

AWM4

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

Artillery

Item number: 13/37/9

Title: Headquarters, 10th Australian Field
Artillery Brigade

April 1917



AWM4-13/37/9

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118

239

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.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

April 1917. Sheet 1

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field	1-4-17	2 P.M.	No marching order issued to units of Bde: to proceed to forward area on the 2 nd inst.	
"	2-4-17	8 AM.	advance parties marched from Rest Area via FRANVILLERS, ALBERT, POZIERES, main roads to 4 th D.A.C. Camp at H. 21. C. Central. Reference, Trench Map, FRANCE. sheet 57 ^c N.W. edition 2A. $\frac{1}{20,000}$	
"		9 AM.	10 th F.A. Bde less advance parties, left Rest Area & proceeded to MAMETZ. Camp at X. 29. D. Ref: Map. ALBERT. Combined sheet $\frac{1}{40,000}$, where they bivouacked for the night.	
"	4-4-17	7 AM.	The day broke wet & cold, which continued through-out the day. The C.O. went in a Reconnaissance of Bty. positions in LONGATE & NOREUIL valleys.	
"	3-4-17	7 AM.	Morning broke cold, with occasional falls of Snow, afternoon cleared up, which brought forth slight aerial activity. at 11-20 P.M. a hostile machine, flying very low, fired 2 of our Ballons in vicinity of BAPAUME Cemetery, flying back low over his own lines he was greeted with our A.A. guns & M.G. fire, but got safely home.	
"	5-4-17	7 AM.	The day broke with a fine sleet-falling, which continued throughout the day. The C.O. went in a further Reconnaissance of Bty positions. Bde: awaiting further movement orders.	
"	6-4-17	7 AM.	Today again broke with fine sleet-falling.	
"		2 P.M.	The Bty of the Bde: received orders to proceed tonight to their positions in action.	
"	7-4-17	6-30 AM.	10 th B.H. Co. left H. 21. C. & proceeded to forward position at B 24. C. 9.7. Ref: Map. Trench Map. FRANCE. sheet 57 ^c N.W. edition 6A. $\frac{1}{20,000}$.	

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.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

April 1917

SHEET
No 2

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the field	7/4/17	8 AM	Group H. G. established at 8 AM. The Group to be known as P. Group & to consist of the 37 th , 38 th , 39 th , 110 th of the 10 th 4. a. Bde. & the 111 th , 112 th , 113 th , 111 th Blys of the 11 th 4. a. Bde. This morning broke very dull. & about 9 am, sleet started to fall. The afternoon cleared up, which was the cause of slight aerial activity on both sides. The night was quiet on the front.	
"	8/4/17	4 AM	The day broke fine, but dull, but visibility improved later. a forward position for B. H. G. was chosen at C. 14. P. 2. H. & Bde. O. P. at C. 3. C. 4. O. Aerial activity was normal. Hostile Balloon was up in direct front of C. 2. A. 5.5 at 2-15 P. M. & ascended 30' later. At 3.25 P. M. enemy shelled Bly. position at C. 2. A. 5.5 with 21. 5.9 ^s from direction of N. N. E. & coast S. E. Mein was subjected to fairly lively shelling through-out the day. 4 Trains were seen to enter La-Fontaine-Jez-Broiselles.	
"	9/4/17	4 am	Day broke wet & cold. visibility bad, afternoon cleared up. & planes were active. at 6-50 am 2 Hun planes caused a British plane to fall in No Man's Land near Lagnicourt. Throughout the day the usual routine firing was carried out by the Group. Enemy's shelling was below normal.	
"	10/4/17	4 am	The day broke very dull. with sleet falling, later in snow took its place	
		11 am	177 ^m gun firing T. B. 50° from U. 2. C. 25. 15. P 2 was	
		noon	Suspected O. P. at U. 2. 8. A. 20. 40. Shelled with effect.	
		12.40 2 PM.	Hun movement between Mendicourt & Reinecourt, also to & from front line	
		2-35.	Suspected O. P. a windmill M. B. 56° from C. 3. C. 25. 15. enemy were noticed approaching & leaving. & were shelled by this group.	

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

SHEET,

April 1917 No 3

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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the field	10/4/17	P.M. 3-10 6 P.M. 11 P.M.	Bty in action at U. 11. D. 1.5. reported by wireless, & dealt with by this Group. Enemy movement about 100 in U. 21. B. which was dealt with by Bty. " Bty: H. 2 firing from T. B. S. 45° from C. 2. A. 00. 85. Laid a special line straight from Group H. O. to Bde. O. P. for continuous operation	10 th 4. A. Bde.
"	11/4/17	11-30 am	Our Infantry attacked Bullecourt & Reincourt, under cover of our Artillery fire, & the assistance of Tanks. Our bombardment as per attached task. The Tanks did not prove the success expected. 6 out of 10 were put out of action very soon after the attack commenced. Three of our Contact planes were brought down by Hun fire during the attack. The day was not too good for observation after 11 am as rain, & then snow started to fall. The evening passed off uneventful.	
"	12/4/17	5 am 9 am 11 am 8-35	The morning broke fine & clear, but the afternoon was overcast with steady snow falling. Great movement was noticed during the day. A Battalion formed up in the Hendecourt - Reincourt road & moved off towards Hendecourt, taking cover from our fire in the sunken road. About 500 men again formed up in above road & when fired on, moved off in a northerly direction; many casualties were inflicted both times. 11 am a working party of about 200 men were observed at U. 14. D. 17. 3. apparently making a trench, they were engaged by How Bty. & dispersed. 8-35 The 62 nd Div. in our left carried out a bombardment of Bullecourt with their heavy, the latter part of the evening was quiet - Enemy Artillery during the day fired 100 rds 17/15 in C. 2. A. 3.5 & 3.9 between 3-10 & 4-15 P.M. gun firing from a N.E. direction.	

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.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

April 1917

SHEET No 4.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the field	13/4/17	4 am	<p>The day broke fine & clear, with a good sun showing. Observation was good. Hostile Planes & Ballons were numerous. At 11-20 A.M. one of our Ballons was fired by a Hun plane over Bapaume. Our Opts carried out their usual Routine firing for the day. At 1-45 am Hun put over 60 Gas shells into C. 2. A. Central. At 5 am. 50. 4. 7^s into C. 17. Central at noon ground was shelled with 50. 5. 9^s & 100. 4. 7^s.</p> <p>16 am Another party of 200 Huns appeared: none seen in V. 14. D.</p> <p>17-30 PM Our Mines carried out a successful bombardment of Bullecourt</p> <p>4 P.M. Hostile Ballon ascended T. B. 112 from C. 3. C. 25. 05.</p> <p>2-20 am Enemy put up light barrage on the following points U. 76. C. 4 D. paying special attention to railway embankment. Barrage ceased at 6 am. A number of flares were sent up from Bullecourt during the bombardment. Our Opts carried out usual Routine firing & paid attention to above working parties.</p> <p>14/4/17 4 am The day broke fine & clear. Aeroplanes were active on both sides. The Hun planes were scarce after mid-day.</p> <p>8 am Ballons were up T. B. 43° & 63° from C. 2. D. 5. 6. Enemy A. A. Opty located by flash 56° T. B. ^{from} C. 2. D. 4. 17. The Opty which fired Gas shells in the report of the 13th mt was located 33° T. B. sound from C. 2. D. 35. 80. Working parties were seen in U. 15. C. 3. 0. U. 18. C. 3. 4. & U. 17. D. 8. 6. & were dispersed each time. Our Opts carried out their usual allotted task. Huns activity was normal. a few H. 7^s being fired into Jengate.</p>	<p>10th Lt. A. Bode</p>

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

April 1914

SHEET No 5

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field	15/4/14	3-30 4am	The Hun launched an attack on Lagnicourt & Noreuil & broke through the line of posts on our right. He quickly passed through Lagnicourt destroyed 5 Field Guns on his way & advanced towards the Noreuil Valley, where he was caught in our barrage fire, our M.G.s which had been mounted on the sides of the Sander Road at Noreuil simply swept the crest of the hill as he advanced, close upon 2000 were killed & over 300 made prisoners. The remainder of his 3 Battalions that made the attack, reached their lines after dawn.	
		6-15am	Two enemy balloons were observed at T.B. 27° from C. 2. D. 40.75. Between 11-30 & 12-30, approx 1000 men in parties of 15 & 20 were seen moving towards the enemy line in crest to the N.W. of Noreuil.	
		6-55am	1 white rocket & stars were sent up from 154° T.B. from C. 2. D. 56. Enemy was very active all day, intermittently shelling Doust & Longate & roads & approaches in B. 24. with all calibre guns.	
"	16/4/14	4am	Our expenditure of Amm. in the above Hun attack was over 1000 rds. Day like fine & clear with good observation. At 10-25am one of our planes flying low in front of Doust - was heavily fired on by a.d. & M.G.s, but got home safely. Enemy 1/17 fired 30 rds on road about C. 2. A. 3. 3. from rear of Bullecourt T.B. S. 39 1/2° from C. 2. D. 5. 6. a faint odour of Tear gas was noticed at C. 2. D. 5. 6. shortly after the above landed.	
		4am	Balloons at T.B. 170° & 113° from C. 2. D. 5. 6.	

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118

239

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

April 1914

SHEET,
No 6

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field	14/4/14	4 am	Working party observed about U. 14. D. 6. 4. a hostile train observed at 40° from C. 2. D. 5. 6. a large party of men were seen in same vicinity marching along what appears to be a road.	
"	14/4/14	4-20 am	Bty located by flash T. B. 41° from C. 2. D. 5. 6. The Hun fired 100. 4. 2. 45. 9. into Jengate during the day. 9 80. 174 th into C. 2. D. 1. 9. 0 roads in C. 2. D. 8. 5. Our Btys carried out their daily tasks.	
"	14/4/14	4 am	Day broke fine, but dull. aerial activity very slight. Periodically during the day the Hun shelled Jengate with 47. 4. 2. 45. 9 about 150 rds all told. at 4-25 P.M. coast was shelled with a heavy gun from direction of Reencourt. 10 rds fired, interval of 10 between each. Our Btys did their usual wire-cutting tasks. at 2-30 P.M. a 5. 9 (one gun) was located by sound 20° from C. 2. B. 2. 5.	
"	18/4/14	4 am	Day broke wet & cold, visibility was poor all day. late in the afternoon a few of our planes were noticed up. at 2 am Jengate was lightly shelled, & a charge dump of the 110 th Hun Bty was destroyed. at 10-40 am. 40. 474 ^s were fired from Reencourt into Jengate. & at 2-30 P.M. 40 more into C. 2. C. 4. 2. Throughout the day the back country in B. 24. was shelled with 4. 7. Our Btys did their usual routine firing.	
"	19/4/14	4 am	Day broke fine, but cold & dull. Lt. Waring of the H.W. Signal reported today & took over the charge of all Communicators at B. A. Signal Sub Section being a new addition to a B.F.A. Unit	

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

April 1917

SHEET

No 17.

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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
On the Field	19/4/17	11 am 6-30 am 9-30	<p>Account of Jengate & roads in vicinity were steeled at intervals throughout the day with bursts of G.M. fire. The Tank in U. 28 A was engaged & destroyed by the T.D. Howitzer at noon, it being set on fire. At 10-15 am, working party about 120 strong were observed on ridge in U. 18. 9. 5 1/2. Two hostile balloons were up on T. B. of H. 1 & 60 from C. 2. D. 5. 6. & they descended at 11-30 am. Our outposts were intermittently steeled during the afternoon about C. 2. B. 2. 8. C. 5. D. C. 3 A. & C. 30. was steeled from direction Bullecourt with 100. 174's. 60. 5. 9's were put into C. 17. C. 4 account between 7-50 & 8 am. Our outposts fired on Tanks, Hostile outposts & wire throughout the day.</p>	
"	20/4/17	4 am	<p>Day fine & clear. Planes active. Enemy forced one of our Scouts to land behind our lines S.E. of account, between 1 AM & 2 AM. enemy barraged Noemie valley with 174's & gas shells. At 10 am road in C. 3 A. was steeled with C. H. 2's. Our Guns carried out their usual wire fire in work. & the steeled of huts, & approaches in all our back country.</p>	
"	21/4/17	11 am	<p>Day fine & clear. Between 12-45 & 1-25 am enemy barraged Noemie valley with 174's & gas shells. At 9-15 am a white flag was fired from Bullecourt. Between 2-15 & 3-30 P.M. enemy heavily steeled B. 24. B. 1 D. roads & valley in vicinity with 174 & 2 Sharp. Our Heavies retaliated on Bullecourt & trenches on our right & succeeded in quietening the Hun. Our outposts carried out their dully tasks on our site.</p>	
"	22/4/17	4 am P.M. 3-30	<p>Heavy smoke fire, but dull, observation poor, until 10 am, when it greatly improved. Aerial activity was most marked, at 3-30 P.M. 3 engagements took place in mid air. but no results were obtained. At noon our Heavies bombarded 4. h. T. in C. 2. 9. & caused some casualties. Our usual work was carried out by our outposts as per task.</p>	

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

April 1917

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.

10th A.F.A. Bde.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
On the West	23.4.17	7.31am 9am 1.10pm	<p>Heavy bombardment commenced by enemy on our left. Visibility poor until this hour when conditions improved.</p> <p>Hostile bombardment on our left very intense but quietened down at 3.30 pm.</p> <p>Hostile shelling on our sector normal all day. Forest + railway appeared to be main aim of enemy. Both places being lightly shelled at irregular intervals.</p> <p>Considerable hostile movement in new line between Rencourt + Mandicourt at 9.30 am.</p> <p>Our artillery fairly active from 11 am onwards, the heaviest shelling Rencourt + Rencourt with good effect. also F.L.T + supports.</p> <p>Hostile aircraft very active during day, appearing over our lines as early as 4 am.</p>	
	24.4.17	2.15am	<p>At this hour 2 jet rockets were heard + immediately afterwards explosion of four aerial torpedoes was heard.</p> <p>Enemy's wire from U 27 to 6.2 to U 28 to 10.10 shelled by us from 10 pm to 5 am with exception of from 2.25 to 2.35 am when firing was on 8. + 3. while shelling normal.</p>	
	25.4.17		<p>On night of 25/26 37th Battery withdrew guns + personnel to waggon lines as per Order No 8. 110th Div. Bty. also relieved 111th Div. Bty.</p> <p>usual routine firing during day.</p>	
	26.4.17		<p>During the morning it was cloudy + visibility only fair but afternoon clear + good observation.</p> <p>much movement seen on road about U 12 to 20.20. Our heaviest fire on Rencourt - Mandicourt + front line with good effect during the day. Enemy moderately shelled forest - Langelle during day with 77's, 4.2's + 5.9's. Three hostile balloons up from 10 am till dusk. Our planes active during day. Enemy machine guns very active against our low flying planes.</p>	
	27.4.17	10am 1.2am 3pm	<p>Visibility very poor during day + wire could not be observed. Our usual fire maintained on wire + back country. In response to P.O.'s call from infantry we opened up at 4.20 am at 2 rounds per gun per minute. Rate of fire gradually slackened + ceased at 5 am.</p> <p>2ask as per attached table.</p> <p>During these hours our heaviest shelling enemy F.L.T + Rencourt with good effect.</p> <p>Hostile artillery fire considerably above normal. Hundreds of rounds of 5.9's, 4.2's, + 77's fired on F.L.T + villages of forest + Langelle.</p> <p>One of our ammunition dumps blown up at C 8a 00.80.</p> <p>Hostile aircraft observed during day.</p>	

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118

239

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.)

April 1917.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			10th A.F.A. Bde.	
For the 9 th Div	28.4.17	2 am	Enemy commenced bombardment in sector on our left. Ceased at 3.45 am.	
		9 am to 12 noon	The day was cloudy + visibility poor. During these hours our heavy shells Bullecourt + Remicourt with good effect, a small ammunition dump at Remicourt being blown up. at 12.30 am the the 110 th How. Battery carried out a special task with smoke shells for experimental purposes. Between 12 noon + 2 pm. a large house in Remicourt was set on fire by our heavies. Task as per attached table.	
		3 pm	Another small ammunition dump at Remicourt blown up. Village of Bullecourt practically destroyed. Two hostile balloons up during afternoon behind Wanducourt. Hostile activity below normal during day. Our batteries carried out special task with gas shells at 10 pm.	
	29.4.17	2 am	The visibility was poor being hazy all day. In response to call from infantry our batteries opened up at 2 am on S.O.S. lines. This ceased at 2.15 am. Between midnight + 2.30 am. enemy shelled our front line and supports with shells of various calibre + an ammunition dump was blown up in rear of front. During morning 15 of 6.9 shells fired on front + Langatte. Otherwise hostile artillery activity below normal. No hostile balloons observed during day. Both our aircraft + enemies very active during day. During no aerial combat apparently. Both one of ours + a hostile machine were engaged + compelled to make forced landing.	
	30.4.17		Visibility was low during morning but improved later on in day. Our heavy shells Bullecourt + Remicourt with good effect. Work of our planes exceptionally fine during day, flying low over hostile country in spite of machine gun fire. Hostile aircraft were also more active than usual. During day polling for Commonwealth sections carried out for this Brigade. 474 votes were recorded.	

1875 Wt. W593/826 1,000,000 4/15 J.B.C. & A. A.D.S.S./Forms/C. 2118.

239

WAR DIARY

Headquarters Army Form C. 2118

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

10th A.F.A. Bde

(Erase heading not required.)

April 1917

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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p><u>GENERAL SUMMARY</u></p> <p>On the 7th inst the Brigade proceeded to forward position at B24C9.7 (Sheet 57c N.W. Ad C) + group headquarters established. The group is known as "P" group + consist of the 37th, 38th, 39th, 110th Batteries of the 10th Bde + the 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 111th Batteries of the 11th Bde, two of the batteries in each group being in reserve for portion of the time.</p> <p>On the 11th inst our infantry attacked Bullicourt + Ramecourt under cover of our artillery fire + the assistance of tanks, but attack did not prove success anticipated.</p> <p>On the 15th inst the enemy launched an attack on Lagnicourt, Morvil + broke through the line of posts on our right. He was however caught by our machine gun fire + barrage at Morvil + was compelled to retire again to their lines at dawn.</p> <p>During the month hostile artillery activity has been above anything hitherto experienced by this Brigade, the percentage of casualties being considerably above normal.</p>				

APPENDIX

2

"P" GROUP.

Headquarters.,

27th April 1917.

TASK TABLE.

1. 110th How Battery will bombard Machine Guns at U 29 b 70 20 and U 30 a 00 70 as follows balloons and visibility permitting.,

28th 2 P. M. to 3 P. M.)


29th 3 P. M. to 4 P. M.)

) Ammunition 50 rounds per Machine Gun.

2. All Batteries will at once select a datum point at least 30 degrees clear of their Zero line and register all their guns upon it. The 110th Battery will register this datum point before bombarding as in para 1. Batteries at present out of action will do so on first opportunity.
Report will be made to Group when the above task is completed.
3. All batteries will render a report to Group stating the number of guns in their Battery which have been calibrated.
Report to reach this office by noon 28th instant.

Copies to.

File
War Diary
37th
38th
39th
110th
11th Bde.


Lieut-Colonel.,

Commanding 20 "P" GROUP.

----- "P" GROUP. -----

Headquarters.,

28th April 1917.

T A S K T A B L E.

1. To-night 28/29th April if weather conditions are suitable a Gas bombardment of REINCOURT-LEZ-CAGNICOURT will be carried out at Zero hour which will be notified later in code.
2. 110th Battery will bombard the village north of a line U 24 a 00 80 U 24 b 00 70.
3. 250 rounds 4.5 gas shells are allotted.
4. Rate of fire 4 rounds per Howitzer per minute in salvos (as well as can be arranged).
5. If the wind remains in the West 110th Battery will commence at Western edge of its area remaining there until Zero plus 5 and then traversing across to the Eastern edge. Lifts should not exceed 50 yards.
6. From Zero plus 15 to Zero plus 30 the village will be kept under T.S fire by 38th Battery firing 12 rounds per minute. The whole village will be methodically searched and for this purpose the 38th Battery is allotted that portion of it North of a line.,
 U 24 a 15 50 - U 24 a 40 40 - U 24 a 55 35. "Q" Group takes remaining portion.
 From Zero plus 30 to Zero plus 60 the 38th will fire bursts of T.S.
7. Watches synchronised as usual.
8. Acknowledge by wire.

[Signature]
 Lieut-Colonel.,

Commanding "P" GROUP.

Copies.,
 38th Battery.
 110th
 File
 11th Bde
 D.A
 Diary.