

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

Artillery

Item number: 13/39/16

Title: Headquarters, 12th Australian Field
Artillery Brigade

August 1917



AWM4-13/39/16

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

2nd Field

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
NIEUPOORT	1/8/17.		<p>2/Lieut. KRAEFFT and 12 O.Ranks. were detailed to assist in manning Guns of the 168th. Brigade R.F.A. which had had many casualties.</p>	
	2/8/17.		<p>Lieuts P.A. HOCKENHULL and M. BUZZARD proceeded to England, the former to proceed to an Infantry Training Battalion and the latter to the Reserve Brigade Australian Artillery, LARK HILL for further training.</p> <p>Infantry Operation Order for forthcoming Operations received.</p>	
	3/8/17.		<p>The 45h. 46th. and 47th. Batteries fired a Barrage in support of Raid on Enemy Trenches. The remaining 4 Howitzers of 112th. Battery moved into position on the night of the 2/3rd. inst.</p>	
	4/8/17.		<p>Nothing to Report.</p>	
	5/8/17.		<p>Enemy shelled F.L.T. with T.Ms. The Brigade fired in retaliation at 6p.m. 534 Rounds were fired.</p> <p>1st. ANZAC wired Brigade to instruct 2/Lieuts. KRAEFFT & MOSSMAN to report to 4th. Aust. Div. Arty. C.O. pointed out that 2/Lieut. KRAEFFT'S original Unit was this Brigade.</p> <p>Wagon Lines reported to be Water-logged, and arrangements are being made to move them to LA PANNE.</p> <p>Throughout the night the enemy shelled the vicinity of H.Q., Batteries, and Roads. Enemy Aeroplanes dropped bombs close to Headquarters.</p>	
	6/8/17.		<p>2/Lieut. MOSSMAN proceeded to rejoin the 4th. Div. Arty.</p>	
	7/8/17.		<p>C.O. decided not to move Wagon Lines to LA PANNE as the situation was worse there than at GHVELDE.</p> <p>On the night of the 6/7th. 312 Gas Shells were fired (4.5") as neutralization of Enemy Batteries.</p>	
			<p>During the night of 7/8th. inst. 103rd. Bty. (att'd to this Brigade) and 47th. Bty. fired, supporting a raid by our Troops, 103rd. Battery firing Gas Shell.</p> <p>Enemy Shelled Roads, Bridges, etc? in the vicinity of H.Q.</p>	

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WAR DIARY

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	8/8/17.		The C.O. proceeded on leave to England and Major ROBERTS-THOMSON took command during his absence.	
	9/8/17.		Cpts. F. LEVY and F.G. LLOYD, Lieut? G.M. GOLDFIN--CH, 2/Lieut. R.C. SMITH proceeded to attend a course at 4th. Army Artillery School.	
	10/8/17.		Major ROBERTS-THOMSON visited the Batteries. Battery Commanders reported that during the night the vicinity had been shelled with Gas Shell. Batteries fired 478 Rounds 18-Pdr. and 170 Rounds 4.5" on S.O.S. Lines during the night 10/11th. in response to S.O.S. Signals.	
	11/8/17.		Nothing to Report.	
	12/8/17.		Batteries visited by acting C.O. everything very quiet.	
	13/8/17.		An Aeroplane shoot was arranged for 103rd. Bty. (att'd) to take place at 6.15 p.m. After 1 Round had been fired Enemy Planes began to patrol the Line so the Shoot was not continued with. The Detachments of this Brigade were withdrawn from R.F.A. Batteries to which they had been lent.	
	14/8/17.		Nothing to Report.	
	15/8/17.		An Aeroplane Observation Shoot was arranged for 103rd. and 112th. Batteries for today, but owing to Enemy Planes being up and our Batteries so far forward the Shoot was not carried out. From 6p.m. D/72 Battery R.F.A. came under the administration of "D" Group. New S.O.S. Lines came into Operation.	
	16/8/17		D/72 Battery fired 125 Rounds on Routine Targets	
	17/8/17.		D/72 Battery fired 232 Rounds on Routine Targets	
	18/8/17.		This Brigade in conjunction with Divisional Artillery fired a practice Barrage from 12 noon to 12.9p.m.	
	19/8/17.		On the night of the 19th. 45th. Bty. stated that the area of battery positions was being Shelled by 77 M.M. Guns. Staff Officer 18/15 CD. & Lt. Counter Batteries communicated with. Shelling ceased about 15 Min. After	

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	20/8/17.		Nothing to report.	
	21/8/17.		NIEUPORT heavily shelled by 15c.m. Howitzers. Enemy Planes very active throughout the day. Machine gunning any movement in Batteries Area M.35. (NIEUPORT) C.O. returned from Leave and resumed command of the Brigade.	
	22/8/17.		45th, 46th, and 47th. Batteries fired practice Barrage with success, 342 Rounds were fired. Hostile Aircraft brought down in Flames in Enemy's Lines. Batteries shelled by 4.2 Guns. No. damage done.	
	23/8/17.		Hostile shelling very consistant towards Belgian Line, all telephonic communication to Batteries ceased for 10 minutes. 15 C.M. How. Flash was observed and direction forwarded to Counter Batteries. Enemy planes dropped 5 bombs but no damage was reported.	
	24/8/17.		Batteries shelled by 15 c.m. How. Batteries personnel evacuated to a flank firing started 12.15 p.m. ceased 2.30 p.m. Casualties 3 O.R. killed (47th. Battery) and 1 Gun put out of Action. Direct hit was obtained on Battery Control post which collapsed the occupants escaped unhurt.	
	25/8/17.		112th. Battery Shelled by hostile Artillery from 9.15p.m. to 10.30p.m. Casualties 1 O.R. killed 2 wounded 1 Howitzer badly damaged. Battery reconnoitring new position (at present out of action as a Battery) Lieut. L.C. SETON and 2 O.R. were recommended for decorations for conspicuous gallantry.	
	26/8/17.		Battery Shelled for 15 minutes by H.E. Gun no damage done, bearing was taken and Counter Batteries informed. 18-pdrs and 4.5" Hows carried out a Practice Barrage, 236 A.X. and 176 B.X. were fired.	
	27/8/17.		45th, 46th, and 47th. Batteries withdrew their Guns from Battery Positions, and proceeded to Wagon Lines. All Batteries reached destination without Casualties.	

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	28/8/17.		<p>Withdrawal of 112th. How. Battery took place. All positions were left Camouflaged and handed over to representatives of R.F.A. Brigades.</p> <p>Part of Brigade Headquarters withdrew to Wagon Lines CHYVELDE.</p>	
	29/8/17.		<p>Camouflage was obtained to replace that left at Gun positions. <i>The whole of the Brigade in Wagon Lines CHYVELDE</i></p>	
	30/8/17 } 31/8/17 }		<p><i>Brigade still in Wagon Lines</i></p>	
			<p><i>E. Foster</i></p> <p>.....2/Lieut.</p>	
			<p>A/Adjutant, 12th. Army Brigade Aus. F. A.</p>	