

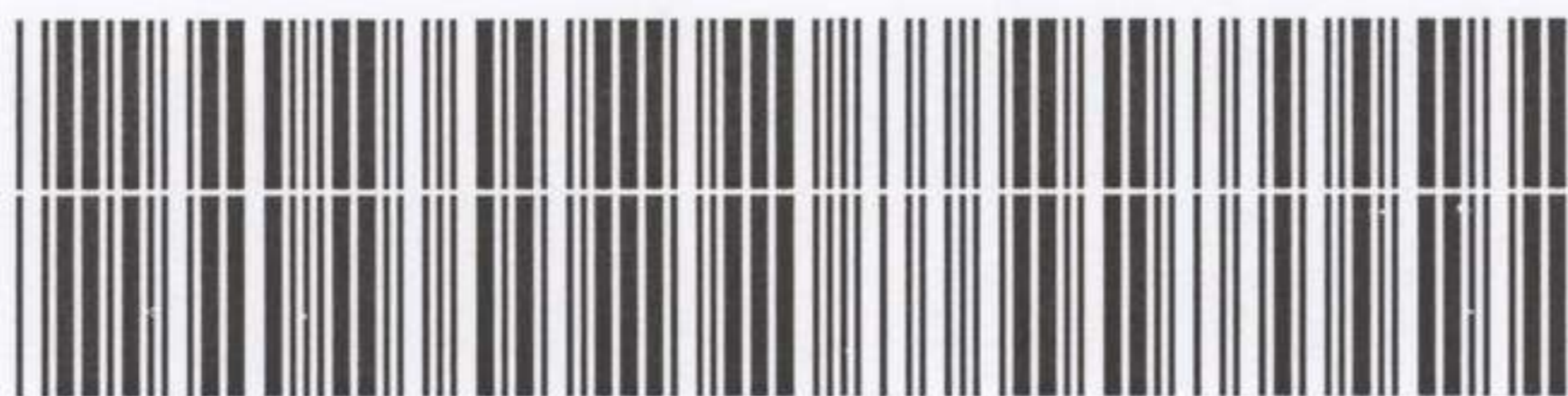
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Artillery

Item number: 13/70/10

Title: 8th Battery, Australian Field Artillery

May 1915



AWM4-13/70/10

8th Battery AFA.

Date Place and Time.

Remarks or References
to Appendices &c.,
attached.

1915

May 1.

Right Section under Major Browne landed
move up to position in rear of 7th Battery.

(Original of above written on same sheet as
entries for end of previous month & filed
with volume for that month)

101
1


30
12/

2-17

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
May 2	Kaba Tefe	Gunner Smalring slightly wounded	
2		Retired guns from behind 7th Bty occupied position ^{just west} of Hill 400.	
3		During the night prepared positions for guns fired 30 rounds each from 1001 + 2 guns at enemy's gun positions on Quarry face & observation on left of Quarry	
4		During the night the guns were moved to a position on the high ground north of the covered way	144

C.11056.

2-18

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
4		and daybreak breaking it was discovered that the guns were in an exposed position. Guns were masked with bushes & left till nightfall. They were then withdrawn	
5		taken back to position. During the night's operations Lt Clowes wounded in chest. Gunner Pussie wounded in arm. Lpr Fincher wounded in leg. Lpr Bowler " in foot. about 6pm A & B guns with these detachments ran forward	

C.11056.

2-19

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
5 #		<p>on to the crest ^{with dragroves} about 100 yards directly over our fire trench fired 14 rounds per gun. at an infantry trench with a range of 450 yards. <u>This little stunt was carried out under shrapnel rifle fire, steadily & gallantly. & reflects the greatest credit on the two detachments concerned.</u></p> <p>As soon as rounds were expended guns were promptly run back into their pits without casualties. Lt. A. Goddard wounded in chest, shrapnel</p>	

C.11056.

4


220

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
6	Kaba Dapi	<p>Also Lt. Earl Smith's shrapnel wound in back. Both these men in observing station, both men specialist. The operation of rushing the guns forward was repeated at 4 pm by A+B subsections. This task was again carried out in a very gallant manner. 20 rounds being fired. At 7 pm by the request of General Bridges another 20 rounds was fired in this operation of a dash forward ^{to wherever jump the Battery} by this time the enemy had it</p>	<p>ASB</p>

C.11066.

April 5

19-21

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
6		<p>range registered to our position with the result that as the guns were getting back to their pits. Supt J.R. Brandwood received a wound in the buttocks Sgt Lovell wounded in the chest right arm.</p> <p>I desire to bring under notice Supts J.R. Brandwood & Supt Willocks for conspicuous gallantry during these operations.</p>	<p>2 men were hit</p>
7		<p>During the night the guns were moved to a salient due east about 150 yards to a</p>	

C.11056.

6

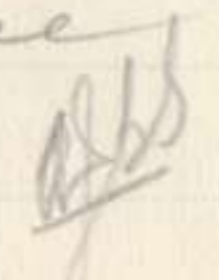
2-22

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
7		positions now known as Brown's Battery. The day was occupied in securing positions at 7 7 AM whilst some of the detachments were having breakfast a shell burst amongst them killing Gunner. A. G. Benson shrapnel shot thro head, dangerously wounding Bdr. Cannon in head severely wounding Lpr. A. G. Paterson in hip. Lpr. J. P. Hammer in back and Gunner C. J. Paterson in neck.	

C.11056.


2

8-23

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
8.		Fired 15 rounds exploding benches at Quinn's post range 350 to 700 yards. During the preparation of gun pits the following men were wounded No 1826 by Sgt Hope wound back 1774 by Benson's gun shot wound arm head. No 1853 by Sgt Munnagh gun shot wound shoulder slight. No 1841 by Sgt Keiack slight gun shot wound face. Capt Quinn Le Edwards Balance A day improving pits	

C.11066.

2-24

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
9.		1101864 Cpl W Pursey. + 1101896 1107896 by 7 Al Watson wounded by shrapnel fire. No amm expended night tomorrow spent in improving gun pits	
10.		Saw about 200 turks observed creeping up a valley apparently with the intention of attacking Quinn's Post. I opened fire at 1150 yards + burst heavy effective shrapnel in the midst of them which stopped their movement	

C.11066.

8

225

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
10		I was unable to fire longer as the enemy had my range and put a direct hit on tray shield lodged 2 shells in the gun pit. was were particularly fortunate in not having any casualties (Wial sight was shot away)	
11		Still improving gun pits Battery relieved by detachments from 9th Battery; Capt Rogers & Edwards with Battery, personal sent down west of Beach	
		after 5 nights & days of very strenuous work	

G.11056.

10

1915
May 12

Anzac
Turkey

Still improving gun emplacements
1.45 fired 15 rounds at enemy
position in front of Curries post.
Fire very effective. Mortar position
demolished. And also 23 rounds
at enemy gun emplacements at
7.15 pm

12

Fired 10 more rounds at enemy
gun emplacement. Gun has not
fired from this position
surmised the gun is silenced or
removed

3 pm fired 20 effective shrapnel
into enemy trenches just north
of Popes Nose. and a further
20 rounds at enemy second
mortar position in front of
Curries post.

all

10715
May 14

Logan

During the night of the 14th 3-29
complete head cover was erected
Fired 17 rounds from No 3 & 4
guns at trenches in front of
Quinn's Post.

3 for 10 rounds at ~~the~~ enemy's
trenches on reverse slope north
west of Popes nose

5 for 11 rounds from No 4 gun
at enemy's trenches 50 yards
in front of Quinn's Post

9 rounds in front of Popes nose
Telephone wires cut 3 times
during the day by shrapnel
fire

15

186

Position of
Battery named Browne's Battery
by Divisional Artillery Headquarters
Detachments returned from beach
every body in good fettle

1915
May 15

Angou.

5 30 pm fired 10 rounds at
Johnson's Alley and 10 rounds at
trenches 50 yards in front of Quinn's
post.

Sketch of Brown's Battery is
attached to War Diary. The
position is particularly interesting
in as much ~~that~~^{as} a sunken road
has been dug about 25 yards
in rear of the Infantry fire
trench. The muzzles being
sunk to level of the ground
and the infantry fire earth
parapets both front rear
have been cleared away and
sand bags substituted for
the front parapets. When the
guns are fired these frontal
sand bag parapets are removed
thereby leaving an embrasure for
guns to fire through

23

1915
May 15 Amzac

The range at which the guns are fired³⁻⁴ at in these positions is ~~is~~ to 300 to 1000 yards. The enemy have got these gun pits registered and they are kept in action by firing periodic bursts of fire of 10 rounds. I predict that in the event of an infantry advance these guns will be able to bring a fire to bear of the utmost value to the attacking infantry. Capt W J Rogers, is performing very excellent service.

16

At 50 am Minnie mortar was fired into Quernio post. From No 4 gun pit fired 8 rounds at mortar. Since then mortar has not fired. During the day fired bursts of 6 rounds at various objectives.

May 16

Langbe

Quiet day

5-5-

17

Firing of my guns much the same as yesterday

18

Fired bursts of fire throughout the day at various objectives including zigzag trenches and crest line above. Shell burst in cover pit No 1 gun while detachment was taking cover. This was a very narrow escape for the detachment Lt Edwards and 7 men being in the pit at the time. No 18 V gunner Hamilton W N being the only one injured. his injury be - hemorrhage of the eye

all

1915
May 19

Amz 44
Turkey

At 11.30 pm last evening there was
an alarm along the Infantry fire
trench very heavy Rifle & machine
gun fire. The Battery stood to
their posts, but no attack
developed. At 2 am the Battery

stood to their guns, men were
hardly in position when a very
vigorous attack by the enemy
concentrated on the Pimple.

The bugles blowing the Turks
changed with fixed bayonets
& two or three managed to get
in the trenches and were bayoneted.

Our infantry behaved with great
gallantry, the fire was very
effective. The enemy after
repeating this four times retreated
leaving large numbers of dead
near our trenches. I should

3-6

[Handwritten signature]

1915
May 19

Amzac
Turkey

estimate the number of dead in the vicinity of the Piripée at 250³⁷ and there must be a large quantity of dead further on not in sight

Seeing that there was a possibility of the attack being driven home and as I was unable to ~~shoot~~ fire my guns without lowering the infantry parapet I temporarily removed my breach blocks and sights and had them placed about 200 yards in rear

As soon as it was seen that the attack could not be driven home I had them replaced.

In the meantime I opened rapid fire from No. 1 gun on the reverse slope. As day-light broke my fire appeared to be very effective

W.S.

1915
May 19

Amzac
Turkey

about 7 am with permission of Colonel ^W P
Brown in command of the firing
line. The infantry parapet in front
of No 3 gun was lowered, and
17 rounds of gun fire were
fired from this gun into enemy
trenches in Johnson's Jolly. At a
range of 350 yards the fire was
effective and must have had a
big moral effect on the enemy.
During the 24 hours 235 rounds
were fired from No 1 gun on the
reverse slope & 17 rounds from
No 3 gun.
During the attack infantry called
for reinforcements & all members
of the Battery with the exception
of the actual gun detachments
manned the infantry trenches with
fixed bayonets. They all appeared
to be much in their element.

14/5

May 19th

Angac
Turkey

No 1893 Artificer Williamson R³ P

was wounded in the back
Four wounded prisoners taken
after day break. One German
& two Turkish officers were killed
in our trenches

20

20

From information received from
prisoners it was anticipated that
a vigorous attack would be
made during the night
Battery stood to their guns
throughout the night but no
attack developed. The day was
quiet. About 6 PM enemy left
their lines waving white &
red cross flags and a Parley
was held with General Lockyer
about 100 yards on our
left flank

[Signature]

1918
May 20

Angae
Turkey

This appeared to me to be a
ruse. They asked permission to
bury their dead. but as a
matter of fact they were collecting
rifles and making a reconnaissance
of our defence
Col. Brown who commands our
section of defence would not
allow them to approach within
300 yards. Any attempt they
made to do so he fired on
them. Taking upon himself the
responsibility of disobeying General
Walker's order to "cease fire" -
a wise precaution - as our
position is a very important
one and at 7 pm when the
armistice was up the enemy
concentrated a very heavy rifle
and machine gun fire &
cannade on us

3-10

20

May 20

Angas
Turkey

The infantry line was strongly reinforced & the gunners stood to their guns all night. We certainly expected a vigorous attack as the enemy throughout the night kept up a heavy fire with their guns, machine guns & rifles, but no attack developed. This is a good thing for the enemy as we were fully prepared for anything they might send against us.

The following men were returned to the "Harro" with 11 horses

NO 1813 N ^o W. J. Fyzzell	NO 1823 N ^o Hutchinson W
1887 N ^o W. J. Lasse	NO 1892 Thunowater R C
3064 N ^o W. J. Latham	1830 N ^o Stalldan J

1915
May 21 Anzac

3-12
Fired 47 rounds during the day on various objectives. The enemy showed considerable activity in trench digging during the day. During the night there was heavy rifle and machine gun fire from the enemy. The Battery stood to arms in anticipation of an attack.

22

Enemy could be seen collecting in large numbers about 7,000 to 8,000 yards due east of position in the valley between Anzac and Maidos. Enemy very quiet in close proximity no rounds fired.

23

Another quiet day & rounds fired only about 4 pm. enemy came forward with white flag on our left center. Col Johnson sent white flag out to

1915
May 23

Angac

meet them. They were asking for an³ am³
armistice to bury their dead.
The Colonel treated their request with
suspicion owing to the late hour
of the day and informed them that
he had no power to deal with
their request, and suggested that
they apply early tomorrow morning
and gave them 10 minutes to
return to their trenches.

24

The Battery stood to their guns at 3 am.
The day has been quiet. An armistice
was granted to the enemy from 7.30
am to 4.30 pm to enable them
to bury their dead. This operation
revealed to us that we had
considerably underestimated the enemy
killed in their attacks upon us.

24

on the 19th inst The enemy's dead
in front of our post numbered
between 500 and 600.

Every precaution was taken during
the day in case the enemy's
action may be a ruse

from what I saw and heard
they played the game honourably.

During the night we quite anticipated
an attack. Just before dark when
shelling our position they put 3
shells in our No. 2 gun pit.

Fortunately I had just withdrawn
the gun otherwise serious damage
would have resulted. The

Battery stood to their guns all
night.

W-14

all

1915
May 25

Amzac

Day quiet, a few rounds fired
steary bursts of musketry machine
gun fire throughout the night
No attack made

4-2

26

Day very quiet No movement of the
enemy observed No shots fired

27

at dawn fired 25 rounds from No
3 + 4 pits on to Johnsons jolly and
14 rounds from No 2 pit on to
Lonesome Pine trenches. Range
from No 2 pit 175 yards No 3 + 4
pits 400 yards. Fire was very
effective Remainder of day quiet

28

very quiet day no firing

HLS

1915

May 29

Angae
Turk

at 10.30 am. the enemy opened fire
with a 15 pdr from Johnson's
Jolly trench at a range of 300
yards. Guns were run out of
their pits into the sunken road
and a high explosive shell burst
on the parapet, and a piece of
the shell struck No 4 gun badly
damaging the inner spring case in
rear, putting the gun out of
action for $\frac{1}{2}$ a day. [Gun was
repaired by replacing a new
inner spring case]

An additional 15 rounds was
fired during the morning in support
of a local attack on the
enemy's flank.

4-3

1915
May 30
31

Amzac
Turkey

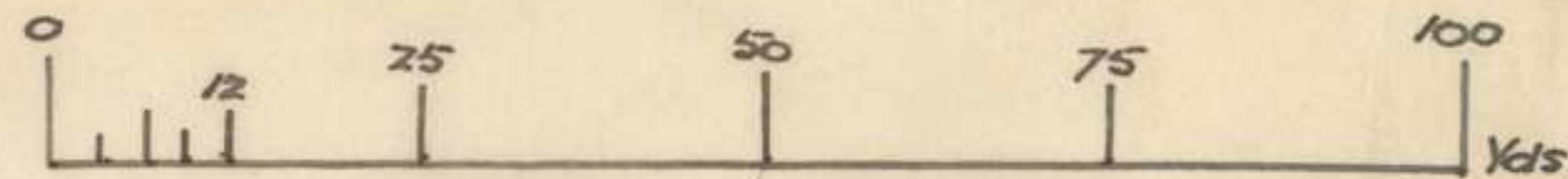
8 rounds fired during the day and a sharp look out kept for 4-4
gun that fired on us yesterday
No 1797 Gunner E. J. Day was
wounded by stray bullet through
the thigh, during the night
whilst asleep, under gun on the
reverse slope
Quiet day.

June 1

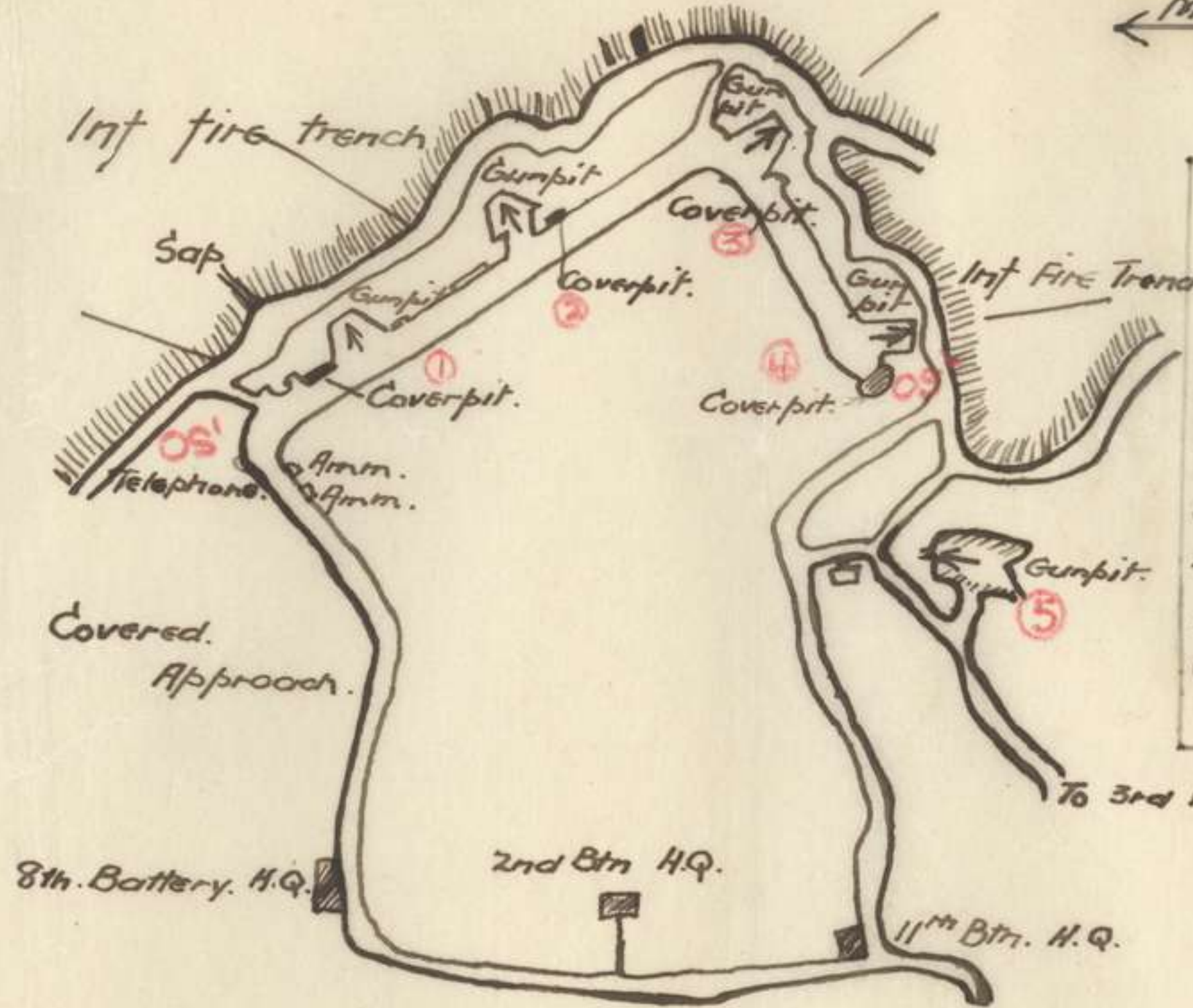
5.30 am Enemy opened a cross
fire from several guns on the
Battery. No 1765 Gunner R. A.
Beesley wounded by shrapnel
fire, shoulder & upper chest.
Bombardment lasted about
40 minutes
at 2.15 am located a bunker

4-1

Scale 64" = 1 Mile.



Magnetic North.



Note.
 Guns in pit ①② controlled by
 megaphone. from OS'
 Those in pits ③④ controlled by
 megaphone from OS'
 Telephone.
 Gun in pit ⑤ controlled by
 telephone from OS'
 Distances approximate,
 General direction accurate.

"Brownes Battery" (on the pimple.)