

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

Artillery

Item number: 13/44/9

Title: Headquarters, 22nd Australian Field
Artillery Brigade

December 1916



AWM4-13/44/9

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.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the field	29.11.16		<p>During the night and day we kept up our usual barrage on enemy communication trenches and roads in rear of our sectors. MILKY WAY and ATOM trenches were given particular attention to during the day. Very foggy and observation practically impossible.</p> <p>Enemy placed a light barrage on our sector for 10 minutes which died down gradually. There was no aerial activity owing to the fog.</p>	
"	30.12.16	2 pm	<p>A very quiet day. Our usual barrage was kept up MILKY WAY and FIRE trenches receive particular attention. Still very cold and foggy.</p>	
"	1.12.16		<p>The infantry reported that much work was being done by the enemy on his front trenches we therefore shelled his front trenches at irregular intervals during the morning.</p>	
"		5.30 pm	<p>A very heavy hostile bombardment commenced on our immediate right. A few minutes later our observing officer at the A.P. reported that the bombardment had extended to our sector. Our batteries then opened fire on their S.O.S. line until 6 pm when the situation was quiet. Communication was obtained with Infantry Brigade HQ + the Infantry Brigade wished us to continue firing. Firing was continued at a slow rate until 7 pm when instructions were received from the Infantry Brigade to cease fire. Our trenches were not reached but were subjected to a very heavy fire.</p>	
		7 pm		

J.A. Arnold Col

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In the field	2-12-16		<p>The day was spent in endeavoring to get a good Registration on the enemy front line this being the first ^{clear} day that since coming into this position. It is practically impossible to approach the front line during daylight owing to the snipers & machine guns having direct observation on us. A good observation point was found about 600 yds from our front line and Registration was obtained on enemy front line by three of our batteries.</p> <p>A very quiet day.</p>	
"	2-12-16	5:30 pm	<p>A Relief was expected of the 104 Regiment on night of 2/3 and to "B" Group Art Order No 1 was issued in compliance with instructions received from 2nd Div. ART. H. Co. this order this group kept all troops and communication trenches in its allotted area under constant fire between the hours of 5:30 pm and 12 midnight.</p>	"B" Group Art Order No 1.
"	3-12-16	12 midday	<p>The brigade Group fired a programme sheet on their S.O.S. line which was observed by the C.O., Infantry Battalion Commander, Lieut BLAKE M.C. and Lieut BARLOW from a point about 600 yards behind front line. This was satisfactory in that it showed the work of our batteries was firing sheet as the infantry reported. Enemy shelling normal.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">J.H. Arnold Col</p>	

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In the Field	4.12.16		It was a clear day and all batteries took the opportunity of checking their Registration on their gorg lines. Enemy Artillery was very quiet though their planes were active. Lt BARLOW went down to the front line under cover of darkness + will stay the night in the front line + Register the batteries tomorrow from there. This is the only way one can get into the front line. <i>Q.R.</i>	
"	5.12.16		A programme shot was carried out by the battery and was observed by Lieut BARLOW. The shooting was satisfactory as regards Range but it was difficult to observe far line as no observation could be obtained on enemy front parapet. The noise barrage was kept up by us on the Roads + trucks in Rep of our sector. Enemy shelling was below normal. It has been another foggy day. There was no aerial activity. <i>Q.R.</i>	
"	6.12.16		A very quiet day. Usual barrage kept up on enemy trenches. No aerial activity. Between 10 pm & 11.15 and midnight 6/7 batteries were on Roads + trucks in their area so it was behind that a Relief was taken place. <i>Q.R.</i>	
"	7.12.16		Beyond our usual barrage there was nothing to report during the day. At 11.10 pm Officer at the Camp O.P. Reported heavy fire on the trucks to the immediate right of our sector. The firing was very heavy on the sector on our left + on our own but owing to the fog he was unable to see at S.O.S. signal. At 11.19 pm telephone communication was obtained with Lt. OSBORNE who was in the front line. He reported that the firing was very heavy on the sector on our left + on our own but that the infantry did not require immediate retaliation. At 11.30 pm Lt. OSBORNE informed me that the infantry would like retaliation as the firing was still heavy & <i>Q.R.</i>	
	7.12.16	11.10 pm to 12 midnight	At 11.10 pm Officer at the Camp O.P. Reported heavy fire on the trucks to the immediate right of our sector. The firing was very heavy on the sector on our left + on our own but owing to the fog he was unable to see at S.O.S. signal. At 11.19 pm telephone communication was obtained with Lt. OSBORNE who was in the front line. He reported that the firing was very heavy on the sector on our left + on our own but that the infantry did not require immediate retaliation. At 11.30 pm Lt. OSBORNE informed me that the infantry would like retaliation as the firing was still heavy & <i>Q.R.</i>	

J.H. Armstrong

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In the hand	7-12-16	11.34 pm	At 11.34 the battery opened fire at one round per gun per minute on the enemy second line and continued firing until 12 midnight when LT. OSBORNE Reported "All Quiet" on our sector.	
"	8-12-16		L.T. OSBORNE Reported the 14: and 15: Battalions from the front line a very quiet day wet and foggy. No aerial activity. A stray shell fell in the telephone dug-out of the 14th by killing one man and wounding two. It has been raining all day. Am using barrage fire otherwise nothing to report.	
"	9-12-16		Report.	
"	10-12-16		L.T. OSBORNE again Reported the 5 Rump battery from the front line a line having been laid by him overnight from Battalion HQ to the front line.	
"	10-12-16	10.15 am	Enemy shelling was above normal. At 10.15 am the enemy shelled the battery position with 4.2 shell but without inflicting any losses.	
"	10-12-16	3.12 pm	At 3.12 pm Battalion HQ was shelled by Howitzer apparatus from direction of BEAUVENCOURT. The Brigade Major was informed & action was taken by the Heavy.	
"	11-12-16	11 am	Nothing unusual occurred during the afternoon being cloudy & observation bad. Am using barrage fire. Kept up during day & night. At 11 am about 100 shells fell in front of battery the morning being clear & enemy planes were able to Report. Am appeared to fall in the area.	
"	12-12-16		A very quiet day. Clouds & observation bad.	
"	13-12-16		Enemy shelling was below normal. Am using barrage Kept up.	

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In the field	14-12-16		a quiet day. Very foggy observation but nothing to report. G.K.B.	
"	15-12-16	9 am	Lieut Col J.H. HURST handed over the command of "B" Group to Lieut. Col. B.A.D. WATTS D.I.O. Lieut. Col. HURST took over temporary command of 2 nd D.A.C. during absence on leave of Lieut. Col. W.J.S. DAVIDSON.	
	16-12-16		The day was not so foggy & there was probably no enemy activity. G.K.B.	
	17-12-16		Another quiet day. G.K.B.	
	18-12-16	6.30 pm	The 14 th mm shells at 6.30 pm but no damage was done and there was no casualties. Enemy shelling was below normal. G.K.B.	
	19-12-16		A few shells fell in vicinity of GUILLEMONT but enemy shelling was again much below normal. G.K.B.	
	20-12-16	10.15 pm	Battalion Liaison Officer reported a working party in enemy front line in our sector. 30 Rounds were fired on them as the day was clear & few enemy planes came over our line but did not penetrate to any great distance and were soon driven back by our planes. G.K.B.	
	21-12-16		a very quiet day. G.K.B.	

~~G.K. Vancouver~~
B Group Adj. 21-12-16
J.H. Hurst Lt Col

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T19C74	22-12-16	10 p.m.	<p>A quiet day. Observation bad.</p> <p>The 13th, 14th, 15th and 105th were relieved by the 10th, 11th, 12th and 104th Bys and the HQ's of 22nd Bde were relieved by the HQ's of 4th Bde.</p> <p>Lieut. G.K. Davenport proceeded to England to attend a course of Instruction.</p> <p>²Lieut. A.L. Roberts took over Adjutant during absence of Lieut. Davenport.</p>	
S16d23	23-12-16		<p>The 22nd Bde HQ's took over HQ's and wagon lines of 5th Bde HQ's at S16d23.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>[Signature]</i></p>	
"	30-12-16		<p>Lt Col J.H. Hurst. took over command of the Brigade again.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>[Signature]</i> J.H. Hurst</p>	