

AWM4

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

Artillery

Item number: 13/30/12

Title: Headquarters, 2nd Australian Field
Artillery Brigade

November 1915



AWM4-13/30/12

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.

WAR DIARY

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Vol. No. 2nd Field Artillery B^{ty}
Sheet No. 1st Div. A I F

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ANZAC	1915		Throughout the day the enemy fired 49 shrapnel - distributing same along our fire trenches - fire came from unlocated guns, & searching & sweepings rounds were fired in retaliation with desired effect. During the day the 5 th & 8 th Btys were instructed to simultaneously engage an observation station located the previous day - 20 rounds were fired & O.S. demolished. Casualties nil - Sick evacuated nil.	
ANZAC	2-11-15		Enemy's guns - all unlocated - were more active today having fired 67 rounds, engaging 6th Bty guns, 4th Bty guns, & principally on fire trenches at Johnston's Gully. 116 rounds were fired in retaliation at positions where guns were suspected to be & a proportion on to enemy's fire trenches. Our gun pits were more or less damaged by hostile fire but "penaway" or "gun" pits for guns & the fact of guns of 6th & 4th Btys being therein - saved the guns from damage. Casualties nil (one man was slightly wounded but was not serious enough for hospital). Sick evacuated by M.O. - 1.	

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ANZAC	3/11/15		68 retaliation rounds were fired by 5 th 6 th & 8 th Batteries to 37 Shrapnel & 6 Howitzer from hostile guns in indirect & unlocation positions - Very little damage was done by enemy's fire & a few rounds from our guns - each time the enemy opened fire had the effect of silencing his guns for the time being. otherwise the day passed off quietly. Major Lucas having reported for duty at Anzac was attached to & to command 4 th Bty. Casualties nil - Sick 3.	
ANZAC	4/11/15		Day exceptionally quiet - only 6 rounds fired by hostile guns to which our guns quickly replied effectively. Three small working parties were dispersed by our shell fire - otherwise all was quiet. Casualties nil - Sick evacuated 1.	
ANZAC	5/11/15		Today was a comparatively quiet one, usual intermittent shell fire - 5-8 being fired on our position with very little effect & 63 effective rounds fired in retaliation. Casualties nil - Sick nil.	

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ANZAC	6/11/15	0645	The enemy gun which has been so troublesome & fired from the direction of the Sand Pit was located & engaged by the 8 th Bty - Observation was good & shells were observed falling right into the spurs - the gun did not fire again.	
		1510	Hostile aeroplane flew over & dropped three bombs (2 into the Sea & 1 on unoccupied ground) Our anti-aircraft gun fired two rounds well aimed - Aeroplane left hurriedly. At intervals during the day 5 or 6 rounds of Shrapnel at a time were fired on our Lone Pine trenches by 3 unlocated guns & Sand Pit gun very little inconvenience was caused & on each occasion our 18 pounders immediately retaliated on to enemy trenches & earthworks. Light traffic was observed, engaged & dispersed in Mule tracks. One Casualty - a runner of 5 th Bty received severe shrapnel wound in abdomen two others were evacuated sick by orders of M.O.	
ANZAC	7/11/15		During the day 56 Shrapnel & 14 Howitzer shells were fired on various points of our position by indirect & unlocated guns, to which our guns briskly replied - Searching & sweeping & engaging enemy trenches - 95 rounds fired in retaliation with desired effect. A large trench mortar was observed firing which was engaged by 5 th Bty & silenced. Casualties hit - 1 man evacuated sick	

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ANZAC	8/11/15		Two machine guns, having been located, were engaged with excellent effect in both cases. 2 small working parties were fired on & dispersed - otherwise the day was quiet. Casualties nil - Sick 14.	
ANZAC	9/11/15		Another quiet day - enemy firing only 10 Shrapnel to which our guns fired 11 in reply - fire trenches being engaged in both cases. One casualty - a gunner of the Ammunition Column being slightly wounded 4 men were evacuated Sick	
ANZAC	10/11/15		The 6 th Bty having changed their position from Cluyfers Plateau to that previously held by the 8 th Bty - handed over the Hotchkiss gun (in position on Russell Top) to 1 st Brigade. During the day the enemy fired approximately 50 rounds on to Walters Ridge & 44 on various other points of our position & gave attention also to traffic on our beach - firing thereon - intermittently from daylight till dark. Enemy's guns are well placed - & concealed from aeroplane observation the positions of which we cannot definitely locate & thus have to do a great deal of searching & sweeping when firing in retaliation. Casualties nil. Sick nil.	

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ANZAC	11/11/15		Twenty two Shrapnel were fired by hostile guns on various parts of our trenches without doing any material damage, to which our 18 pdrs. briskly retaliated. A machine gun position was indicated by means of our infantry rifle fire - Three rounds of H.E. demolished the emplacement. No further movement was observed & no further action took place during the day as far as artillery is concerned. Casualties nil - Sick 2.	
ANZAC	12/11/15		Additional forward observing posts (for night observers) were established on Russell Top & at Popes Hill for Artillery officers - principally to assist infantry Commanders in deciding on what are ^{to be} considered suitable targets for artillery to engage at night.	
		0940	What was apparently a reconnoitering party of eight officers ^{of the enemy} - was observed near a position of which a registration had some weeks previously been made. One round of time shrapnel fired by 5 th Bty. burst effectively. One of these officers was seen to fall, others appeared to be wounded, while the balance bolted. No other artillery fire took place during the day. Casualties nil - Sick nil	
ANZAC	13/11/15		Exceedingly quiet day - Casualties nil, Sick 2.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ANZAC	14/11/15		No more than the complete demolition of a large Sandbag emplacement behind which - machine guns were fired from - nothing of any importance happened on this day - Hostile artillery fire was particularly quiet. One gunner was wounded severely & 1 slightly - who, with one sick man, were evacuated by order of M.O.	
✓	15/11/15	1100	A heavy gun - hostile - fired for the first time from a Southerly Direction - 3 rounds were observed to fall into Turkish territory on the Chessboard & on their own trenches at head of Monast fully only one round fell on unoccupied ground within our own lines. No further firing from this gun took place during the day. From unlocated & various positions 40 Shrapnel were fired during the day on to Walters Ridge & on positions of 4 th & 5 th Batteries. The same number of rounds were fired in retaliation on to enemy's trenches. Wounded nil - Sick 1 - evacuated.	
✓	16/11/15		Between 1500 & 1630 the enemy's shrapnel burst over Russell Top in more or less vigorous bursts of fire, to which the 5 th & 6 th batteries fired on various objectives in retaliation - Casualties nil - Sick 2.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ANZAC	17/11/15		At 1.0 am At the request of ofc Infantry on Popes Defence - the 4 th Bty engaged 2 trench mortars that were proving troublesome - Only 3 rounds were fired which had the effect of silencing the enemy trench mortars for the remainder of the night. The day was again quiet - nothing of any importance to relate. Casualties nil - Sick evacuated 2.	
✓	18/11/15		Only 10 rounds were fired by hostile guns to which our guns briskly retaliated. Hostile Air Craft flew over at noon dropping 4 bombs without doing any damage. Casualties nil - Sick nil.	
✓	19/11/15	1550	The 5 th & 6 th batteries simultaneously engaged enemy observation station - practically demolishing same. An hour later the enemy vigorously shelled Popes & Steeles Post - firing in all 40 rounds & doing a lot of damage to parapets etc. Our guns fired 65 Shrapnel in retaliation with good effect - engaging in most cases the enemy fire trenches - earthworks & communication trenches. 1 gunner was wounded & with 1 sick man, was evacuated to hospital.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ANZAC	20/11/15	0705	Two machine gun emplacements were engaged by 5 th Bty & emplacements demolished. These guns were located during the night & at daylight were indicated by infantry to gunners by means of concentrated rifle fire. Hostile aircraft flew over twice during the day each time were shelled at by our anti aircraft gun with the effect of driving airman away. Otherwise day was quiet. Casualties nil - Sick 1.	
✓	21/11/15		A few small working parties at odd intervals were observed & shelled with good effect, during the day - otherwise all quiet. Casualties nil - Sick 1 evacuated by M.O.	
✓	22/11/15		Exceptionally quiet day - Casualties nil - Sick 1.	
✓	23/11/15		The day has been quiet over Brigade zone. The majority of rounds fired were in retaliation to enemy activities on other zones. Casualties nil - Sick nil.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ANZAC	24/11/15		No activity worth recording Casualties nil - Sick nil	
✓	25/11/15		All spare vehicles - equipment etc that could possibly be dispensed with were sent to beach to be embarked for Mudros for the winter Two Turkish Officers exposed themselves & appeared to be taking observations - one well directed shell - & they appeared no more. Hostile artillery very silent - another quiet day. Casualties nil - 1 farmer killed, 1 severely & 1 slightly wounded whilst embarking vehicles etc - no sick.	
✓	26/11/15		At points along the firing line where the enemy may reasonably expect an attack to be launched against him - precautions are being taken by the Turks to substantially strengthen his barbed wire entanglements - Such work being carried out under cover of darkness. Hostile artillery was fairly active today - in all about 80 shrapnel were directed against various points of our trenches. ^{as per} Instructions from our H.Q. no reply was made by our guns. Not a single round was fired by our artillery all day although many targets presented themselves - Casualties nil - Sick 3.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ANZAC	27/11/15		H. G. instructed that no artillery fire was to take place unless under very pressing circumstances. No rounds were fired during the day & only 33 Shrapnel were fired over our position by the Turks. Casualties nil, Sick 4.	
✓	28/11/15		The silence of our guns was continued during the day in accordance with instruction from Div Artillery H. G. Very little hostile artillery fire took place - the day being particularly quiet. Casualties nil - Sick nil.	
✓	29/11/15		During the morning (between 0908 & 1245) the enemy bombarded our Lone Pine position - doing considerable damage to tunnels & trenches. At 1214 the Turks were observed massing opposite South east angle of Lone Pine - but no attack eventuated (Shells varying in size from 11 inch to 10 pdr & innumerable were poured in on this position) 106 rounds were fired in retaliation by 5 th & 6 th Batteries on to enemy trenches - their guns being invisible. Casualties 1 - Sick nil.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
30/11/15 ANZAC			The enemy's gun fire over this Brigade's zone was not very great great - but retaliation for enemy fire was briskly carried out by our 18 pdrs. Lieut J.W. Sexton was severely wounded by a bomb exploding in his dug out - during the night. About 75 shells fired from unlocated 75 M.M. guns were fired by the enemy during the day most of which were directed on to our infantry trenches. Casualties - 1 officer & 1 runner wounded & together with 3 sick were evacuated by M.O.	
<u>M. Edwards</u> Capt Adj. 2nd Brigade A.F.A. <u>Anzac</u>				