

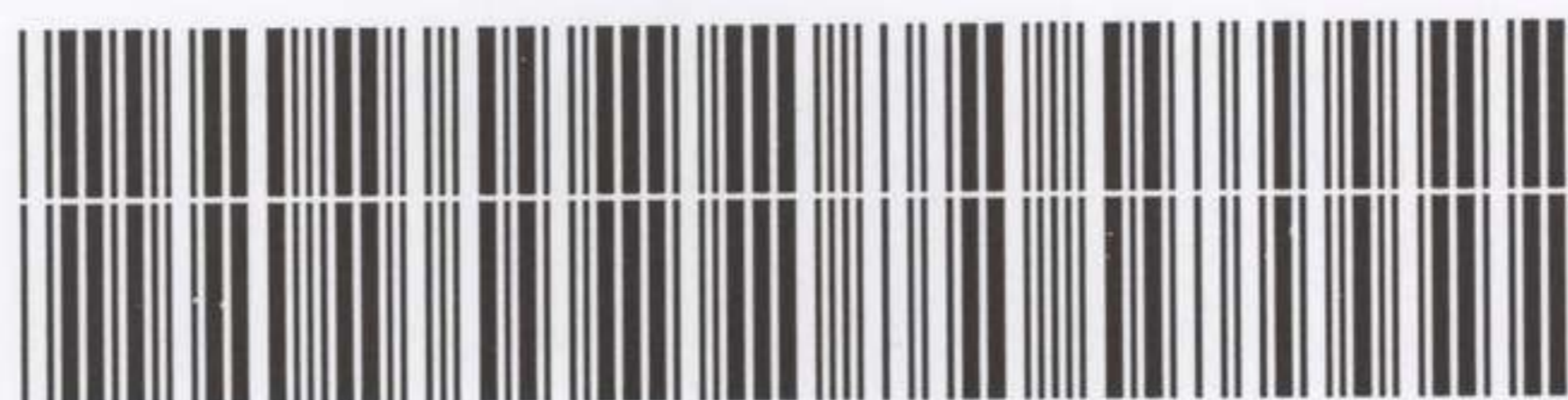
**AWM4**  
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,**  
**1914-18 War**

Artillery

**Item number:** 13/34/17

**Title:** Headquarters, 6th Australian Field  
Artillery Brigade

January 1917



AWM4-13/34/17

# 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
Givichy	1-1-17	6pm	<p>Our Artillery. Repetition of operation orders No. 7 "A" B &amp; C Btys each fired 120 rds and D Bty fired 90 rds. Operation orders No. 8 &amp; 9 were carried out. From 10pm to 5am "A" B &amp; C Batteries fired 20 rds each on tracks and roads. At 11am D Bty fired 19 rds registration. At 4.30pm "B" Bty fired 18 rds. Rechecking S.O.S lines in "B" Group sector.</p> <p>Hostile Artillery. The operation at 11.15pm produced very little retaliation. The intense bombardment from 2 to 3 o'clock produced little hostile reply. At 2.45pm Guendecourt and Resbours received some fire. Here and Guendecourt Road were searched with 15-cm H.E.</p>	see p. 8 & 19
	2-1-17	6pm	<p>Our Artillery. During the night 48 rds in short bursts were fired on hostile tracks and communications. At 4pm "A" Bty fired 5 rds on "Zero" line for infantry attack instruction. At 4.30pm "C" Bty fired 50 rds on dumps H. 16. B. 3.5 and H. 16. b. 87.</p> <p>Hostile Artillery. At 11am 2-8" shells fell on the steep road. The hollow between Rose and Rainbow Trenches with salvoes of 77 mm. also the number road with 4.2". The Guendecourt - Here Road was shelled. From 3.15pm an 8" gun from Reincourt shelled Delville Wood and Longueval. The duckboards to the right of Delville Wood were also shelled.</p>	
	3-1-17	6pm	<p>Our Artillery. From 9pm to 6.30am "A" &amp; "B" Batteries each fired 75 rds on tracks, dumps, roads and communications. During the day "A" "B" "C" &amp; "D" Batteries registering S.O.S lines with 18, 18, 12 and 9 rds respectively.</p> <p>Hostile Artillery. The enemy shelled Delville Wood to Longueval Road with 8" &amp; 4.2" during the night. It is believed this is the battery firing from H. 11. B. 5.9. A few rounds were fired near Rose Trench and Rainbow Ridge. Guendecourt and Eve Alley were also shelled.</p>	
	4-1-17	6pm	<p>Our Artillery. From 9pm to 6am 225 rds were fired into tracks, roads and dumps. From 12noon to 2.45pm "A" "B" &amp; "C" Btys fired in all bords checking S.O.S lines. 2.30pm to 4pm "A" Bty fired on roads, trenches and tracks.</p> <p>Hostile Artillery. A few rounds were fired into Delville Wood during the night. During the afternoon duck board in T.7.A and crest in T.14 were shelled with 4.2" H.E. Eternal Alley and Guendecourt were also shelled during the afternoon.</p>	

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Ginichy	5-1-17	6pm	<p>Our Artillery From 9pm to 6am 225 rds were fired on Roads Tracks &amp; Duckboards.                      3.30 to 4pm "A" Bty fired 29 rds on fire and Atom trenches. 3.45pm "D" Bty fired 12 rds on H.16. D. 8.1 and "B" Bty fired 9 rds on H.22. b.g. 9 at 4pm                      Hostile Artillery Here to Guendecourt area was shelled throughout the night. During the night some 4.2" H.V. were fired near the Brigade wagon lines. This morning 4.2" shrapnel were fired near "B" Battery. Duckboards in T.7. A were shelled during the day An 8" gun fired on Delville Wood during the night. The shelling on back areas was slight but a few rds were fired in the vicinity of S.12.</p>	
	6-1-17	6pm	<p>Our Artillery From 8pm to 5:10pm "A" B &amp; "B" Batteries 150, 150, 124 rds respectively on Roads tracks dumps communication trenches Sunray trench.                      Hostile Artillery Hostile artillery was much below normal in this area. Guendecourt, the sunray road near Here and duck boards tracks were shelled slightly.</p>	
	7-1-17	6pm	<p>Our Artillery From 9pm to 6am 225 rds were fired on Roads and tracks. The Group carried out operation order No. 11.                      Hostile Artillery was below normal. At 9.15pm Here - Longueval Road was shelled with 80 - 8" 4.2" H.V. guns were somewhat active on Shire trench at H.21. D. 7.2 and in H.27. B. Between 5 and 8pm Eternal and Energy Allies were shelled with 4.2" H.E. From 3.30 to 4pm Salvoes of 4.2" were fired into Eternal Valley at H.27. D. 5.2.</p>	O.O. 11
	8-1-17	6pm	<p>Our Artillery From 12pm to 3am "B" Bty fired 75 rds on tracks and communications. All batteries fired in accordance with operation order No. 11.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Ginchy	8.1.17	Contd.	<p>At 8.15 am A. Bty fired 50 rds into Milky Way r 21. b. 6.4 and 6.6 and N. 15. D. 6.2. and K. Bty fired 50 rds on Milky Way from 11.21. b. 6.7. to N. 15. D. 7.2. The two last series were fired on information from Battalion Liaison Officer that a hostile relief was in progress.</p> <p>Hostile A. Artillery. Hostile Artillery was below normal. At 11.30 pm 6-4.2" were fired into T. 8. C. 2.4. The duck board track from Ginchy Road to the Sugar Refinery in S. 18 D. and T. 13. A. and C. was shelled throughout the day with 5.9" and 4.2" H.E. 12 rounds of 10.5 cm. were fired into Shire Trench at 2.30 Needle dump received considerable attention from 3.15 to 4 pm with 15 cm.</p>	
"	9.1.17	6 pm	<p>Our Artillery. From 9 pm to 6 am. A. B. &amp; C Batteries each fired 75 rounds on Tracks, dumps roads &amp; communications.</p> <p>Hostile Artillery. Activity below normal. "Eternal Valley" was intermittently shelled throughout the day with 5.9" H.E. and the Alley likewise shelled with 4.2". This shelling commenced at about 8.10 am. At 8 am and again at 11 am. six rounds of 5.9" were fired in the vicinity of T. 5. 12. 8. 8. At 8.30 am enemy fired 10 rounds of 5.9" into Tredcourt. Between 12 + 1-30 pm several rounds 77mm. were directed on duck boards at about T. 2. C. 6. 2. At 3 pm enemy fired four rounds 5.9" in the vicinity of T. 7. B. 1. 8. The duck boards in our sector received slight attention.</p>	
"	10.1.17	6 pm	<p>Our Artillery. From 6.10 pm to 12.30 pm. "A. B. C. D" Batteries fired 372 rounds on enemy's tracks &amp; communications, dumps, roads, in rear of Brigade sector.</p> <p>Hostile Artillery. Enemy artillery were very active. From 10 am to 4 pm about 250 8" howitzer shells were fired into T. 7. a. 8. 4 and T. 7. b. 1. 2. This gun seemed to</p>	

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Quincy	10-1-7	6.30pm	<p>Food to be firing from Beaurivault. There were no casualties to personnel. Switch trench in front of the Group also received attention from this gun. Between 2 and 3pm the corduroy road from T7D40 towards Quincy was shelled with a number of 5-9" and 4.2". The duckboards and Decauville lines in Jelville Wood were shelled intermittently throughout the day and duckboards were shelled unmercifully in T13. with 5-9" 4.2" and 77mm.</p>	
Quincy	11-1-7	6.30pm	<p><u>Our Artillery</u>                      From 7pm to 9pm "A" "B" "C" &amp; "D" Batteries carried out firing on enemy's tracks &amp; trenches in N 22 A and B in accordance with Operation order. 440 rounds were fired during this period. From 10pm to 2am "B" Bty fired 60 rounds on roads &amp; tracks in back country. From 2-6am "C" Bty fired 60 rounds on same targets.</p> <p><u>Enemy Artillery</u> During the evening a few 4.2" H.E. fell in vicinity of "B" Battery T7g. At 7.30pm enemy fired about eight 5-9" into Jelville Wood and cut Decauville line about S 16 A 5.3. At 3am a number of 5-9" were fired into "A" Battery position. Throughout the day enemy's activity was much below normal.</p>	O.D. 910.
Quincy	12-1-7	4pm	<p><u>Our Artillery</u>                      From 7pm to 6am A, B, C Batteries fired 229 rounds on enemy's communication tracks &amp; dumps.</p> <p><u>Enemy Artillery</u> 15 rounds fired in vicinity of floating road in T7D between 10+11am. No damage caused. Enemy shelled the vicinity of left Battalion HQ's with 5-9" intermittently from 11am to 1pm.</p> <p><u>Aerial Activity</u> - Nil</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Quincy	12-17	4pm	Relief. The 6 <sup>th</sup> Lats. were relieved in the line by the 15 <sup>th</sup> FA Brigade.	
Do	13-17		Day spent preparing for move.	
	14-17	9am	Left wagon line arriving at staging camp at Bourie at 4pm.	
	19-17	9am	Left Bourie and arrived at Cardonnette at 2pm. The 17 <sup>th</sup> Bty. left the column for Franvillers in order to undergo a course of live shell practice.	
	26-17		Seven days in rest spent cleaning equipment etc. Left 9am - reaching Bourie 2pm.	
	27-17		Whilst at Bourie the Brigade was reorganized into a 6 gun battery. Brigade with the exception of the How Bty. One section of the 58 <sup>th</sup> Bty. together with the 59 <sup>th</sup> Bty. both of the 5 <sup>th</sup> Aust Div were utilised to bring the Brigade	
	31-17		up to six gun battery establishment.	

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LEFT GROUP ARTILLERY OPERATION ORDER NO. 4.8.

Headquarters,  
Dec. 28th, 1916.

REFERENCE: GUEUDECOURT TO THILLOX AND BAPAUME, 1/10,000.

1. Minor operations to practice co-ordination and synchronization of fire in group sectors, as well as to destroy enemy's defences, will be carried out on the 30th December, 1916, by all batteries of the Right Divisional Artillery Group.
2. Task Tables are attached for this Group. Each scheme will be repeated at times as laid down in task tables.
3. If, at any of these periods of fire, the enemy retaliates on our trenches, the Battery Commander concerned will immediately notify this office.  
  
Tasks "A" or "B" will then be ordered from this office.
4. Necessary registration should be carefully carried out to-morrow, 29/12/1916.
5. Watches will be synchronised by this office at 6.6 a.m. 30/12/1916.
6. ACKNOWLEDGE.

*Alvewford*

Lieut.  
Asst. Adjutant, Left Group Artillery.

Issued at *12.10. am* by runner.

- No. 1. "A" Battery.
- 2. "B" -do-
- 3. "C" -do-
- 4. "D" -do-
- 5. File.
- 6. War Diary.

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LEFT GROUP ARTILLERY OPERATION ORDER NO.G.8.

Headquarters,  
Dec. 30th, 1916.

REFERENCE. GUEUDECOURT TO THILLOX AND BAPAUME, 1/10,000.

1. The tasks laid down in "X", "Y" and "Z" tables of Operation Order No.G.8. will be repeated to-morrow the 31st December, 1916, and during the night 31st Dec/1st January, as shown in the time table hereunder. Task "A" will be fired as shown in the table hereunder.

2. The following is the time table:-

Unit.	Task.	Time.
"A" Group.	"X"	7 a.m., 10 a.m., 12 noon, 5 p.m., 8 p.m., 7 a.m.
	"Y"	7.10 a.m., 10.10 a.m., 12.10 p.m., 5.10 p.m., 6.10 p.m., 7.10 a.m.
	"Z"	7.30 a.m., 10.30 a.m., 12.30 p.m., 5.30 p.m., 6.30 p.m., 7.30 a.m.
	"A"	7.10 p.m. to 7.18 p.m.

3. ACKNOWLEDGE.

*Abrauford* Lieut.  
Asst. Adjutant, Left Group Artillery.

Copies by runner at .....

- No.1. "A" Battery.
- 2. "B" -do-
- 3. "C" -do-
- 4. "D" -do-
- 5. File.
- 6. War Diary.

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LEFT GROUP ARTILLERY OPERATION ORDER NO.G.10.

Headquarters,  
Dec. 30th, 1916.

REFERENCE. GUEUDECCOURT TO THILLOY AND BEAULINCOURT, 1/10,000.

1. There will be a similar demonstration carried out on the night of December 31st, 1916, to that held on Christmas Day (vide Left Group Artillery Operation Order No.G.7. of 24/12/1916.)

Every available gun and howitzer in the Corps will be brought into action for two minutes, starting at 11.1 p.m. (one minute after German midnight.)

2. The objectives for "A" Group Artillery will be in accordance with table of tasks attached hereunder:-

Unit.	Time.	Task.	Rate.	Ann.
18-pars.	11.1 p.m. to 11.3 p.m.	ATON TRENCH from N.16.a.4 $\frac{1}{2}$ .0. to N.22.b.0.8 $\frac{1}{2}$ .	BYF 3 secs.	80% A. 80% AX.
4.5" Hows. 1 section	-do-	N.16.a.4 $\frac{1}{2}$ .0. N.16.a.4 $\frac{1}{2}$ .0.	3 rounds per gun per min.	BX
1 section	-do-	N.16.a.4 $\frac{1}{2}$ .1 $\frac{1}{2}$ .	-do-	BX

3. All Batteries will stand by at 12 midnight ready to repeat their tasks should the Germans attempt a similar demonstration.
4. Watches will be synchronised with Left Group Artillery Headquarters at 10.5 p.m.
5. ACKNOWLEDGE.

*Abawford*  
Asst. Adjutant, Left Group Artillery. Lieut.

Copy by runner at 7.30 p.m.

- No.1. "A" Battery.  
2. "B" -do-  
3. "C" -do-  
4. "D" -do-  
5. File.  
6. War Diary.