

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

Artillery

Item number: 13/38/8

Title: Headquarters, 11th Australian Field
Artillery Brigade

September 1916



AWM4-13/38/8

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118. 46

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.)

*Col. H. A. Hughes
Gen. A. B. de L. S.*

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	VOLUME VIII	Remarks and references to Appendices
<i>Dickbusch</i>	<i>Sept.</i>	1st.	The following rounds were fired :- At working party at O 8 d 7.0.11 rds by 42nd. Battery. 10 rds by 41st. Battery verifying registrations and 61 rounds in retaliation by 11th. 42nd. and 39th Batteries. 42nd and 43rd Batteries fired 35 rds to cover Trench Mortars in Wire Cutting at O 8 a 3½.9½.		
		2nd.	At 10.40 am. 11th. shelled DAMSTRASSE with 19 rds in retaliation for Enemy shell-ing. 39th. Battery verified Night Lines with 16 rds. At 1 pm. 11th. shelled Enemy's Trenches (Front Line & Supports) with 82 rds. 42nd. at 1.30 pm. shelled ENEMY FRONT LINE XXXXXX with 16 rds in retaliation.		
		3rd.	At 5 pm. 43rd. Battery cut wire at O 2 c 6.2 with 100 rds. 7.10pm. 43rd. registered for Barrage with 16 rds. 42nd at 12.50 pm. put 10 rds into MACHINE GUN EMPLACEMENT at O 2 c 9.5 and fired 12 rds on FRONT LINE TRENCHES in retaliation. 11th. shelled SUPPORTS and EMPLACEMENTS opposite Trench 11 with 38 rds. In addition during the day 39 rds were fired by 41st and 42nd. Batteries in retaliation		
		4th.	Group fired 345 rds in Retaliation		
		5th.	A new work observed in ENEMY FRONT TRENCH at O 8 a 3.9 was blown up by the 43rd Battery and a working party dispersed on FRONT TRENCH at O 2 c 7.2. 11th fired 20 rds on Hostile Battery at O 10 5.4. The Belgian Batteries fired 50 rds on O 9 b in retaliation and the 11th 14 rds on SUPPORTS opposite Trench 11. At 6.50 pm. 39th. Battery fired 35 rds on Night Lines at the request of the Infantry Brigadier.		
		6th	A quiet day. 11th. fired 51 rds on new work at O 8 a 9½.4 also 27 rds on New Construction opposite Trench 11. Belgian Batteries retaliated 50 rds on WOODS behind DAMSTRASSE. O.C. 11th. Battery observing from Balloon of 15th. K B. Section fired 120 rds on various targets in the zone. 43rd. Battery cut two lanes in Wire at O 2 c 6.2 using 137 rds.		

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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118. 16

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or
~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Dickbusch	Sept.	7th.	The enemy shelled 43rd., Battery getting a direct hit on No. 2 Gun Pit. Gun was badly damaged. 11th. retaliated 24 rds on MARTENS FARM & Belgians 100 rds on HIRLE FARM. Later 11th. Battery fired 44 rds on Crater 2 apparently with good effect.	
		8th.	Working party observed at Damstrasse 0 9 a 4½. 2½ dispersed by 41st. Battery. In addition 85 rds were fired in retaliation by the group.	
		9th.	A request was made by the Infantry for a barrage to cover a party of 11 men who were to make an attempt to rescue 2 wounded Officers in Enemy Wire at 0 8 a 3 8½. Accordingly fire was opened on from Crater 2 to 0 8 a 0.7 from 1.24 pm. to 1.36 pm. The party got over to German Wire and back without Casualty but only succeeded in recovering some equipment from Wire. The Officers themselves having evidently been removed xxxxxxxWire by the enemy, during the night. 593 rounds were fired. 144 rds was also fired during the day in retaliation. A section of the 47th. Battery was brought into Action.	
		10th	42 rds were fired by 11th. Battery at Enemy's New Works opposite Trench 11. In retaliation for enemy shelling vicinity of CAFE BELGE about 1 p.m., Belgian Batteries fired 150 rds and 42nd. Battery fired 37 rds in retaliation on ENEMY FRONT LINE TRENCH at 3.40 p.m.	
		11th	During the day 323 rds were fired in Registration including series by 11th & 41st. Batteries from Balloon, on various targets.	
		12th.	11.45 am. 42nd. Battery fired 42 rounds on Trenches at 0 8 a 2½. 9 to cover Trench Mortars engaged in Wire Cutting. 12.25 p.m. Enemy shelled our Front Line Trenches, 126 rds were fired in retaliation. 42nd. fired 26 rds at MACHINE GUN EMPLACEMENT at 0 8 d 5½. 0	
		13th	4.10 a.m. 69 rds were fired at Reserve Trenches at 0 9 b 2.6, movement having been observed there. At 2 pm 34 rds were fired covering Trench Mortars operating on Enemy Wire. 3.30 pm. a MACHINE GUN EMPLACEMENT was destroyed by 39th. Battery with 33 rds. In addition to above 100 rds were fired in retaliation on Enemy Trenches.	

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
		14th.	A quiet day. Only 22 rds being fired at FRONT LINE TRENCH in retaliation	
Dickelbach	Sept.	15th.	In preparation for proposed raid, Registrations were carried out by Batteries and known Machine Gun Emplacements and strong points bombarded with 395 rds in addition 120 rds were used by 42nd. Battery in Wire Cutting at 0 2 c 6.2	
		16th.	During the day, 438 rounds were fired in registering for raid and bombarding Strong Points. On the night of 16th/17th/ a raid was carried out on No.2 CRATER. Operation Order Appendix 9 A, Report Appendix 9 B	
		17th.	At 10.50 a.m. Smoke was seen rising from CRATER 2. 19 rds were fired into it by 41st Battery. 124 rds were also fired during the day in retaliation.	
		18th.	The following Batteries were relieved and withdrawn from the Line :- 41st. Battery relieved by 45th. Battery 42nd. " " " 46th " 43rd. " " " 47th " No firing was done during the day.	
		19th.	Weather Conditions were bad. 140 rds were fired by incoming Batteries in verifying registrations.	
		20th.	109 rds were fired, 44 being in registration and 65 in retaliation.	
		21st.	39th. Battery fired 44 rds in registering communication Trench at 0 8 a 9.8 with Aeroplane Spotting and 45th. fired 16 rds on 0 9 b 9½.6¼ with Kite Balloon Spotting, 40th. Battery fired 32 rds in Registration.	
		22nd.	Command of Group handed over to Lieut. Col. Rabbett.	

James G. G. G.
Lt. Col. I.A.
Commanding, 11th Aus I.A. Brigade

FOURTH

AUSTRALIAN

DIVISIONAL

ARTILLERY

Copy No.

ORDER NO. 28
=====

SECRET

September 16th. 1916

Reference Orders Nos. 26 and 27.

1. The raids will take place on the night of September 16/17th.
2. Time table of bombardment, Barrages, rates of Fire, etc. attached.
3. Groups A, B and C come into existence at 8.15 p.m. 16th. inst.
4. All Liaison Officers will be at their positions at 10.15 p.m. 16th. inst.
5. The C.R.A. will be at 11th. Inf. Bde. Headquarters at 10.15 p.m. where all reports from Groups will be sent.
6. Os.C Groups A and B will arrange to form a right or left flank barrages respectively as soon as they receive information that their raiding party has withdrawn.

The object of this is to protect the flank of the next raiding party in case this is still in the Enemy's trenches.

7. The general plan of the Infantry is to come out of the trenches on the start of our bombardment and form up in narrow deep columns with the heads of the columns as close to our bombardment of the F.L.T. as possible : them when we lift our fire to get into the trenches when the heads of the columns will, divide, wheeling Right and Left. In all cases there will be screening parties in NO MAN'S LAND covering the raids and their withdrawal. The Infantry will withdraw from the Enemy's trenches independently by raids, either on the signal, or else on the expiration of the time limit of 20 minutes, i.e. at ~~12.38~~ 12.38 a.m.
8. The general plan of the Artillery may be recapitulated as follows:-

HEAVY ARTILLERY :- From 12.15 a.m. onwards counter Battery work.

DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY :-

3 minutes intense bombardment of entire F.L.T. from PICCADILLY FARM to O 4 a 2 4 with howitzers on selected spots. Certain Batteries then lift and form Box Barrages while our men are in the enemy trenches.

After their withdrawal of each raid, which will occur about 12.38 a.m. fire is slowed down by each Group till 1.15 a.m. when they will quicken for 2 minutes intense bombardment on F.L.T. and Com. trenches and then cease.

SIGNALS &
CODE MES-
SAGES 9

SOUND

B	Raid	will	withdraw	--	Motor Hooter
A	--	Bugle
C	---	Handbell

SIGNALS & CODE MESSAGES (continued)

VISUAL-

B	Raid <u>has</u> withdrawn	--	2 white parachute rockets
A	:: :: ::	--	2 red rockets

TELEPHONE -

B	Raid <u>has</u> withdrawn	--	CANADA
A	:: :: ::	--	AUSTRALIA
C	:: :: ::	--	ENGLAND

LIAISON

Either the Group Commander himself or else a senior Officer will be at each Battalion Headquarters.

BARRAGE

The Barrage scheme for B and A raids issued with Order 27 holds good.

TIME

All watches will be synchronised to this Office at 7 p.m. on 16th.inst.

Sgd. C. W. Bates, Major. R. A.,
Brigade Major,
4th. Australian Divisional Artillery.

APPENDIX *J.A. W*

TIME	TABLE
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17th. September

12.15 a.m.

to

12.18 a.m.

Intense bombardment of Enemy's F.L.T. between PICCADILLY FARM and O & a 2 4 with Howitzers on selected spots.

Rate 3 rounds per gun per minute.

12.18

to

12.38

Groups A, B and C form Box Barrages as Ordered, lifting 125 yards from F.L.T.

Howitzers, Trench Mortars and 42nd., 43rd., 40th., and 48th. Batteries remain on their original tasks.

Rate of Fire 2 rounds per gun per minute

12.38

to

1.15 a.m.

42nd., 43rd., 40th. and 48th. Batteries slow down to 2 rounds per Battery per minute

A, B, and C Groups slow down to similar ~~rate~~ on receipt of news of withdrawal of their raids.

Howitzers cease firing.

1.15 a.m.

to

1.17 a.m.

2 minutes intense bombardment as at 12.15 a.m. with all Guns and Howitzers.

Rate 3 rounds per Gun per minute.

The proportion of A to AX used throughout the above for 18pdrs. will be equal.

During the 3 minutes bombardment for 12.15 to 12.18, 18pdrs. of A, and C Groups must not use AX.

Sgd. C.W. Bates, Major, R. A.
Brigade Major,
4th. Australian Divisional Artillery.

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SECRET.

APPENDIX 7A

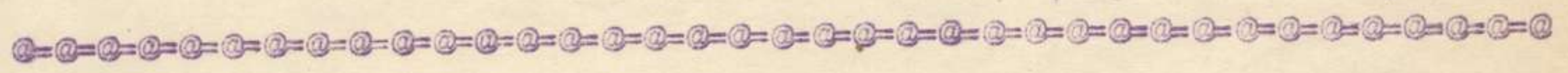
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RIGHT GROUP ARTILLERY by OPERATION ORDER NO. 19.

LIEUT. COL. F. A. HUGHES,

COMMANDING RIGHT GROUP ARTILLERY.

16th. SEPTEMBER 1916.



TASKS. 1. 42nd, and 43rd., Batteries will bombard on their registrations of F.L.T. from Crater 5 to RUINED FARM from 12.15 a.m. to 12.18 a.m. at X F 10 seconds.

From 12.18 a.m. to 12.38 a.m. X. F. 15 seconds.

From 12.38 a.m. to 1.15 a.m. B. F. 30 seconds.

From 1.15 a.m. to 1.17 a.m. X. F. 10 seconds.

111th. Howitzer 1 Section
1 ~~gun~~ 0 8 a 8.6.
1 ~~gun~~ ~~x8x8x8x8x8~~ 16.
Section 0 8 a 25.85 to 0 8 a 225.550.

2nd. Lieut. F.A.

Adjutant Right Group Artillery.

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SECRET.

APPENDIX 9A
SEPTEMBER 16th/17th. 1916.

BARRAGE

"A" GROUP.

PHASE I.

Time from 12.15 a.m. to 12.18 a.m.

Rate of Fire X F 10 seconds.

- 39th. Battery 0 2 d 2.7 to 0 2 e 95.65.
- 41st. " 0 2 e 9.55 to 0 2 e 775.4
- 47th. " Left Section 0 2 e 95.65 to 0 2 e 9.55.
- Right Section 0 2 e 775.4 to 0 2 e 7.35.

110th. Howitzer I Gund No. 3 CRATER

- 1 Gun 0 2 d 7.6
- 1 Gun 0 2 d 4 5
- 1 Gun 0 2 d 0.1

throughout

PHASE II

Time from 12.18 a.m. to 12.38 a.m.

Rate of Fire X F 15 seconds.

- 39th. Battery 0 2 d 375.65. to 0 2 d 24.5
- 41st. do. 0 2 d 1.25, 3.5 to 0 2 e 95.225
- 47th. do. Left Section 0 2 d 24.5 to 0 2 d 1.25, 3.5
- Right do. ~~Same as Phase I~~ search from 0 2 e 9.5, 2.25. to 0 2 e 8.5, 1.5.

PHASE III.

Time from withdrawal of Infantry to 1.15 a.m..

Guns ~~fall back~~ *remain* on to lines as in PHASE I. II

Rate of Fire :- Battery Fire 30 seconds.

PHASE IV.

Time from 1.15 a.m. to 1.17 a.m.

Lines as in PHASE III.

Rate of Fire :- X F 10 seconds.

Jacob

2nd. Lieut. F.A.
Adjutant, Right Group Artillery.

REPORT ON RAID ON No. 2 CRATER ON THE NIGHT

16/17th. September

In accordance with Operation Orders, D.A. 26 to 28 , "A" Group Artillery supported a Raid by 45th. Battalion Canadian Infantry on No. 2 Crater.

At 12 midnight Guns on our left opened.

At 12.14 a.m. Heavies opened.

At 12.15 a.m. Intense Bombardment for 3 minutes opened.

12.18 to 12.38 a.m. Rate of Fire dropped from X F 10 secs. to X F 15 sec

At 12.43 a.m. As the Signal that our Troops had returned had not been given, all Batteries were ordered to keep on X F 15 secs

At 12.47 a.m. Parachute Rockets were reported signifying that the Raiders of "B" Raid were out. The Right Section of the 47th. Battery was dropped on to Front Line to form a side to our Barrage.

At 12.54 a.m. Message " AUSTRALIA " received , on which Batteries were ordered to reduce Fire to B F 30 secs.

At 1.5 a.m. 42nd. Battery O.P. reported retaliation by the enemy, which was not heavy. A few rounds were also heard going over in the direction of Heavies.

1.15 to 1.17 a.m. Intense Bombardment by our Guns and Howitzers.

At 1.20 a.m. Reported from Liaison that Enemy's fire had practically ceased, and shortly after from Battery O.P. that everything was quiet.

The Ammunition expended was as follows :-

	"A"	"AX"	"BX"
41st. Battery.	172	154	-
42nd. "	152	143	-
43rd. "	118	124	-
47th. "	267	121	-
39th. "	207	171	-
110th. "	-	-	206
111th. "	-	-	214
Total	916	713	420

The Communications throughout worked satisfactorily.

Detailed information is not yet obtainable as to the result of the Raid, but as far as we can ascertain 5 Prisoners were taken and our Casualties in the Infantry were 12.

F. A.
Lieut. Col. F. A.

Commanding Right Group Artillery.