

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

Artillery

Item number: 13/39/25

Title: Headquarters, 12th Australian Field
Artillery Brigade

May 1918



AWM4-13/39/25

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
DUPLICATE.
TRIPLICATE.

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

12th Army Brigade Aust. I.F.A.

FOR

May.

1918

H. Q.
12TH ARMY BDE.
AUST. F.A.
No.
Date

Signature of Officer compiling

P. J. Watt Leal

Signature of Officer Commanding

J. M. Lloyd
Lieut. Col.

326

12th Army 2a Bde

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.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1.5.18.		<p>Brigade still in action in rear of ROBECQ. Brigade H.Q. on the BUSNES - ROBECQ Road P.27c80.90. 45th, 46th, and 112th. Btys. in P.28.a.&b. The 47th. Bty. were detached to the 177th. Bde.R.F.A. and were in position west of ST VENANT in P.9.a.</p> <p>Enemy Artillery was particularly active all day shelling battery areas and also area west of the Canal. Casualties 3 O.R. wounded.</p> <p>Under 51st. Div. Arty covering 61st. Div. Infantry on our right are 256th. and 255th. Brigades R.F.A. of the 51st. Div. Arty, on our left are 177th. and 180th. Bdes. R.F.A. of the 16th. Div. Arty. Still firing 100 rds. per gun on Enemy tracks and roads.</p>	
	2.5.18.		<p>Enemy artillery again very active with all calibres. Shelled Bty. Areas Canal and Roads. During the afternoon the 46th. Bty. was subjected to a concentration of 5.9 Hows. for 5 minutes.</p>	
	3.5.18.		<p>Enemy Artillery activity slightly decreased. But still shelling intermittently in Bty. Areas.</p>	
	4.5.18.		<p>O.C. 46th. Battery is detaching one section out to P.16a. O.C. 45th. Battery was also instructed to move a silent section out into the open. The object being to do all harassing fire with 4 guns behind ROBECQ and get the remainder out of the shelled area.</p>	
	5.5.18.		<p>Enemy again active. Moved Brigade H.Q. to house in P25d. Enemy artillery quieter.</p> <p>4a.m. All guns fired a concentration on enemy defences in Q.3.d where enemy was reported to have developed considerable activity. Rained during the morning.</p>	
	6.5.18		<p>Enemy artillery much quieter.</p>	
	7.5.18.		<p>Enemy quiet. Weather good. It was reported that an enemy wireless message was intercepted which referred to "Opening Barrage along whole front, the signal for which was a WHITE rocket." Orders were received from D.A. to be on the alert as this and other information received goes to point that the enemy is contemplating an attack.</p>	

H. Q.
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	8.5.18.		<p>Enemy very quiet. Harassing fire carried out as usual. Information from prisoners in addition to the German wireless message intercepted yesterday has led to the belief that the enemy intends to attack. It is calculated that he will do so in force from ALBERT to the LA BASSEE Canal. Bombardment to commence at 10.30p.m. on the 9th. and the attack on our sector to commence at 1.30a.m. on the 10th.</p>	
	9.5.18.		<p>Attack still considered probable. C.R.A. held a conference this morning. If the attack takes place our artillery, will, during the first two hours of the preliminary bombardment remain quiet so long as the Infantry do not put up the S.O.S. At 12.30p.m. Counter preparation will be put down. A scheme is also arranged for counter preparation against trench mortars.</p> <p>Enemy remain very quiet. Counter battery office rang up to say we were to gas a Hun battery and that 18pdr. Batteries were to fire on some suspected Ammunition dumps. No other firing to be done until after 11.30p.m. 46th. and 45th. Batteries have moved another section out to silent position making 4 guns each silent and 2 for harassing fire behind ROBECQ. The 4 silent guns are out in the open with camouf flage over them. They have an unrestricted view and command of the country almost from the front line up to the guns. 46th; Battery have sent one gun forward to LES AMUSOIRES for anti-tank work.</p>	
	10.5.18.		<p>11.30p.m. No bombardment has taken place so far. Batteries continue with ordinary routine firing. Brigade H.Q. shelled with 5.9 H.V. Gun.</p> <p>46th. Battery have established flash spotting station in church towers at ROBECQ and ST. VENANT. Intersections from these two points are obtained on enemy guns, and the report sent on to the counter battery office.</p> <p>The enemy remained quiet harassing fire carried out as usual.</p>	

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	11.5.18.		Enemy artillery again active on battery areas in rear of ROBECQ. Weather conditions very good. Gas was used during the evening but nothing fell very near the batteries. XXXX 15 pdr. B.L.C. has been sent up to replace 18pdr. at present used for anti-tank work.	
	12.5.18.		Enemy quiet, Harassing fire as usual.	
	13.5.18.		Enemy very quiet, Rough weather rained during the night. 25 and 46th. Batteries will fire in an operation tomorrow night. Guns in silent position should be moved back behind ROBECQ for the operation. Batteries ordered to do so tonight.	
	14.5.18.		Splendid weather clear and warm. Enemy very quiet on the sector. At 11.30 p.m. the batteries fired in conjunction with a raid made by 182nd. Infantry Brigade. The raid was a success. One prisoner being taken and no casualties.	
	15.5.18.		Enemy again very quiet. Harassing fire as usual 60 rds. per gun now being fired.	
	16.5.18.		Nothing of importance to report. Enemy quiet. Weather warm.	
	17.5.18.		Enemy very quiet. Major General's office	
	18.5.18.		Enemy Artillery quiet. 61st. Divisional Commander visited C.O. during morning. Weather hot. Towards evening there was a great deal of aerial activity on both sides.	
	19.5.18.		Usual harassing fire, otherwise nothing to report.	
	20.5.18.		Weather still continues warm. Enemy bombing planes active during night.	
	21.5.18.		Warning order received that the brigade will be relieved by 282nd. Army. Brigade R.F.A. on the night 24/25th. May. Usual harassing fire carried out.	
	22.5.18.		At 6p.m. 306th. Brigade R.F.A. took over from 180th. Brigade R.F.A. Enemy bombing planes came over our line at night and dropped several bombs in the vicinity of H.Q. Notified from D.A. that the relief of this Brigade would take place 24 hours earlier.	
	XXXXXX			

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	23.5.18.		C.O. and Battery Commanders 282nd. Army Brigade R.F.A. arrived at Brigade H.Q. at 11.30 a.m. Enemy artillery very quiet.	
	24.5.18.		The Brigade was relieved by 282nd. Bde. R.F.A. during evening. Batteries withdrew to Wagon Lines.	
	25.5.18.		Brigade moved from Wagon Lines situated around LA FLANDRE to RACQUINGHEM Area, where Brigade was billeted.	
	26.5.18.		Batteries engaged in overhauling gear. Otherwise nothing to report	
	27.5.18.		Still at RACQUINGHEM. Brigade administered by XV Corps.	
	28.5.18.	" "	" " "	
	29.5.18.	" "	" " "	
	30.5.18.		Orders were received from Corps that Brigade will move to LYNDE Area on the following day.	
	31.5.18.		Brigade moved to LYNDE Area in the morning and was billeted there.	

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Guy Raymond
.....Lieut.

Adjutant, 12th. Army Brigade Aust. F. A.



APPENDIX.

Balance Sheet

Headquarters Canteen - 31st May 1918.
12th Army Brigade, A.F.A.

<u>Liabilities</u>		<u>Assets</u>	
Capital	1000 00	Cash on hand	1411 00
Loans <i>af.</i>	500 00	Stocks	102 60
Appropriation <i>af.</i>	546 90	Sundry debts	33 50
	1546 90		1546 90

I certify that the above Balance Sheet is a true and correct one as shown by the Books.

G. L. We
 Brigade Auditor

P. J. Watt Lieut. President.

14/6/18



Balance Sheet

45th Battery Canteen, 12th Army Brigade, 31st May, 1918.

Capital	1500 00	Cash on hand	1606 50
Appropriation %.. 826.10		Stocks	582 45
Profit 21/5/18. 122.05	948 15	.. in transit	259 20
	F 2448 15		F 2448 15

I certify that the above Balance Sheet is a true and correct one as shown by the books.

H. D. Shallen Capt
President

E. L. L. L. L.
Brigade Auditor
14/6/18.



Balance Sheet

115th Battery Canteen - 31st May 1918

Liabilities

Assets

Capital F <u>2000.00</u>	
Paid up	1137 65
Amount owing on unpaid shares	175 00
	<u>1312 65</u>

Cash on hand	742 80
Stock	4134 85
owing by Brigade	
Regimental Fund	135 00
	<u>1312 65</u>

I certify that the above Balance Sheet is a true and correct one as shown by the books

John C. [Signature]
Canteen
Resident

[Signature]
7/10/18.



Balance Sheet.

47th Bathing Battalion. - 31st. May. 1918.

Liabilities.

Assets.

Capital, 1409.50		Cash on hand	1336	55
Transfer Profit, 90.50	1500 00	Stock " "	517	25
Amount owing on Shares.	22 00			
Photo Deposits.	18 15			
Appropriation ^{a/c} .	113 65			
	1653 80		1653	80

W. H. Scapellato