted 40 pounds per Battery for use on nearest Turkish Trenches. 1 st Battery detailed for duty - during night enemy attack centre of our right, 1 st Bty frustrated attack firing 169 pounds.	L. H. H. H.
"	13.5.15	-	Batteries fire few pounds during day at nearest trenches and hostile guns. 3 rd Bty on duty.	L. H. H. H.
"	14.5.15	-	Few pounds fired at trenches and hostile guns. No forward movement. 2 nd Bty on duty.	L. H. H. H.
"	15.5.15	-	Batteries engage enemy trenches and guns. Enemy shell near of Camp. 18 ⁱⁿ gun No 1218 on charge of 2 nd Bty damaged by enemy shell, and removed to wagon line - no casualties.	L. H. H. H.
"	16.5.15	-	Few pounds fired at trenches and hostile guns during day. 3 rd Bty for duty.	L. H. H. H.
"	17.5.15	-	No forward movement - casualties left. Woods and at B. Lousada B.H.Q wounded. 2 nd Bty for duty.	L. H. H. H.
"	18.5.15	-	Memo received from 29 th Div H.Q. to the effect that 1 Section of the 6 th Bty East Lancs would be attached to 1 st Brigade and were to be employed registering zones, and hostile guns and trenches, thereby saving the expenditure of 18 ⁱⁿ Q.F. ammunition. Kithia is set on fire by enemy. Casualties - Gunner O. J. Taylor B.H.Q. wounded.	L. H. H. H.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Cape Stella	19.5.15	-	Section of East Lane's Bty attached to 3 rd Bty for Nations, etc and "dig in" on right of 3 rd Bty guns, registration by 15 th Section commenced. 3 rd Bty on duty.	L. H. Stein
"	20.5.15	-	Enemy shell pos. of lines. 2 nd Bty on duty	L. H. Stein
"	21.5.15	-	Lt. Col. Christian and Lt. O. Steele return to duty. Lt. Gregory A.S.C. attached to 2 nd Bty and killed 3 others wounded. Memo received from Headquarters re practicing the strictest economy of 15 th 2.F. Ammunition.	L. H. Stein
"	22.5.15	-	15 th Section East Lane's employed in annoying nearest trenches and engaging hostile guns. Lt. O. attends Conference at B.H.Q. Lt. O. Steele attached to 1 st Battery. Batteries fire a few rounds at nearest trenches. Casualties. Lt. Laby, B.H.Q. Lt. E. Olding and Lt. Sturty 2 nd Bty wounded. Memo received that enemy were massing in front of French lines and 1 st Lt. Col. Bae ordered to assist in repelling attack if required. All Batteries warned to "stand by" all night. 2 nd Bty on duty. 15 th guns ordered "out of action" owing to faulty ammunition.	L. H. Stein
"	23.5.15	-	Bae Commander's Observation Post moved from right flank to Hill 200. New lot of 15 th Ammunition received for experimental purposes. Casualties 1 man 3 rd Bty wounded.	L. H. Stein

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1st FA Bn, AIF WAR DIARY

Ass. Adj. General
3rd Echelon. M. E. Form C. 2118.
18 AUG. 1915
CENTRAL REGISTRY
No MFC/

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(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Lape Steels	24/9/15	-	Batteries remain in position firing a few rounds at enemy trenches. Orders received to assist Royal Naval Division at 8.45pm in an advance of about 100yds, the 3 Battery on duty being detailed for this task.	K. Klein
"	25/9/15	-	Batteries fire few rounds during day at trenches and guns. 15th Section engaged registering zones etc.	K. Klein
"	26/9/15	-	Few rounds fired during day by Batteries. Enemy shell near of lines. New Turkish earthworks located and plotted.	K. Klein
"	27/9/15	-	Batteries engaged on hostile gun as they become troublesome. Capt Mc Laughlin 1st Bty and 27 reinforcements arrive. Royal Naval Division advance.	K. Klein
"	28/9/15	-	Enemy Batteries engaged as located. Lt. O. Steel transferred from 1st Bty to 2nd Bty.	K. Klein
"	29/9/15	-	Enemy Battery on ACHI BABA engaged - and certain Turkish trenches indicated by D.W. Hd. Qrs engaged.	K. Klein
"	30/9/15	-	1st Bty ordered to take up new position under cover of darkness and to be ready to register enemy trenches at 9.30am 31.9.15. - 1. 15th gun of East Lancs Section ordered to take up new position in right rear of R.N.D support trenches. Batteries engage certain trenches indicated by C.O. D.W. Art for special attention.	K. Klein
"	31/9/15	-	D.W. Artillery practice concentration of fire at 5pm each Battery allotted 2. pounds for each target. 1st Bty registers first targets from new position.	K. Klein

1st Field Artillery Brigade
Australia

War Diary Extracts
From 1st May to 17th May 1915

1st MAY Brigade on Transport A16 Indian at
KABA TEPE awaiting orders. Lt. Col Christian
Capt H.W. Lloyd, and Medical officers went
ashore previous day. All BAC ammunition
sent ashore. *Alcock*

2nd May. - Ordinary routine. *Alcock*

3rd May - Capt Johnston, Lieut Walker and remainder
of 1st Bde left Paris disembarked. Transport

Alcock shelled, one Collier being hit. Orders
received to proceed from KABA TEPE to CAPE
HELLES and to commence disembarkation at
4am on 4-5-15. Transport left KABA TEPE at

4th May. midnight arrived CAPE HELLES at 4am. Lt. Col
Christian, Capt Lloyd, and Medical officers
arrived on board. 1st Horse Boat leaves

Alcock Indian for disembarkation at 5pm. containing
portion of Bde H.A. Co and 2nd Battery horses
guns and personnel. Bde am. Gen and horses
and personnel not required ashore remain on
Transport Indian. B.H. 2 and 2nd + 3rd Btys
rendezvous near landing place for night

5th May. 1st Bty joins remainder of Brigade. Brigade
Alcock ordered to take up position near cover south
of Krinitia. Bde Commander Laguerre and
Bty Commanders reconnoitre for position.

(2)

Batteries take up position under cover - C.O.'s
Observation Station transferred on Hill

Telephonic communication established between
Infantry, Div Art Hd-qs and Batteries. Bty Commanders
regulate zones allotted. Batteries fire during night.
6th May General forward movement commenced
at 11 am - C.O.'s observation Station transferred to
right flank. 1st Bde held in reserve. Lt Burchell
1st Bty wounded. Battery commanders regulate
zones.

7th May. 1st Battery advances 200 yds - no forward
movement. Lt Hollis + Lt Warren Bty 2 wounded.

8th May 1st Bde held in reserve. General
forward movement commences at 5.30 pm - All
Batteries commence steady bombardment at
5.30 pm and continues until 7 pm. 1st Bde allotted
zones extending from windmill to right flank.
Infantry on left and right advance. Lt King 2nd
Bty killed in action.

9th May Col S & Christina and Major Sweetland
to hospital suffering from Broncho Pneumonia and
General breakdown respectively. Major H M King
3rd Bty to temp command of Bn staff, Capt
H W Lloyd to temp command of 1st Battery,
Lt L K Cunningham acting adjutant, Lt
J H Stewart to act O.C. 3rd Battery. Batteries
remain in position and regulate trenches nearest
infantry. Lt Allison 1st Battery killed in action.

(3)

1st May NO forward movement - Batteries engage enemy trenches. B.S.M. Schmidt and B. S.M. Ferguson 3rd Bty wounded. 1st Bty

shift from right flank to left flank. one Battery detailed for duty each night - 3rd Bty on duty.

1st May. Batteries engage enemy trenches no forward movement. 2nd Bty on duty.

2nd May. Batteries fire 40 rounds per Battery at nearest of enemy trenches.

1st Battery for duty ^{giving night 12/15 Turkish advance on centre of our RIGHT. 1st Battery frustrated attack firing 169 rounds.}

3rd Batteries fire few rounds at enemy trenches and guns. 3rd Bty on duty.

4th NO forward movement. Batteries fire on enemy gun and trenches. 2nd Battery on duty.

5th Batteries engage enemy gun and trenches. Enemy shells near of camp and damage 2nd Battery gun NO 1218 gun removed to wagon line. no casualties. 1st Bty on duty.

6th May Batteries remain in position and engage enemy gun and trenches. 3rd Bty for duty.

7th May - Batteries remain in position, no forward movement. Capt Woods + 13th Lousader Bty 2 wounded. 2nd Bty for duty.

Extract from War Diary

18th May - Batteries in position, 1 Section of East Lancashire Battery attached to 1st Coy of Taylor B.H.Q. wounded. East Lanc's Section attached to 3rd Bty. They are to be used for registering Zones and Enemy gun and trenches to save expenditure of 18^{lbs} of ammunition. 1st Bty on duty. Kintua set on fire.

19th May. Batteries remain in position. The Section of 6th Bty East Lanc's attached to 3rd Bty for rations etc and are now dug in alongside 3rd Bty gun. 3rd Bty on duty.

20th May. Enemy shell near of lines. Batteries remain in position. 2nd Bty on duty.

21st May. Batteries remain in position. Lt Col S.E. Christian and Lieut O.H.L. Steele to duty. 1 man killed and 3 men of 2nd Bty wounded in wave line by shell fire. Memo received from D.H.Q. re strictest economy of ammunition 18^{lbs}.

22nd May - Batteries remain in position. Batteries fire a few rounds at nearest trenches. 15th Section East Lanc's employed engaging enemy gun and annoying trenches, gun out of action late owing to faulty shooting. Co attend "pow wow" at D.H.Q. Lt Steele to duty 1st Bty.

22 May contd.

Lt E. A. O'Leary and Lt Stutz 2nd Bty wounded, Lt Fahy B.A.Q. wounded. The enemy reported working in front of trench. 1st Bde ordered to assist in repelling attack if required. Battery Commander stand by all night expecting an attack. 1st Bty on duty.

23rd May. Bde Commander Observation Station

moved from Right flank to Hill 200. New lot of 15^{pr} Ammunition received for experimental purposes. 1 man 3rd Bty wounded.

24th May. Batteries remain in position firing few rounds at enemy trenches. Orders received

by 1st Bde to be ready to assist R.N.O. at 8.45^{pm} to move forward about 100 yds. Battery on duty instructed accordingly.

25th May.

Batteries remain in position firing few rounds at nearest trenches. 15^{pr} Section employed against zone etc.

26th May. Batteries fire few rounds. NO

forward movement. Enemy shell near of camp. New Turkish earthwork located & plotted.

27th May. Batteries remain in position and engage enemy Batteries as they become troublesome. Capt Mc Laughlin 1st Bty arrived with 27 reinforcements. R.N.D. advance.

28th May. Lieut H.L. Steele transferred from 1st Battery to 2nd Battery. Batteries remain in position and engage enemy batteries as they are located.

29th May. Batteries remain in position. Enemy Batteries on ACHI. BABA engaged. Certain trenches indicated by G.O. Div. Art engaged.

30th May. G.O. Reconnoitres new position for 1st Battery. 1st Battery ordered to take up new position under cover of darkness and to dig in. Made to register enemy trenches at 9.30am 31. 5.15. 1.15pm of East Lancashire Section under command of 1st Battery Officers ordered to take up position on the rear right of R.N.D. support trench. Batteries fire at enemy trenches indicated by G.O. Div Artillery for special attention.

31st May. 1st Battery registers fresh targets. Sp. Div Artillery practice concentration of fire etc each Battery firing 2 rounds at each target.