

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

Artillery

**Item number:** 13/33/4

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

March 1916



AWM4-13/33/4

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ORIGINAL.  
~~DUPLICATE.~~  
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Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

OF

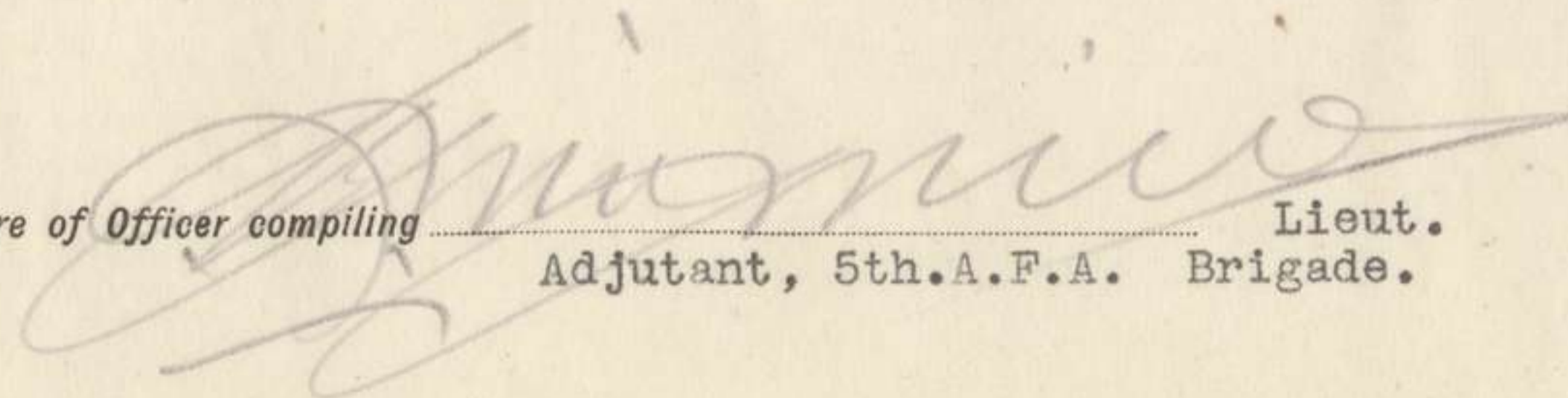
FIFTH AUSTRALIAN FIELD ARTILLERY BRIGADE

FOR

MARCH

191<sup>6</sup>

Signature of Officer compiling



Lieut.  
Adjutant, 5th.A.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.

or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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(Erase heading not required.)

Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ISMAELIA.	1.3.16		C.O. visited selected Battery Positions and O.P's and is now satisfied. Captain STOKES and Lieuts. PRYOR, and DREYER off strength to new 5th. Divisional Artillery. Lieut. L.E. BEAVIS has been appointed acting Adjutant.	
	2.3.16		Lieut. MARTIN off strength to join 4th. Divisional Artillery. Capt. J. KNEESHAW off strength to new Howitzer Brigade.	
	4.3.16		Lieut. R.E. FANNING on strength and to command 14th. Battery.	
AUSTRALIA HILL.	6.3.16		Practice shooting by all Batteries from the 13th. Battery Position commenced at 9 a.m. each Battery fired 3 series and Brigade completed by 4 p.m.	
	7.3.16		Practice shooting by all Batteries from the 16th. Battery Position commenced at 9 a.m. Each Battery fired 4 series and completed by 4.30 p.m. Guns, Stores, etc. complete were handed over to New Zealand Artillery in Position.	
MOASCAR.	8.3.16		Whilst the Batteries were in Position at Australia Hill the 5th. F.A.B.A.C., moved camp from FERRY POST to MOASCAR. All Batteries reported to this camp from Positions. We now have only horses and harness. All other ranks were inoculated for paratyphoid.	
	9.3.16		5th. B.A.C. now forms the 20th. Battery. Reinforcements on strength to form new B.A.C. Capt. GRAINGER, Lieut's O.L.J. STEELE, LENAHAN M.J. and B.M. and FULLERTON ANDREW off strength.	
	10.3.16		Horses and harness issued to fully equip the 20th. Battery and the new B.A.C.	
	11.3.16		Small or P.H. Gas Helmets issued to all ranks. Lieut's R.L. GIBBONS and McDONALD on strength from Light Horse.	
	12.3.16		Lieut. RICHARDS on strength from Light Horse.	
	13.3.16		Signalling and Foot Drill being carried out daily.	

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MOASCAR.	14.3.16		Sgt. W.O. JACKSON (who came from 1st. Div. Artillery) and Lieut. A. SHERRINGTON promoted 2/lieuts, and posted to Batteries. Lieut's G.L. DEAN and JOLLY on strength from 6th. A.F.A. Brigade.	
	15.3.16		General Sir W.R. BIRDWOOD visited the camp.	
	17.3.16.		The 13th. Battery entrained for ALEXANDRIA en route for MARSEILLES, they are taking most of the horses and are going on a horse boat.	
	18.3.16		H.R.H. The Prince of Wales and Gen Sir W.R. BIRDWOOD visited the camp. All troops fell in at the head of their lines and cheered the Prince as he passes. During the evening the Brigade assembled at MOASCAR Station and entrained for ALEXANDRIA leaving at midnight. Other ranks travelled in open trucks and officers in covered trucks. Light rain fell during the trip but the spirits of all were at their highest in looking forward to the trip to FRANCE.	
ALEXANDRIA.	19.3.16		Arrived at 8 a.m. The 13th. Battery embarked on board H.M.T. "S.S. Haverford" and the remainder of the Brigade on H.M.T. "S.S. Minnewaska"	
	20.3.16		Sailed at 10 a.m. Guards mounted and every precaution taken against submarine attack.	
AT SEA.	21.3.16 to		Excitement prevailed during the trip on receiving a wireless message that the H.M.T. "S.S. Mineapolis" (sister ship to "Minewaska") was torpedoed within 10 hours of us.	
	23.3.16			
MARSEILLES.	24.3.16		Arrived at 4 p.m. The horses of other units on board the "Minewaska" were unloaded, also our baggage. All ranks remained on board during the night, no leave available.	
	25.3.16		The Brigade except the 13th. Battery left by trains at 2 p.m and 7 p.m. for LE HAVRE. The journey by train although a long one proved most interesting and was beautiful, passing through RHONE Valley and arriving at LE HAVRE during the night and early morning of .	
LE HAVRE.	28.3.16		Disentrained and marched to No. 1 Camp. Very wet, cold and muddy. Tents only were available, and the camp site being on the top of a hill overlooking the sea was open to all the weather.	

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LE HAVRE.	29.3.16 to 31.3.16		<p>Very wet and muddy weather experienced, a great contrast to EGYPT. All Batteries and B.H.Q. kept very busy drawing Guns, wagons, stores and equipment from the British Ordnance Depot. A very strong wind raised the camp to the ground. Advanced parties of Gun detachments under Lieut's R.C. OSBORNE and R.V. DIAMOND proceeded to the Line and joined 2 R.F.A. Batteries for experience at HOUPLINES and the vicinity of <del>M</del>ARMENTIERES.</p>	