

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

Artillery

Item number: 13/70/9

Title: 8th Battery, Australian Field Artillery

April 1915



AWM4-13/70/9

8th Div A.F.A.

1-26

Date. 1915	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
mch 18	Mena	Then followed detachments of 10 th A.L.H. 2 nd Stationary Hospital 1 st 2 nd 3 rd 7 ^a Brigade + Div Ammunition Col	
apr. 2	"	Lt. W. J. Rogers promoted to Captain vice Brevet Major F. M. W. Parker (decd) to date from 18 March 1915 Lt. H. Blowes transferred from Brigade Head quarters to 8 th Battery and posted to Left Section Commander	1915

1-27

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
1918 apl 8	Mena	<p>Marched out of Mena was strength (5 officers 140 men 126 horses 4 guns 8 waggons 1 water Cart.) Arrived at Cairo 8.30 pm. entrained the Battery for Alexandria Train left 11.30 pm entraining carried out methodically & expeditiously.</p>	
9.		<p>Arrived Alexandria 5 am. detrained Battery</p>	<p>ASB</p>

C.11056.


2

1-28

Date. 1918	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
Apr 9	Alencardis	<p>and embarked on A.10. Transport 'Haroo' stores and men embarked by 8. Amr. Guns + waggons held over to allow 2nd Brigade to embark as 8th Battery have to disembark first. At 7.30 P.M. the guns + waggons were embarked 8.30. P.M. E sailed for unknown destination 9 men break ship</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">[Signature]</p>

C.11066.

1-29

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
1915			
Apr. 12	at Sea	Arrived Port Maudros Lemnos Island about 7 am. Anchored in outer harbour about 10 am moved in to inner harbour.	
16		9 missing men, reported on board, having come on by later transport. Received ^{information} information from Headquarters that the 8th Battery would be the first Artillery to land on the	

C.11056.

1-30

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
april 16		Gallipoli Peninsula and that the same would probably take place under fire all ranks much elated at the honor of being first to land	
<u>18</u>		Practised disembarkation by slinging horses and guns into floats landing on shore and re-embarking the work carried out in a very creditable manner and	MBS

C.11056.

4
5

2-1

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
apl 15	Lemnos	many useful points learnt for future guidance	
16		Lt Col Bowles called to Head quarters to be observing Officer between land & men of the Navy	
17		Still anchored mudros Harbour	
18		Ditto	apl
19		Ditto	

C.11056.

9 1 1916

2-2

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
1914			
Apr 20		Anchored in Mudros Harbour	
21			
22		Orders received to leave	
23		Moved out and anchored in outer harbour	
25		<p>1.30 am. Left Lemnos for the Dardanelles. Kaba Beye</p> <p>8.20 Arrived at destination and anchored close to "Pine of Wales". Battleships bombarding coast.</p> <p>9.30 Heavy shell fire all round.</p>	<p>app</p>

C.11066.

6-3

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
1915 April 25	Kaba Tepe	<p>Received information that 2nd Infantry Brigade effected a successful landing. On arrival at Beach they were met with heavy rifle and shell fire unrelenting from Kaba Tepe. Captured ridges overlooking beach at the point of the bayonet with magnificent courage and determination. From what we can see from the anchorage our Infantry are making good all high ground to our direct front. and that the Turks are it appears are making a counter attack on our left flank.</p>	<p>all</p>

G.11056.

2-4

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
1915 April 25	Gulf of Saros	<p>9.45. Received orders to move out of range owing to heavy shell fire. Gasolens rattle of machine guns and Infantry fire over shore. Enemy strongly entrenched on crest of hill.</p> <p>9.50. am. Received news that 3rd Infantry Brigade had captured two of the enemy's guns. "Queen" signalled for hospital boat. 3 killed 20 wounded. Lucky escape of Transports. "Buchanan" close on shore shelling "Gila Tipi"</p>	<p></p> <p style="text-align: right;">1/2</p>

C.11056.

2-5

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
1915 April 1915	Gulf of Taros	<p>from North. 'Triumph' from south. Aeroplane overhead from 'Ark Royal' reconnoitering 10.30 ^{am} Infantry captured ridge, enemy now bursting shrapnel from job still 1.45 Anchored again inshore Enemy's shrapnel bursting on ridge + in water. 2 pm Two lighters of wounded pass us on the way to hospital ship 2.50 First two boats left 'Harro'</p>	<p>ABD</p>

C.11056.

6-5

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
1918 April 25	Gulf of Sarav	<p>one with 12 horses, one with 1 gun ⁴² 42 ^{Battery} + 7 Bty wagon The first Field Artillery to be landed 2.55 Indian mounted Battery with mules landed. 3.05. Second pair of 7 boats left Karoo 3.30 Aeroplane directing fire of Majesty. Enemy pressing back our left flank. 4.30. Two Second 7 boats which left Karoo returned. to ship in the T. T. 6.10 Queen Majesty + Prince of Wales</p>	<p>abb</p>

C.11056.

Date. 1915	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
April 25		<p>shelling east of hill where enemy is pressing our left flank. Effect of bursting shrapnel is terrific. Naval Balloon close on shore directing fire. Aeroplane reconnoitering.</p> <p>Large Infantry reinforcements (New Zealanders) going ashore 6.30 Signal from Queen to Prince of Wales. All enemy's guns extremely well concealed.</p> <p>7 pm received orders to move two miles out. 7.30 reembarked</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">12</p>

C.11066.

R 7

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
1915 april 25		Horses gun thornless from floats 9.30 Received orders to disembark two Batteries at 2 am.	
april 26		message to all Transports Lower all boats ready to send in to beach." 2 am Reloaded floats with guns thornless. 7 am. Floats towed ashore Heavy rifle & machine gun fire all night.	<p style="text-align: right;">R 7</p>

C.11068.

2-6

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
1915			
april 26	Kaba Tepe	<p>From what we can see from the ship our Infantry have made good the high ground and are hanging on. During the night there were several long & heavy bursts of rifle and machine gun fire. Bombardment of guns on Transport started at 2 am. one float containing 1 subsection complete & 12 horses were loaded. No tugs or float were available until 7.30 am. Horses were returned to ship not required ashore. During the day the remainder of the</p>	

C.11056.

2-10

Date. 1911	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
April 26	Kaba Tefe	<p>Artillery on the ships were disembarked one section of 8th Battery with Major Browne + Lt Clowes reach shore at about 2.30 pm disembarked on beach. OC proceeded to gun position of 3rd Brigade on right & bank OC with Colonel Rosenthal reconnoitred the position for 8th Battery meanwhile members of the ^{8th Bty} were acting as amm. carriers. From beach to gun position it was extremely steep & rugged & was subject to a dropping rifle fire</p>	

C.11066.

2-11

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
1915 April 26		No 1854 Gunner of organ of G of C. Subsection was hit in the fore arm - slightly wounded. men on double drag ropes & team from the New Zealander Howitzer Battery brought the section of guns up to a rendezvous near the crest at 6.30 pm. made preparations to get guns into position. Order received from O.C. Artillery to take guns back to beach & embark This was a big undertaking as the floats had grounded with the receding tide. 8.30 pm Floats	

C.11066.

2-19

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
		containing 1 subsection was towed to the ship. 'D' Sub section which landed on the beach later on the afternoon was also re-embarked. The float which contained the gun was damaged when taken into deep water started to sink and eventually took the bottom about 20 yards from the shore. The water in the float by this time was up to the axle of the gun. Amm. was unloaded from the vehicles on to the shore without being damaged.	

C.11056.

12

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
april 26			
april 27		<p>It took until 1.15 am, this morning before the gun was unloaded & reloaded into a new float. The detachment working in the water up to their chests for about 2 hours arrived alongside about 1.40 am. Received instructions that Transport was to leave Harbour on special duty, that horse floats lying alongside awaiting embarkation were to be handed over to a tug & taken to another Transport. Capt Rogers & Clowes remained with the floats.</p>	

C.11056.

8-14

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
<p>April 27</p> <p>28</p>	<p>Kaba Tepe</p> <p>at sea</p>	<p>containing 3 sub sub-sections</p> <p>Mgo Browne remained on transport</p> <p>Adus also stated that on return of Karoo in the evening guns were to be hauled on board</p> <p>Left Kapa Tepe 8.30 am. Passed north of Imhos & south of Lamothrapi round west & North side towards Enos. Stopped & showed ourselves about ten miles off Cape Iligi</p> <p>made fire 4.30 am of landing boats</p> <p>6.30 am Army thrust & shelled bombarded, no reply, boats went within hailing</p>	

C.11056.

8-13

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
1945 apr 28	at sea	<p>distance of shore.</p> <p>8 30 am boat proceeded up Gulf of Xeros opposite Baklar Limes</p> <p>enemy did not show themselves</p> <p>at 11 am proceeded towards Imros</p> <p>at 4 pm arrived off Cape Gremea</p> <p>to gain made fast in boats</p> <p>7 pm. Blowing a gale: anchored east side of Imbros</p>	
	apr 29	<p>encircled island & headed for Kapu Tepe. swung round into gulf of Xeros & made a fast landing at Bulavir Limes</p>	<p>AP/2</p>

G.11056.

2-16

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
29		When close in shore boats were shelled from shore. Returned to Kaba Tepe arriving at midnight	
30		Reflection The glare of mounds in fire easily seen across the peninsula Lt Clower and Capt Rogers ashore Keeping up supply of ammunition No 1787 Sgt Day wounded, rifle bullet through thigh	
May 1		Right Section under Major Browne landed move up to position in rear of 7th Battery	ALB

C.11056.

1-31
OFFICERS AND MEN,

In conjunction with the Navy, we are about to undertake one of the most difficult tasks any soldier can be called on to perform, and a problem which has puzzled many soldiers for years past. That we will succeed I have no doubt, simply because I know your full determination to do so. Lord Kitchener has told us that he lays special stress on the role the Army has to play in this particular operation, the success of which will be a very severe blow to the enemy, — indeed, as severe as any she could receive in France. It will go down to history to the glory of the soldiers of Australia and New Zealand. Before we start, there are one or two points which I must impress on all, and I most earnestly beg every single man to listen attentively and take these to heart.

We are going to have a real hard and rough time of it until, at all events, we have turned the enemy out of our first objective. Hard rough times none of us mind, but to get through them successfully we must always keep before us the following facts. Every possible endeavour will be made to bring up transport as often as possible; but the country whither we are bound is very difficult, and we may not be able to get our wagons any where near us for days, so men must not think their wants have been neglected if they do not get all they want. On landing it will be necessary for every individual to carry with him all his requirements in food and clothing for three days, as we may not see our transport till then. Remember then that it is essential for everyone to take the very greatest care not only of his food, but of his ammunition, the replenishment of which will be very difficult. Men are liable to throw away their food the first day out and to finish their water bottles as soon as they start marching. If you do this now, we can hardly hope for success, as unfed men cannot fight and you must make an effort to try and refrain from starting on your water bottles until quite late in the day. Once you begin drinking you cannot stop and a water bottle is very soon emptied.

Also as regards ammunition—you must not waste it by firing away indiscriminately at no target. The time will come when we shall find the enemy in well entrenched positions from which we shall have to turn them out, when all our ammunition will be required; and remember,

Concealment whenever possible,
Covering fire always,
Control of fire and control of your men,
Communications never to be neglected.

W. B. Bidwood.