

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

Artillery

Item number: 13/70/19

Title: 8th Battery, Australian Field Artillery

December 1916



AWM4-13/70/19

162

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.

(Erase heading not required.)

8th. Battery A.F.A.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1/2/16		<p>Received word to meet C.O. at T.2.C. at 1400 for purpose of reconnoitring new gun positions for 1 section of each battery in brigade. Finally decided on about T.1.C.7.1. Operation orders received for Minor operation (Memo 66) to clear up situation in — Postponed indefinitely.</p> <p>(The original of above is appears on the same sheet as entries xxxxxxx for end of previous month and will be found with the diary for that month.)</p>	

War Diary.

- 1.12.16 20.15 to 2200 Boats relief on.
Fired as ordered by D.H.Q. bursts
of rapid fire at intervals on
Barrage lines + searching in
rear.
- 2.12.16. Took Col. Fry up + plotted out
new gun position. Very foggy
+ could not see exactly how
things lay. Orders received
to fire 500 yds. A. Abandon regular fire
on barrage lines + engage over water trenches.
- 3.12.16. Went up to have another look
at No. 1. pit. + found it to be
in exactly right position. Pegged
it out finally + commenced
digging.
- 4.12.16 ———
- 5.12.16 ———
- 6.12.16 Orders received for Liaison
Barrage in event of Division
on our Right being attacked
5th covers Normal Barrage on
7th + 8th. (Registered at Jared 2nd).

War Diary.

7.12.16. 2330-2400. Hostile bombardment of front line. Repatriated. 2.000 to 20.30 shelled by G.2. 3 men of 9th Bty. Hounded 3 shells landed close to nose. Pit but did no damage. 25% A open.

8.12.16. —

9.12.16. Barrage lines altered back to Stormy trench. N21 B 44 to N21 B 1725 for S.O.K. work only. Normal Barrage file still to remain on N21 B 45 55 to N21 B 38.

17.45 to 1800. Notification from P.M.O. German relief taking place. Searched N10 C along line from 3.0-1.2 to 7.8-59. 1930 to 2100. Burst open on trench N21 B 45 55 to 38.

10.12.16. Went forward with Richardson to N 33.9. to choose position for anti-tank gun. While there fired test S.O.K. All O.K. New pit in T 9.1 ready for gun. Waiting for food.

11.12.16. —
12.12.16. —

War Diary

13.12.16 Enemy shelled our Communications
 Retaliated on his Communications.
 Prematurely HE put No. 3 (1288) out of
 action. Bulging bore 6" from chamber.
 No damage to detachment.

14.12.16 No. 3 shifted from pit awaiting
 arrival of new gun.
 11.00 Fired Salvoes on Bailey Trench
 N. 1. D. 55. as ordered from B.H.A.

15.12.16 At 02.00 First British Div. Bombed
 Maze with Gas Shells. Batteries ordered to
 stand by in case of enemy retaliation.
 Enemy did as reply on the front
 11.00 New gun arrived for No. 3.
 Dropped down deep shell hole. Had to
 send team back & dig her out. Could
 not get it as far as pit before night

16.12.16 New gun into No. 3 pit.
 1st Co. relieved by B.C. & went to N.L.

War Diary.

- 23.12.16. 1000 Took over Bty from OC. who went to Infy. B.M.Q. on Lison.
- 24.12.16. 2020 General hostile bombardment of Front Line. Retaliated.
- 25.12.16. 0800 Received Memo No. 72, & 11.30. & 11.32 Shelled Barley trench N 150 ~~28~~ to N 150. 5590. As reply from Hemo.
- 26.12.16. Received instructions to reconnoitre forward position in case of advance.
- 27.12.16. 06.40. Opened trench tunnel of fire on N 100 ~~28~~ where parties of Germans have been reported to pass about two times daily.
Reconnoitred forward position this afternoon & decided on N 32 D 60 for Battery position + N 32 D 59. for dugout
21.30 to 0700. Bursts of fire on various important points in N 4
ATO on information from Lison
Officers also 503 lines - reduction 640

702

War Diary

27.12.16. S.O.S. Lines altered to N21 B25.

N 21 B 25.23 - N 21 B ^{65.40} ~~27~~ - N 21 A 83.

28.12.16. 2300. Fired on targets 1 & 6 at orders from Liaison officer.

29.12.16. —

30.12.16. ^{23.50} Enemy opened short burst of fire on our trenches. Retaliated.