

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

Artillery

Item number: 13/63/1

Title: Heavy Battery, 1st Australian Division

July 1915



AWM4-13/63/1

WAR DIARY

Vol. I

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.~~

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Heavy Battery, 1st Aust Div

Army Form C. 2118.
 Ass. Adj. General
 3rd Echelon. M. E. F.
 9 AUG 1915
 CENTRAL REGISTRY
 No MFC/
 Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information
ANZAC	14-7-15		<p>Provisional formation of a Heavy Battery, 1st Australian Division - Equipment to consist of one 4.7" gun and two 6" Howitzers. The following officers provisionally appointed - Major C.S.N. Miles (to command) from A.F.A., Captain G.M. Crick, R.M.L.I., Lieut Wb. Hughes-Hallett, R.G.A., Lieut. E.W. Richards A.F.A., Lieut. H.J. F. Coe, A.F.A., Lieut. S.J. Walker, A.F.A.</p> <p>Personnel to be as follows - R.G.A. to provide detachment for one 6" Howitzer and the majority of the battery staff; remainder of the personnel to be drawn from the A.F.A.</p> <p>Establishment of the battery to be - 1 Major, 1 Captain, 3 Lieutenants, 1 Battery Sergeant Major, 1 Battery Quartermaster Sergeant, 3 Sergeants, 5 Corporals, 5 Bombardiers, and 60 Gunners.</p>
"	15-7-15		<p>The following joined - Major Miles, Lt. Coe and 48 other ranks A.F.A.; Lt. Hughes-Hallett and 24 other ranks R.G.A. - Lt. Goomey from 3rd Aust. Bde. attached in charge of 4.7" detachment pending arrival of Lt. Richards. R.S.M. (W.I.) Hepburn, R.G.A. attached as instructor and to act as sergeant major - Twelve men 3rd Bde. Amm. Coln. attached for instruction.</p> <p>During day detachment A.F.A. was drilled on two 6" Howitzer. Work was</p>

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Heavy Battery, 1st Aust. Div.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ANZAC	15-7-15	-	carried on at the emplacement for the 4.7" gun. Alteration was made to platform for no 1 6" Howitzer (manned by R.G.A.). G. Chester was sent to hospital sick.	CGM
"	16-7-15	-	Instruction continued for detachment of no 2 6" Howitzer, and work carried on at 4.7" emplacement. Sgt Bugeja to hospital sick.	CGM
"	17-7-15	-	4.7" gun moved into emplacement.	CGM
"	18-7-15	1915	Fired two rounds from no 1 6" Howitzer at OLIVE GROVE guns. G. Gerrans to hospital sick.	CGM
"	19-7-15	-	Lewis Walker joined. Two telephonists from Infantry attached.	CGM
"	"	1915	Fired four rounds from no 2 6" Howitzer at SAND PIT guns.	CGM
"	20-7-15	1830	Fired nine rounds from no 1 6" Howitzer at OLIVE GROVE guns. Grs Longstaff, Bugeja, Draper and Tricker to hospital sick.	CGM
"	21-7-15	-	Sgt Bugeja returned from hospital. No firing carried out.	CGM
"	22-7-15	-	no firing carried out.	CGM
"	23-7-15	1605	Fired one round from no 1 6" Howitzer at left section OLIVE GROVE guns which	CGM

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~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

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Heavy Battery, 1st Aust. Div.

1-3

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ANZAC	23-7-15		had been firing at the monitor. This round appeared effective as the gun stopped, so no more rounds were fired.	C. G. M.
"	24-7-15	1910	Fired five rounds from no. 1 6" Howitzer at right section OLIVE GROVE but could not estimate effect. Nominal roll of battery approved, and establishment now complete except for a Sergeant Major; W. O. Hepburn R. G. acting as S.M. in interim. Sgt Bruner to hospital ship sick.	C. G. M.
"	25-7-15	1815.	Fired three rounds from no. 1 6" Howitzer at right section OLIVE GROVE guns; rounds appeared to fall in right line but gun still continued firing. Aeroplane observation then obtained; first round fired at 1920 and observation sent through was "Range Correct, right 30 yards"; a second round was then fired but no observation was received from aeroplane only message stating that it was returning. A no. 7 dial sight was obtained for the 4.7" and during the day was fitted to the bracket by the artificers; this was a great improvement on the dial sight sent with the gun.	C. G. M.

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~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

Heavy Battery, 1st Aust. Div.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ANZAC	26-7-15	1235	Fired one round from No 1 6" Howitzer at right section OLIVE GROVE guns - These guns then stopped so no more rounds were fired.	
		1810	Fired four rounds from 4.7" at Head Quarters guns (reverse 47 M3) - These were the first rounds fired from the 4.7"; first round was fired with drag shoes on and gun recoiled about 8 inches; it was found very difficult to traverse with drag shoes and work was slow, also traversing gear was very slow so drag shoes were taken off; the gun recoiled about three feet but drill was very much quicker so it was decided not to use the drag shoes; sand bags behind trail were used where space limited the recoil.	
		1955	Three rounds fired from 4.7" at transport on GREEN PLATEAU; these appeared effective but it was too dark to see actual results. Sgt. Pearce to hospital sick.	Belly
"	27-7-15	0940	Fired three rounds from No 1 6" Howitzer at right section OLIVE GROVE guns. 1720 Left section OLIVE GROVE and Head Quarters guns were firing at warships, so both 6" Howitzers were turned out to OLIVE GROVE and the 4.7" out to Head Quarters No 1 6" fired two rounds, No 2 6" four rounds and the 4.7" six rounds, and	

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Heavy Battery, 1st Aust. Div.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ANZAC	27-7-15		all appeared to be effective as the guns stopped firing.	
		1840	Fired three rounds from no 2 6" Howitzer at right section OLIVE GROVE guns.	C. G. M.
"	28-7-15	0840	Fired two rounds from no 1 6" Howitzer at right section OLIVE GROVE guns.	
		1840	Fired two ^{four} rounds from no 2 6" Howitzer at right section OLIVE GROVE guns.	
		1930	Fired two rounds from no 1 6" Howitzer at right section OLIVE GROVE guns.	
			On each occasion shell appeared to burst in correct line but it is impossible to state whether elevation was correct.	
"	29-7-15	1620	Fired two rounds from 4.7" at troops drilling in square 50 Sq, estimated at about 500 infantry. First round fell on cliff to left of troops and most of the troops immediately doubled into valley; second shot fell in valley and should have done some damage.	C. G. M.
			Sgt Davis, Jr. Casdown to hospital wounded; Sgt Bugeja to hospital sick.	
"	30-7-15		Moved to new observation station near BROWNES DIP. no firing carried out. Lt. Vince to hospital sick.	C. G. M.

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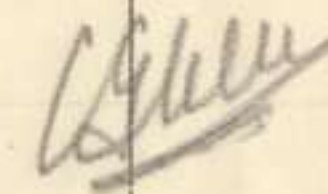
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Heavy Battery, 1st Aust. Div.

1-5

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ANZAC	31-7-15	1650	<p>Fired six rounds from 4.7" gun at CAMEL HOUSE (48Z2). A number of people, apparently officers, had been seen to collect at this place as the majority of them rode up, and when they dismounted their horses were taken some little distance away. After the third and fourth shots, which fell beyond the house, small parties were seen running away from the house and over the crest; the horses had by this time disappeared in a valley. It is impossible to state whether any actual damage was done, but it is possible that one or two of the shots that fell in the valley just beyond the house may have found some of the horses, or the officers who ran away in that direction. No movement was seen after the fourth round but two more rounds were fired to accurately register this target.</p> <p>apt. Bugeja to hospital sick.</p>	
			<p>G. Miller Major O.C. Heavy Battery</p>	