

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

Artillery

**Item number:** 13/38/21

**Title:** Headquarters, 11th Australian Field  
Artillery Brigade

October 1917



AWM4-13/38/21



*Original*

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118. 188

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.)

11<sup>th</sup> Aus. F.A. Bde.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Ypres.	1-9-17	8-15 pm.	All batteries switched on to barrage task P.2. The barrage rakes the <del>back</del> enemy country back from F.L.T for depth of 1700 yds.	
"	2-9-17	6 am	Enemy again attacked, but were beaten off by our artillery fire. Weather fine & observation good. Hostile Artillery action below normal. Aerial activity very quiet. A few hostile planes flew low over our F.L.T in the early morning.	
"	3-9-17		Two practice barrages were fired during day. Enemy retaliated heavily & shelled roads & approaches. Aerial activity below normal. Preparations complete for attack at 6 am tomorrow morning. Attack being carried out by 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> Austalians, supported by all Aust. Artillery. Weather looks promising.	
"	4-9-17	6 am	Zero. All guns opened fire. Attack progressed well and all objectives were captured at 11.25 am. Numerous prisoners were taken. Our F.O.O. Lieut Thompson with two other ranks wounded. Our casualties light. Barrage very good.	
		Noon.	During afternoon enemy countered, but was repulsed with heavy loss.	
		2 pm.	Our infantry consolidated.	
		Night.	Enemy again countered twice, again beaten off with heavy loss.	
		Midnight	All quiet. <b>BROODSEINDE Ridge captured.</b>	

3333 Wz. W254/1454 700,000 5/15 D. D. & L. A.D.S.S./Forms/C. 2118.



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11<sup>th</sup> Aus. F. A. Bde.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Ypres.	5-10-17.	mid night dawn	S.O.S. barrages were put down during the night at odd times. It appears that the enemy were intending an attack with this zero hour 10 minutes after ours. They had heavy casualties on account of the numbers assembling for the attack, when our barrage came down. The weather has broken & it is now raining heavily. This will delay things most probably.	
Ypres.	6-10-17.	7 pm 12 mid. Noon	The Hun made a few feeble counter attacks, which were easily repulsed. Capt. G.C. Wells was killed today (41 <sup>st</sup> Bty). Lieut. King 42 <sup>nd</sup> Bty wounded & evacuated. Enemy heavily shelled our F.L.T. during afternoon. Weather still very unsettled. Enemy very quiet during night.	
"	7-10-17		Heavy rain during the night. Ground a "sea of mud". Guns were ordered to advance. With superhuman efforts some were got forward to new positions. A few are bogged. Almost helpless to get them out. Our boys are determined to do so & will. Hostile artillery more active today. An S.O.S. was fired in response to call by our infantry, attack of enemy did not develop.	



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11<sup>th</sup> A.F.A. Bde

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Brooklands	8/10/17		<p>Heavy rain all night. Hostile artillery still active on all roads &amp; Bty positions. Two guns were "blown out" this afternoon. Orders have been issued for a further advance more on our left. Zero hour at 5.20 am tomorrow.</p> <p>Great difficulty experienced in bringing up ammunition on account of hostile fire &amp; weather conditions. Horses &amp; men badly require a rest. If horses are not "spelled" we will lose a good many during coming winter, owing to debility.</p> <p>Zero hour at 5.20 am. Most of our objectives taken, but situation is at present indefinite. The weather conditions have been appalling and the infantry have had a trying time. Our guns which were bogged yesterday, we found impossible to move. Also three guns which were ordered forward were bogged 400 yards <sup>from</sup> their positions.</p> <p>Serjeant B. Thompson. Died of Wounds.</p> <p>Weather conditions slightly better. Three guns "bogged" yesterday were shifted to their new positions, and registered during day.</p> <p>Hostile artillery below normal.</p> <p>Lt. Col. P. M. Edwards took over command of C. Group at 5 pm tonight.</p>	
	9/10/17			
	10/10/17			



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11TH  
AUSTRALIAN  
F.A. BRIGADE

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Broodsema	16/10/17		2 Day Barrage fired + harassing fire kept on roads + approaches in Group zone. Batteries moving guns forward. Hostile Batteries active all day on Battery position 111th Howo 1 gun blown out. Observation has been fair 1 OR Killed	
	17/10/17	5.25am	A Day. From how 5.25am Attack continued on Passchendaele Ridge, Hostile fire slight. Infantry on left did not get objectives back in old line at 7pm. 1 OR Killed 5 OR wounded. Lt Wickett 4th Bty evacuated. Lt Sans attached to 4th Battery from 4th DAB	
	13.10.17		B Day has been dull + stormy. Heavy action has been below normal. Our Batteries carried on harassing fire + registration. Several parties sent + engaged with good effect. Sgt Major Dick 4th Battery killed 2 other ranks wounded. Batteries getting guns forward.	
	14.10.17		C Day. Observation has been better today + no rain. Batteries have been fairly busy with registration + harassing fire. Several counter Battery shoots have been done with How Battery with good effect. Hostile Artillery has been normal, his planes very active. 1 OR died of wounds 3 other wounded. Traps laid started to move to forward area on Spur near Ra.	



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or

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AUSTRALIAN  
F.A. BRIGADE.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Brooksmere	15/10/17		D Day. Harassing fire has been kept on enemy roads tractor during day & night. Batteries also engaged hostile batteries in action with good effect. Registrations have been carried out. The work of moving guns forward has been continued. Lt Col Edwards went to wagon lines to control machine fire. Lt Col Tomahony in charge at Group. Enemy has been particularly active all day both with artillery & planes. Tractor line completed move into forward area. 2 O.R. wounded & evacuated.	
	16.10.17		Enemy have been active all day & night. Battery positions were shelled at odd times. Harassing fire has been kept on roads & approaches in Group zone & other targets engaged. Lt Col Edwards at Wagon Lines in Control Machine & remained the night. Lt Col Tomahony in charge. 3 O.R. wounded & evacuated.	
	17.10.17		Observation has been good all day & planes active. Enemy artillery has also been active. Battery positions have been bombarded with gas during the night. Pkys have kept fire on all roads & approaches & engaged hostile battery in actions. Lt Col Edwards returned from Wagon Lines in morning took Group.	
	18.10.17		Lt H Stager 111 <sup>th</sup> Heavy Battery killed 2 other Ranks wounded & evacuated. Observation good all day. Hostile Batteries have been active all day & have been on town Batteries. Batteries have been fairly active on the roads & approaches during the day & night. Hostile planes & others have been over back areas bombing 1 O.R. killed by bomb at Wagon Lines. Lt Jordan 42 <sup>nd</sup> Battery evacuated sick also Capt McLennan. 2 O.R. wounded & evacuated.	



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11TH  
AUSTRALIAN  
F.A. BRIGADE

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Broodseinde	19/10/17		Harassing fire has been kept on roads & approaches in zone. Enemy has been particularly active all day. Battery positions have been heavily shelled. 42nd Battery having one gun knocked out of action. Batteries working hard with the supply of ammunition. During evening hostile planes have been over dropping bombs. Observation has been bad as rain fell during day.	
	20.10.17		1 O.R. killed Harassing fire has been kept on roads & approaches in Group zone. Several hostile Batteries have been engaged. Hostile Artillery has been active all day & our Batteries 42 & 43 etc have been heavily shelled. Two guns were taken over from 8th Battery for 42nd Battery. 1 O.R. killed.	
	21.10.17		Batteries have been busy all day registering & firing harassing fire on all roads & approaches. From 7 pm to 10 pm we engaged hostile Batteries with bursts of fire in conjunction with heavies. 42nd & 111th Batteries took over 2 guns each from 8th & 105th Btys respectively. At 8 am Lt Col J. L. Williams 10th Bde took over command of C Group. 11th Bde Staff going back to Tragant Limes near Oudendorp. Enemy Artillery has been active all day. During the morning wagon Limes near Hellfire Corner were shelled with 5.9s causing a good deal of annoyance & 1 man wounded. 3 O.R.s wounded & evacuated. Day has been fire observation good. Lt L. R. Gordon & Lt Knightley evacuated.	
	22.10.17	by beam	Kakaya Barrage was fired at 6.30 am by Batteries of the Group & the enemy. Retaliation within 2 minutes from direction (Naludambroek) Broodseinde. The retaliation	



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11TH  
AUSTRALIAN  
F.A. BRIGADE

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
22.10.16 Broodswide	22.10.16		<p>was heavy lasted for some time 5 t. Ro in 4<sup>th</sup> Battery were wounded &amp; evacuated. During the day harassing fire has been kept on enemy's roads &amp; approaches. 3 hostile Batteries were engaged by our 18 p.m. &amp; 5 t. Ro apparently with good effect. 4<sup>th</sup> &amp; 11<sup>th</sup> Batteries have been improving new positions. During day others have been busy with ammunition supply. At 5.45 p.m. K &amp; Corps Barrage was fired. Enemy retaliation was not so heavy. During the afternoon hostile batteries have not been so active. W. O. Barnard wounded &amp; evacuated. Day has been dull &amp; observation poor. Lt Col W. G. G. G. returned to duty remaining at rear wagon line on wagon.</p> <p>23/10/16 A Barrage was fired at 6 a.m. &amp; 6 Barrage at 4.30 p.m. Enemy retaliation was not so heavy as on the previous day. Only lasted for 15 minutes. 11<sup>th</sup> Battery &amp; 4<sup>th</sup> Battery still busy with position &amp; negotiation. During the day harassing fire was kept on roads &amp; approaches &amp; hostile Batteries were engaged. Major Progen sent to Leith side road home. Capt Ford reported took over command of the 4<sup>th</sup>. Observation has been fair.</p>	
	24.10.16		<p>At day a Barrage was fired at 9.15 a.m. &amp; 6 Barrage at 5.30 p.m. At 8.15 &amp; 8.45 p.m. bursts of fire for 6 minutes were fired on Army Barrage line for 6 minutes. Enemy's retaliation has not been so heavy this batteries have not been so active as recently. 4<sup>th</sup> &amp; 11<sup>th</sup> Batteries have been shelled. Major Copley was wounded &amp; remained on duty. During the morning wagon lines were bombed and 10 t. Killed &amp; 9 wounded. 30 horses killed. Observation has been fair. Stable plans have been very active flying low and Battery positions.</p>	

2353 Wt. W2544/1454 700,000 5/15 D. D. & L. A.D.S.S./Forms/C. 2118.



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11TH AUSTRALIAN F.A. BRIGADE

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Brookside	25.10.17		<p>N Day. a Barrage was fired at 9.45 &amp; Barrage at 4.30 for. Stride Hilling has not been so active during the day. Batteries have kept harassing the on roads &amp; approaches. Oran came out for relief of Batteries by 2nd Div Artillery - arrangements made for C Group 10 &amp; 11 Bde to pull out guns of 1st &amp; 2nd Div Artillery from their old positions. Batteries handed over during day proceeded to Wagon Line at Ypres at 6 pm. Command of C Group was taken over by Lt Col Lloyd 2nd Div. C Group HQ spent night in Railway Wood Lugonto. Day has been fine &amp; observation fair. Lt Col White DSO M.C. took <del>over</del> command 11th Bde. The Col Edwards reports to</p>	
Ypres	26.10.17		<p>O Day. Sixth Attack on Passchendele Ridge. Batteries spent day in Wagon Line in front Ypres &amp; guns to be salvaged were looked for. Day was wet. Lt Col White reported to 11th Bde.</p>	
Ouderdom	27.10.17		<p>Batteries moved down to old wagon line at Ouderdom during the day. Salvage operations were also carried on &amp; reports on condition of guns to be salvaged rendered to D.A.S.G. Few enemy planes over Wagon Line during the evening. Day was fine.</p>	



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Oudendorp	25/10/17		Batteries in Wagon Lines all day. Salvage of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Div Guns being carried out. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Gordon L. M. promoted Lieut A.I.F. orders 22/10/17 dated 28/10/17.	
	29.10.17		2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt A. Steeles promoted Lieut dated 5 <sup>th</sup> Oct 1917 A.I.F. order 30/10/17. 41 <sup>st</sup> - 111 <sup>th</sup> Batteries carried on salvage of gun 41 <sup>st</sup> brought out & 111 <sup>th</sup> baggage & O.R. wounded whilst salvaging the 111 <sup>th</sup> gun. Batteries carried on routine work at Wagon Lines & men were bathed. During the night hostile planes were over and bombing. Day was fine.	28/10/17
	30.10.17		Batteries in Wagon Lines continuing salvaging operations & cleaning up equipment.	McClellan
	31.10.17		Batteries at Wagon Lines all day. All guns salvaged. Received orders for move to Morbecque. Enemy planes over during the night.	McClellan
	1.11.17		Batteries at Wagon Lines all day preparing for move to Morbecque. Lt Col O'Mahony reported to 5 <sup>th</sup> Bde 2 <sup>nd</sup> Division <del>at</del> <del>Wagon Lines</del> Major Edwards reported to 111 <sup>th</sup> Bty & Staff <del>at</del> <del>Wagon Lines</del> <del>at</del> <del>Wagon Lines</del> temporarily in charge.	McClellan C.O. 11 <sup>th</sup> Bde 4.11.17



SECRET."C" GROUP FIELD ARTILLERY.

COPY No. ....

Headquarters,  
15th October, 1917.

No. <u>618.</u>
Date.....

LIAISON AND O.P. DUTIES

- The following roster of duties will be carried out as from Wednesday 17th instant.
- Special arrangements will be made during Offensive operations, and Batteries notified.
- 10th Aust. F.A. Brigade O.P. at D 29 a 25.95 will be manned both day and night by an Officer, 3 Signallers and 2 Linesmen, personnel to arrive and leave at dawn.  
11th Aust. F.A. Brigade O.P. at D 29 a 27.99 will be manned by an Officer and 2 Signallers from dawn to dusk.
- The 11th Aust. F.A. Brigade Officer and Signallers will also carry out the duties of Battalion Liaison Officer at D 16 d 65.10 during the night.  
He will commence his tour of duty by reporting at Battalion H.Q. at 5 p.m. remaining there during night, thence proceeding to Brigade O.P. arriving there at dawn and leaving at dusk.
- In addition to the above duties the 11th Aust. F.A. Brigade will supply three (3) Signallers to man Visual Station at TOKIO.  
An N.C.O. from Brigade Signal Sub-section will be in charge, and be responsible that messages from Group O.P. are received and transmitted without loss of time to Group H.Q.
- Care must be taken in approaching O.Ps. as they are in an exposed position and it is out of consideration for personnel that the rules be strictly adhered to, viz., from dawn to dusk, as laid down.
- Personnel will be detailed as under:-

10th Aust. F.A. Brigade.

<u>Battery.</u>	<u>From dawn</u> <u>17th</u>	<u>From dawn</u> <u>18th</u>	<u>From dawn</u> <u>19th</u>	<u>From dawn</u> <u>20th</u>
37th	1 Off. 2 Sigs.	1 Sig.	1 Sig.	1 Sig.
38th	1 Sig.	1 Off. 2 Sigs.	1 Sig.	1 Sig.
39th	1 Sig.	1 Sig.	1 Off. 2 Sigs.	1 Sig.
110th	1 Sig.	1 Sig.	1 Sig.	1 Off. 2 Sigs.

and so on in rotation.

11th Aust. F.A. Brigade.

<u>Battery.</u>	<u>From 5 p.m.</u> <u>16th</u>	<u>From 5 p.m.</u> <u>17th</u>	<u>From 5 p.m.</u> <u>18th</u>	<u>From 5 p.m.</u> <u>19th</u>
41st.	1 Off. 2 Sigs.	1 Sig.	1 Sig.	1 Sig.
42nd.	1 Sig.	1 Off. 2 Sigs.	1 Sig.	1 Sig.
43rd.	1 Sig.	1 Sig.	1 Off. 2 Sigs.	1 Sig.
111th.	1 Sig.	1 Sig.	1 Sig.	1 Off. 2 Sigs.

and so on in rotation.



Liaison and O.P. Duties (continued).....2.....15/10/17.

8. COMMUNICATIONS:

- (a). Air line from G.O.P. to Buried cable head at RETALIATION FARM (pair 19 on terminal strip), thence buried to Group exchange.
- (b). Air line from 11th Aust. F.A. Brigade to G.O.P., length 75 yards. This line will be reeled up on completion of tour of duty, handed in to G.O.P. and will be again laid out at dawn. This is to avoid waste of wire and earthing of system in event of a break during night.
- (c). Visual by lamp from G.O.P. to TOKIO.
- (d). Power buzzer from Battalion H.Q. (DE KNEOT FARM) to TOKIO. (these messages must be coded).
- (e). Battalion Liaison. By visual lamp from D 16 d 65.10 to TOKIO.

9.

SUPPLY OF TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT.

10th Aust. F.A. Brigade.

Each relieving Officer will take 1 telephone and 1 LUCAS Lamp which have been tested to ensure that same are in good working order.

11th Aust. F.A. Brigade.

Each relieving Officer will take one telephone ~~from~~ for communication from Brigade O.P. to G.O.P. and 1 LUCAS Lamp for communication from Battalion H.Q. to TOKIO, both being tested as ~~so~~ for 10th Brigade.

10.

ACKNOWLEDGE.

*W. L. Sanderson*  
Lieut.

for Lieut. Colonel.  
COMMANDING "G" GROUP FIELD ARTILLERY.

DISTRIBUTION.

- No. 1 File.  
2 War Diary.  
3 4th D.A.H.Q.  
4/11 Batteries Group.  
12 Spare.



15/10/1917..... 2..... (continued) G.P. Duties

COMMUNICATIONS:

- (a) Air G.P. Duties to be performed at RETALIATION BARRACKS (in G.P. Duties strip), thence wired to Group.
- (b) Air G.P. Duties to be performed at RETALIATION BARRACKS (in G.P. Duties strip), thence wired to Group. This is to avoid waste of wire and setting of system in event of a break during night.
- (c) Visual lamp from G.O.P. to TOKIO.
- (d) Power source from Retaliation H.Q. (DE KROGT BARRACK) to TOKIO. (These messages must be coded).
- (e) Retaliation Message. By visual lamp from D 18 4 53.10 to TOKIO.



SUPPLY OF TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT.

10th Aust. F.A. Brigade.

Each relieving Officer will take 1 telephone and 1 LUCAS lamp which have been tested to ensure that same are in good working order.

11th Aust. F.A. Brigade.

Each relieving Officer will take one telephone area for communication from Brigade G.P. to G.O.P. and 1 LUCAS lamp for communication from Retaliation H.Q. to TOKIO, both being tested as for 10th Brigade.

ACKNOWLEDGE

Lieut.

for Lieut. Colonel,  
Commanding "B" GROUP FIELD ARTILLERY.

DISTRIBUTION.

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- 3 3rd D.A.H.Q.
- 4 11 Batteries Group.
- 12 Spare.



## APPENDIX.

S E C R E T."C" GROUP FIELD ARTILLERY.Copy No. 2.....

No. <u>2181</u>
Date.....

Headquarters,

16th October, 1917.ADDENDA TOLIAISON AND O.P. DUTIES.

Personnel of 10th Aust. F.A. Brigade will report to the Officer detailed for duty, at his Battery three quarters of an hour before dawn.

Personnel of 11th Aust. F.A. Brigade will report at TOKIO at 4 p.m. and proceed from there with Officer detailed.

ACKNOWLEDGE.

*W. H. Sanderson*  
Lieut.

- No. 1 File.  
2 War Diary.  
3 4th D.A.H.Q.  
4/11 Batteries Group.  
12 Spare.

for Lieut. Colonel.  
COMMANDING "C" GROUP FIELD ARTILLERY.