

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

Artillery

**Item number:** 13/33/11

**Title:** Headquarters, 5th Australian Field  
Artillery Brigade

October 1916



AWM4-13/33/11



**CONFIDENTIAL.**

ORIGINAL.  
DUPLICATE.  
TRIPLICATE.

**Australian Imperial Force.**

**WAR DIARY**

OF

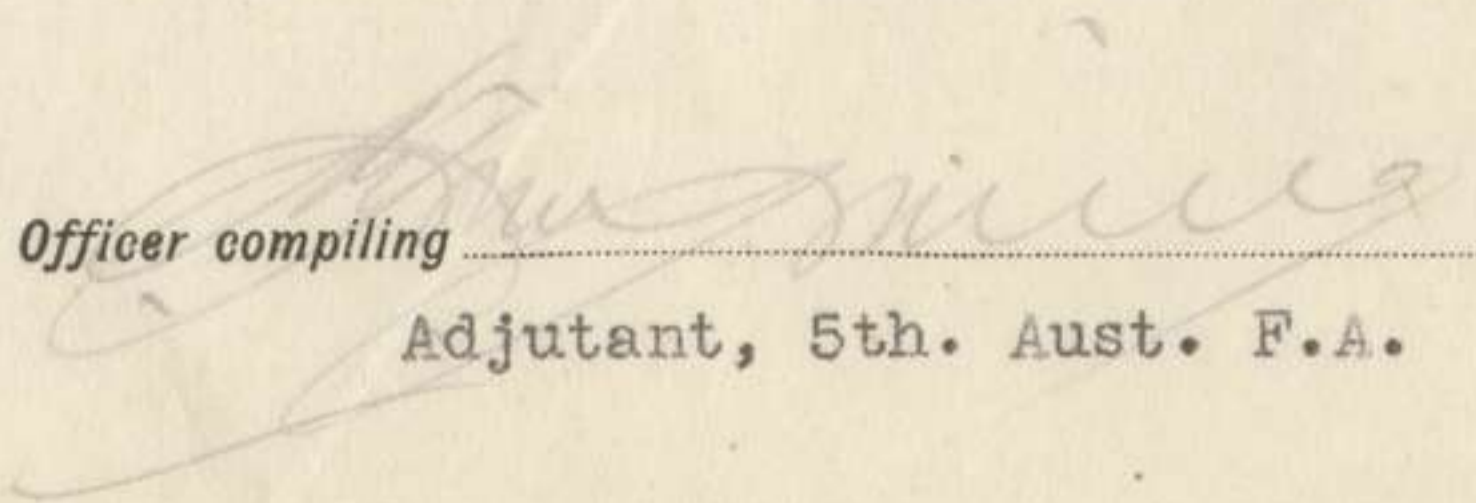
FIFTH AUSTRALIAN FIELD ARTILLERY BRIGADE

FOR

OCTOBER.

1916

Signature of Officer compiling



Lieut.

Adjutant, 5th. Aust. F.A. Brigade.

Signature of Officer Commanding

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## 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
YPRES.	1.10.16		Enemy Artillery very quiet. 15th. and 14th. Batteries registered on enemy trench in centre group sector for a future raid.	
	2.10.16		Enemy Artillery still inactive. About 40 shots in this Area during last 24 hours.	
	3.10.16		105th. fired 60 rounds. Enemy retaliation practically nil.	
	4.10.16		30 rounds fired in retaliation for some heavy shelling on our right. Bad weather made shooting on Machine Guns, etc. impossible. Major H.D.K. MACARTNEY, O.C., 15th. Battery promoted Lt.-Colonel to Command 7th. A.F.A. Brigade, 3rd. Aust. Div. Capt. HATTON posted Temporary Command 15th. Battery.	
	5.10.16		1916 rounds fired in conjunction with raid by 19th. Battalion on I.30.b.05.85. Suspected Battery Position at I.30.d.4.0. fired on by 15th. Battery also a position in rear of this. Machine Guns and Trench Mortar Positions fired on.	
	6.10.16		20 rounds fired by 14th. Battery in retaliation for a few shells fired on our front line by enemy. Weather still unsettled.	
	7.10.16		Weather bad.	
	8.10.16		Enemy artillery more active. Our retaliation was directed on known M.Guns and T.Mortar Emplacements. 160 rounds fired.	
	9.10.16		Some enemy Trench Mortars shelled again today. 15th. and 14th. Batteries covered Trench Mortars' registration. Enemy T. Mortars very active.	
	10.10.16		Enemy T. Mortars successfully engaged by 14th. Battery, 2 of which were silenced. Enemy retaliation practically nil.	
	11.10.16		Very quiet day. Decrease in ammunition supply. Enemy quiet also.	



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YPRES.	12.10.16		Two Trench Mortar emplacements engaged and silenced.	
	13.10.16		Some registration for a future raid was done by 18-pounder Batteries also a sniper's post and M. Gun were engaged. 160 rounds were fired as cover to our T. Mortar registration on all known M. Gun and T. Mortar positions.	
	14.10.16		Our Barrages were checked by C.O.	
	15.10.16		6.30 p.m. A raid was made on enemy trenches, Railway Embankment in I.30.b.6.4. Artillery engaged was controlled by C.O. Right Group. Enemy barrage along his own parapet blocked the raiders. 9.30 p.m. The Right Group relieved the Left Group of 1st. Aust. Div. and Centre Group relieved us at the BUND. Our Batteries are distributed thus :- 13th. Battery → Left Group 14th. Battery Centre Group; Right Group made up of 15th. 16th. 17th. 18th. and 105th. Batteries. Relief completed by 9.30 p.m. Our zone now I.30.c.5.0. to I.35.a.3.5.	
	16.10.16		Registrations checked by all Batteries. Enemy quiet. Weather bad.	
	17th to 18.10.16.		Weather bad. Ballot for Referendum on Conscription carried out.	
	19.10.16		Weather bad.	
	20.10.16		Weather bad.	
	21.10.16		Relief of one Section per Battery by Territorials commenced 6 p.m. and Section withdrawn to their Wagon Lines.	
CASSEL.	22.10.16		Sections relieved proceeded to billets near CASSEL en avance.	
CLERQUES.	27.10.16		Marched from CLERQUES and entrained at ST. OMER for SOMME. 1st. Unit leaving at 7 p.m. and last at 4 a.m.	



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BUSSY.	28.10.16		Detrained at SALEUX (Map AMIENS) and two Batteries at LONGEAU and marched to billets at BUSSY. Received orders that Brigade was to move to 'A' Area near DERNANCOURT at 8.30 a.m. on 29th.	
DERNANCOURT.	29.10.16		Moved as ordered and arrived at Camp at 1p.m. Mud deep and raining heavily, billeted in huts.	
	30.10.16		One Section of each Battery was ordered to the Line to relieve Batteries of 187th. Bde. R.F.A. at S.11.d. (ALBERT). They moved at 8.30 a.m. C.O. and Battery Commanders left at 7.30 a.m. to reconnoitre positions. Guns and ammunition were taken over at positions.	
FLERS.	31.10.16		Remainder of Batteries left at 6.30 a.m. also H.Q. Staff. As on previous day traffic on MAMETZ Road was blocked for 7 hours owing to lack of traffic arrangements. Batteries all arrived eventually and relief was completed at 4.30 p.m. at which time we took over defence of Line from N.20.a.35.52 to N.14.c.05.17. (Sheet 57 SW 1) Ammunition allowance being 280 rounds per day for each 18-pounder Battery and 150 rounds for Hows. The Positions are very bad and the ammunition supply difficult as owing to mud no wagons can approach Battery Positions, hence pack horses are utilised. Supply of rations is bad. Owing to traffic on approaches ration wagons are blocked for hours. Mud and continual rain makes traffic a difficult problem.	