

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

Artillery

Item number: 13/39/28

Title: Headquarters, 12th Australian Field
Artillery Brigade

August 1918



AWM4-13/39/28

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Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

12th Army Brigade Aust. F.A.

FOR

August 1918

Signature of Officer compiling *Hawker Lieut*

Signature of Officer Commanding *McLoyd Lieut Col.*

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C. 2118.

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(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1.8.18.		In action at BORRE & STRAZEELE. One Section per battery relieved by 17th. Army Brigade R.F.A., Lieut. Col. MURRAY C.M.G., D.S.O. COMMANDING.	
	2.8.18.		Remaining two sections per battery relieved also Headquarters. Relief completed by 8p.m. Heavy Rain.	
	3.8.18.		The Brigade moved to Wagon Lines at LYNDE. Unofficially notified Brigade would entrain early morning 5th.	
	4.8.18.		for SOMME Area. Orders received that Brigade would entrain at various points in vicinity of St. OMER early morning of the 5th. Battery Commanders with 1 Subaltern and 2 O.Rs. proceeded by Lorry to Aust. Corps at BERTANGLES where they received orders to reconnoitre positions.	
	5.8.18.		Brigade entrained as follows:- B.H.Q. at ARCQUES 45th. Bty. at " 46th. " " WIZERNES 47th. " " ST. OMER 112th. " " ST. OMER B.A.C. all but one section at ARCQUES, the remainder entraining at ST OMER. Five trains being used. Detraining points were. H.Q., 46, 45, B.A.C. at HANGEST. 47 and 112 at LONGPRE. C.O. and staff proceeded by Motor Transport to 3rd. Aust. D.A. to BUSSY LES DACOURS where they were billeted for the night. Advance Parties from each battery also arrived between 10p.m. and 6a.m.	
	6.8.18.		6th. inst. Brigade went into Wagon Lines in vicinity of ST. SAUVOIS. Orders received that Brigade would go into action in HAMELET Area positions would be silent ones, open and well forward. Wagon Lines to move up to BUSSY LES DACOURS leaving at ST. SAUVOIS at 9.15p.m. Guns of each battery moved forward at 6p.m. and were in position by 2a.m. B.A.C. and remainder of Batteries arrived at BUSSY LES DACOURS Wagon Lines about midnight.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	7.8.18.		Headquarters moved forward to vicinity of HAMELET P.7.c.1.6. Orders received for attack of morning of 8th. inst. W.Ls. to move forward to HAMELET at Zero plus 3 hours.	
	8.8.18.	Zero Hour 4.20a.m.	Brigade in action until first objective was reached, when protective barrage was put down for an hour and forty minutes. Infantry then moved forward again, our guns ceased firing, (out of range). Brigade stood by under orders to be prepared to move forward at short notice.	
	9.8.18.		Orders received at 2a.m. Brigade would move forward at 6a.m. and come into action in Q.14,15,20, & 21 this was done, but at about 10 a.m. we were ordered to take over from 8th. A.F.A. Bde. Accordingly a move was made to their positions and batteries went into action, at Q.21.c. and Q.22.a. B.H.Q. was then established at Q.14.b.4.6 ax Wagon Lines in close proximity to batteries.	
	10.8.18.		Batteries again moved forward during afternoon and evening and came into action at Q.23. & 29. Headquarters established in VALERIE WOOD Q.28.a. Throughout the night Enemy bombing planes were particularly active. 112th. Battery sustained casualties - 1 man killed, 9 wounded and 10 horses killed and 2 wounded. Front fairly quiet.	
	11.8.18.		Front quiet during the day. 47th. Battery pulled back 200 yds. to obtain flash cover. Enemy Aeroplanes very active bombing. 4.2 and 5.9 Hows. busy in vicinity of Hqrs. Brigade answered 2 N.F. Calls, and continually harassed Wood in R.29.c. throughout the afternoon. At 8.30p.m. Brigade participated in a minor operation.	
	12.8.18.		No firing except S.O.S. West of Grid Line between R.21. & R.22. MERICOURT reported empty. Enemy Aeroplane down near B.H.Q. guard mounted. S.O.S. Line from N.W. of ROBERT WOOD R.16.c.45.95 S. to R.22.c.60.50. Enemy reported retiring on Brigade Front. Enemy reported on road West of ROBERT WOOD. All Batteries engaged this road. Batteries carried out frequent harassing Fire.	

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12.8.18.			At 5.20p.m. our Line ran R.9.a.8.2 - R.9.c.5.0 - R.15.Cent. 112th. Bty. shot on ROBERT WOOD while Infantry consolidated. Inf. reported held up at Railway in R.15. to Cross Rds. in R.9. Machine gun firing in R.15. 47th. & 112th. Btys fired on M.Gs. in R.4.c. and up valley. 8p.m. - 8.15p.m. barrage fired on R.22.c. & R.28.b. searching 1000 yds.	
13.8.18.			Enemy Artillery active during day. Enemy planes carried out extensive bombing during night.	
14.8.18.			Nothing to report.	
15.8.18.			112th. Bty. fired 200 B.N.C. at 1 a.m. on ST. MARTINS WOOD. Enemy artillery fired gas during night on valley and battery positions. Capt. CALLINAN, Lieut. TAIT, 2/Lieut. SNAPE and 7 O.Rs. of 47th. Battery evacuated gassed. Major JACOB 45th. Battery reconnoitred possible battery position further forward. 8p.m. heavy bombardment on PROYART and 1000 yds. N. Right Group fired on S.O.S. Line for 3 mins. 46th. Bty. moved to Q.23.a. 70.18.	
16.8.18.			Brigade took over Anti Tank Gun Q.24.c.45.90. Artillery active on both sides.	
17.8.18.			Artillery Active.	
18.8.18.			112th. Bty. at Q.24.a.65.40. Group Crash at 10p.m. on Enemy Battery R.29.c.9.8. Lieut. Col. H. W. LLOYD C.M.G., D.S.O. took command of Right Group consisting of 12th. Army Brigade Aust. F. A., 23rd. Army Brigade R. F. A.	
19.8.18.			6p.m. Group Crash on posts R.28.b.65.65 & R.28.b.65.45. Battery commanders to reconnoitre forward positions. 47th. Position reconnoitred.	
20.8.18			1st. & 2nd. Brigades Aust. F. A. to become sub-groups.	
21.8.18			45th. and 112th. Batteries moved forward into positions in Q.24.	
22.8.18.			At dusk 46th. and 47th. Batteries moved forward into battle positions in (62D) Q.24. Enemy shelled battery and forward areas heavily before Zero Hour. Lieut. Col. LLOYD C.M.G., D.S.O. to go forward to 2nd. Inf. Bde. H.Q. as Rxxx Liaison Officer.	

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	23.8.18.		<i>4.45am</i> Zero hour - Barrage commenced <i>at</i> 5a.m. Message was received from Lieut. Col. LLOYD at Inf. Brigade that all was going well. Shortly after Zero 45th. Battery moved forward other Batteries moved at hour intervals. New positions occupied as follows:- 45th. R.26.b.6.3 46th. R.20.c.1.8 47th. R.26.a.9.2 112th. R.27.b.1.2.	
	24.8.18.		Batteries in same positions. Infantry out patrolling and not meeting with much opposition.	
	25.8.18.		Section of 112th. Battery moved to R.21.a.9.2.	
	26.8.18.		Section of 112th. Battery pulled out from R.21.a. to proceed to 4th. Army Artillery School.	
	27.8.18.		Lieut. BIGG'S Section moved out of Wagon Lines to 4th. Army Arty School.	
	28.8.18.		23rd. Army Brigade R.F.A. transferred to Left Group. Right Group now composed of 1st. & 2nd. Brigades Aust. F. A. and 12th. Army Brigade Aust. F. A. under command of C.O. 12th. Army Brigade Aust. F. A. Enemy retreating. Brigade rendezvous valley (Sheet 62D) R.17, 23, 24. B.H.Q. moved to (sheet 62c) M.9.b.9.7.	
	29.8.18.		1st. Brigade Aust. F. A. was sent forward as advance guard artillery to cover group front from positions in vicinity of ESTREES. 2nd. Brigade Aust. F.A. rendezvous <i>(620) M136</i> . C.O. at Inf. B.H.Q. M.29.b. Lieut. E.C. FOSTER M.C. F.O.O. in command with forward section of 45th. Battery. under Lieut. F.B. SHARP M.C. following close in rear of retiring enemy.	
			Enemy still retiring. 6a.m. 1st. Brigade ordered to move forward in close support. 12th. Army Brigade Aust. F. A. ordered to move forward and reconnoitre positions. All batteries of both Brigades were in action by 12 noon. B.H.Q. moved to N.29.d.2.5 and shortly after to N.34.a. 45th. Bty. N.29.c.3.0 46th. Bty. N.29.c.3.2 47th. Bty. N.26.a.17.45 112th. Bty. N.35.d.3.5.	
			Continuous harassing fire maintained throughout day and night. Orders received from 5th. Aust. B.A. for 1st. & 2nd. Bdes. to withdraw from ^{D. D. & L., London, E.C.} to ^{M.29.c.3.0} the ^{at} positions ^{M.29.c.3.0} under ^{the} command ^{of} of ^{23rd. Army Bde. R.F.A.} to come under command of Right Group.	

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	30.8.18.		At 7a.m. orders were received from 5th. Aust. D. A. for 12th. Army Brigade Aust. F. A. to conform to the northerly direction "side-step" of the Divisional Front. Brigade to move into position on Left of these then occupied by Left Group under Lieut. Col. CADDY D.S.O., and with 23rd. Army Brigade R.F.A. become Left Group of 5th. Aust. Div. Arty. covering 15th. Inf. Brigade whose front lay with PERONNE as its centre. B.H.Q. moved to (Sheet 62 C) N.4.d.30.20 batteries 45th. O.l.c.37.80 46th. O.l.a.20.36 47th. O.l.a. 20.36 112th. N.11.b.1.7. B.A.C. M.16.a.1.3.	
	31.8.18.		Continuous harassing fire. Many opportunity targets seen from O.Ps. and effectively engaged. Enemy artillery very active.	
			<i>for</i> <i>Adjutant</i> Lieut. Adjutant, 12th. Army Brigade Aust. F. A.	