

**AWM4**

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

Artillery

**Item number:** 13/67/9

**Title:** 5th Battery, Australian Field Artillery

December 1915



AWM4-13/67/9

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

5TH BTY. 2ND F.A. BDE. A.I.F.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ANZAC	1 <sup>st</sup> Dec 1915	-	Weather improving, snow slid on the ground. Popes Hill shelled, so we retaliated, on the CHESSBOARD doing a good deal of damage to the Turks entanglements. Genl Godley inspected the Battery position. Some shells from OLIVE GROVE burst on Battery Hill one of which went through roof of a dug-out and badly wounded 1 man (O.C.'s 3 <sup>rd</sup> Bofman) Gm Trench. Ration and water still short. Ration are difficult to transport on account of weather. 65 rounds fired.	MA
do	2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec 1915	-	Fine warmer, only patches of snow left. OLIVE GROVE gun very busy. Some Infantry men went away through frost-bite. Trip to hospital ship appear to be constant, but ships have been away during bad weather. Tubs erected, flags on their forward trenches. A bombardment suspected. Ration a little short and water half issue. 9 rounds fired.	MA
do	3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec 1915	-	Slight shower, all snow now gone. One officer ordered to remain at POPES HILL as F.O.O. all day night in future. OLIVE GROVE guns again busy & shelled into SHRAPNEL VALLEY. 28 rounds fired.	MA
do	4 <sup>th</sup> Dec 1915	-	Fine day. OLIVE GROVE guns still busy & burst one shell into water tank in SHRAPNEL VALLEY. Fired at obscur N. of COLLINS ST. who retaliated to 2 & 3 guns without effect. Issue of rations better, and a little bread issued. A good deal of shell fire sent to WHITES VALLEY. 33 rounds fired.	MA
do	5 <sup>th</sup> do	-	Mid day OLIVE GROVE guns a little quiet. Canteen store brought at IMBROS arrived. First good lot we have ever been able to get. 2 & 3 again fired at by 75 mm battery concealed doing no damage. 3 rounds fired.	MA
do	6	-	Fine sunny day, at 1030 submarine reported off GABATEPE so guns turned around and got ready. But it was not seen again. OLIVE GROVE quite than usual but cruise fired at. German plane over. rather more cheerful.	MA

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ANZAC	6 <sup>th</sup> Dec 15		than usual. 1 NCO. (Whelan Sgt Rloyd) evacuated sick. 26 rounds fired.	M
do	7 <sup>th</sup> Dec 15	0600 1430	1 NCO. (Sgt. R W McHenry) returned from hospital. Junk 75 <sup>th</sup> Battery fired at No 2 (C ent) firing about 50 rounds HE. 2 rounds put into embrasure but beyond damage to sand bags did no harm. Gun was out of pic and safe. No 4 replied to the battery observation station and prevented observation. He also retaliated at CHESSBOARD and cut out a good deal of entanglements. 65 rounds fired.	M
do	8 <sup>th</sup> Dec 15		A new small gun ranged on north end of beach but could not get down to a useful place. Some large how. shells fired on to McCamp ridge & Brown Dip. 13 rounds fired.	M
do	9 <sup>th</sup> Dec 15		Fine day & quiet. at 1530 German plane over dropped 2 bombs which did not explode. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieut. Wallin & Rloyd promoted to Plint. 29 rounds fired.	M
do	10 <sup>th</sup> Dec 15		Fine mid day - at 1120 a 4 funneled Cruiser (Barracuda type) 2 torpedoes proof Cruiser, and 2 monitors, accompanied by destroyer & trawler fired 50 12 inch, 100 9.2 inch, and 250 6 inch rounds at OLIVE GROVE. It was a splendid sight and cheered up all at Anzac. The Junk on the right all used periscopes to water effect. This series lasted 3/4 of an hour. at conclusion a 4.2 inch gun fired at the beach but not from the OLIVE GROVE.	M
do	do.	1800	Orders received for 2 guns 1 officer & 20 men to leave and embark tomorrow night. No destination or reason furnished. 25 rounds fired.	M
do	11 <sup>th</sup> Dec 15		Balloon on SS 'Manuka' observing at SUVLA. Guns have not fired from OLIVE GROVE yet. at 1900 Left Section left and embarked with 2 guns of this Battery and 13 other during night. Black shells at about 15 minute interval all night. Mostly at BRIGHTON.	M

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ANZAC	12 <sup>th</sup> Dec 1915	1530	6 <sup>th</sup> Battery searched for Gun on KOJA CHEMEN TEPE. which brought some retaliation to which we replied, and probably destroyed main entanglement & wire netting than ever before.	M
do	do	1700	a 4.2 gun like one of the OLIVE GROVE gun fired to beach from a position which seemed further inland and bigger range. only a few rounds. Gun fired day. Beach still shelled all night. <del>Water gun position this is point</del>	M
do	13 <sup>th</sup> Dec 1915	-	<del>Person badly wounded at Ross</del> 1345 The premature with a H.E. shell occurred but it burst outside muzzle and caused no damage. Order received that entanglement of Trenches are not to be destroyed. Indications point to a withdrawal from this position. 59 rounds fired.	M
do	13 <sup>th</sup> Dec 1915	-	A subsection rebuilt D subsection gun pit & made it more secure. B subsection also improved their pit and widened embrasure. at 1400 Fortifyer bombarded CHESS BOARD at head of MONASH VALLEY 3 rounds fired. Fine mild day becoming windy and late still again beautiful still night half moon. Order for disposal of kits & equipment. at Divisional Dump on ANZAC BEACH. issued. evacuation expected but no orders. F.O.O. only required at Popo Hill at night from this date. No gun fired from OLIVE GROVE since Naval Bombardment on 10 <sup>th</sup> .	M

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ANZAC	14 <sup>th</sup> Dec 15,		Beach shelled a good deal during last night. Everything packed and ready for departure. 250 rounds taken to North beach by BACol and during night 14/15 Dec about 1000 carried & loaded on a few mules and taken to same place. Beach shelled rather vigorously during day, all papers not required destroyed.	M
do	do	1700	'B' subsection with Captain J.W. Riggall left and embarked at WALTERS PIER, all baggage sent to Divisional Dump including telephone store & wheelbar kit. 12 rounds fired.	M
do	15 <sup>th</sup> Dec 15 -		No. 1, 2, & 4. gun pits all made ready and each contain about 400 rounds, no guns firing from OLIVE GROVE but another firing at beach until in afternoon HMS GRAFTON fired in reply and it stopped. 10 more NCO's & men Bdr. Kennington in charge left. Windy cold weather. 6 rounds fired.	M
do	16 <sup>th</sup> Dec 15-1745		7 men Bdr Gillespie in charge left 17 all ranks and 1 gun left. Rifles & bayonets issued to all NCO's & men remaining. German plane over but very high. flew towards IMBROS followed by 2 of ours. fine warm day 11 rounds fired.	M
do	17 <sup>th</sup> Dec 15		Windy & threatening morning, improved later. our planes up all day. Beach shelled a good deal. First Lloyd's men left leaving 12 all ranks. orders for departure tomorrow cancelled. Postponed until 19 <sup>th</sup> .	M
do	18 <sup>th</sup> Dec 15		A big fire occurred during night 17/18 at Ordnance on 2 <sup>nd</sup> BEACH. Smoky & foggy day. could not see along valleys. our planes again very busy today. Tanks still observed digging. ANZAC very desolate.	M

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ANZAC	18 <sup>th</sup> Dec '15		Beach shelled also back of our line all night. 9 rounds fired.	
"	19 <sup>th</sup> Dec '15.		<p>Turks opened gun fire on our position and fired some shells <del>into our line</del> which on measuring proved to be between 11 + 12 inch. These were fired into BROWNS DIP. + WHITES VALLEY. But as these places were quite empty. no damage was done beyond the obliteration of part of MARTYNS LANE and the cutting of all phone wires at this spot. Turks also fired about 30 rounds 75<sup>mm</sup> H.E. into the old empty gun pit on MACLAGLANS RIDGE occupied previously by D subsection and later taken over by 1<sup>st</sup> Bty A.F.A. They also fired onto PLUGGE'S as though registering. We replied with the 1 gun left and fired 62 rounds before 1800.</p> <p>Permission was requested to be allowed to take the gun away when departing but it was refused and orders were received for its demolition.</p> <p>After early firing from both sides the day became quiet and at 2200 gun No 1915 was demolished all movable parts being broken &amp; buried. Break block &amp; sight being brought away with party. All remaining ammunition buried after having fuzes unscrewed &amp; placed in another box. When sawn thro + a charge of gunpowder remained placed in the box ready for ignition.</p>	<p>MP</p> <p>DR</p>

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ANZAC	19 <sup>th</sup> Dec 15	2230	<p>Remaining party from the Battery (Major H.O. Caddy, Sgt. A. Erskin, Cpl R. Stevens, Cpl S.G. Bell, Pte. Ferguson, Pte. Game, Gun. H. Graham, Pte. Jones, Mc Intyre, Pte. Carnegie + Gun Turner.) excepting Gun. G. R. Stachan, then left for the beach arriving at H.Q. quilty at 2300 many other artillery details embarked on a "vette" at 2325 &amp; moved out to transport "El Kahari" &amp; was put on board her. She left very crowded for and arrived at LEMNOS at 0800 on 20<sup>th</sup> Dec. Gun. Stachan on 2230 reported to A.C. Infantry at LONE PINE and left with them for BEACH. He remained until all Infantry had passed then lit fuse allowing 10 minutes and proceeded to BEACH last of all from the direction of LONE PINE. The detonation of charge was heard.</p>	
LEMNOS	20 <sup>th</sup> Dec 15		<p>Transferred to transport "CAMPANILLO" and at 1300 to "Horvata". Gun. Stachan joined this party on Campanillo at 0900. No sign or other parties of the Battery.</p>	
do	21 <sup>st</sup>		<p>Very cold windy day More details came on board.</p>	
	22 <sup>nd</sup>			

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LEMNOS	24/Dec 15		at 0800 "Horonata" left for ALEXANDRIA with other ships.	
d	25 <sup>th</sup> Dec 15		Gp DALTON of 1 <sup>st</sup> Bty H.F.A. died and was buried at sea.	
ALEXANDRIA	26 <sup>th</sup> Dec 15	1025	Arrived at Alexandria moving in to berth at 1730.	
d	27 <sup>th</sup> Dec 15	2145	Parties from "Horonata" with some Aust. Engineers left for TEL-EL-KEBIR	
TEL-EL-KEBIR	28 <sup>th</sup> Dec 15	0500	Arrived at TEL-EL-KEBIR and marched to our lines. and rejoined the details of Battery left at Egypt. who had arrived earlier during the night from NEW OASIS Camp. All horses looked well & fit though they had been badly clipped by natives.	
d	d	1600	The party (the last of the Battery to leave) was the first to arrive. River Sea with left section when arrived. - Pitching Camp. -	
d	29 <sup>th</sup> Dec 15	0800	Bd Kennerly party arrived. Pitching Camp line -	
d	30 <sup>th</sup> Dec 15		Camp line completed. horses on breast line with slaps and wire rope. Strength today 4 officers & 152 other ranks. This includes a large number of reinforcements attached. & 102 horses.	



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TEL-EL-HEBIR	31 <sup>st</sup> Dec 15		<p>3 Men to hospital (Opr. McPherson, Turner, + Graham) Leave grants to men at the rate of 2p and officer 5p. C.O. (Lair Col Broad-crown <sup>CO</sup> 250) who proceeded direct to CAIRO has not yet joined camp so O.C. 5th Bty is in charge.</p>	<p><i>[Signature]</i> <i>[Signature]</i></p>

*[Signature]* Major,  
Commanding 5th. Battery 2nd. F.A. Bde. A.I.F.