

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

Artillery

Item number: 13/50/9

Title: 2nd Australian Siege Battery

October 1917



AWM4-13/50/9

Confidential

WAR DIARY

2nd Aust Siege Bty

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.

Original

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|------------------------|---------|---------|--|--------------------------------------|
| 28/C2800575 St Jean | 1/10/17 | 9.30 AM | <p>72 rounds fired on Practice Barrage P1. 48 rounds expended on Grashes. Paschendale Rds.</p> <p>5 PM. Registration attempted on KRONPRINZ FARM. failed owing to poor visibility 2 rounds fired.</p> <p>8.15 PM. 72 rounds on Practice Barrage P2. After completion of this task. EA. dropped 3 bombs on Bly + casualties were caused as follows: 2 OR killed 1 OR. died of wounds 15 OR. wounded: 11.57 PM. In answer to S.O.S. 15 rounds were fired on BERLIN. BERLIN Wood.</p> <p>3 guns in action No 108 unable to shoot owing to want of Gas Checks Drawing Band shells.</p> <p>Ammunition brought forward from Sept Period 300 rds.</p> | Mln |

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| 28/C 2800575 | 2/10/17 | 6.15 AM | 42 rounds fired on Practice Barrage Q1. | pshu |
| St Jean | 2/10/17 | 3.30 PM | Registration shoot on CALGARY FARM. Very satisfactory. 13 rounds fired. | |
| | | 4 PM | 12 rounds flash on PASSCHENDAELE. | |
| | | 5 PM | 40 rounds fired on Practice Barrage Q2. | |
| | | 8.5 PM | 12 rounds fired in answer to S.O.S call. | |
| | | - | Barrage of Reg No 16 gun provisionally condemned by 10.M. 3 guns in action. | |
| | 3/10/17 | 7.15 AM | Practice Barrage R1. carried out. 46 rounds expended. | pshu |
| | | 11.35 AM | 22 rounds flash on PASSCHENDAELE. | |
| | | | During afternoon battery shelled by 5.9" gun. Direct hit obtained on earth box of No 1 gun. No casualties: | |
| | | 1.30 PM | Practice Barrage R2 22 rounds fired. | |
| | | | No 4 gun Reg No 108. provisionally condemned by 10.M. | |
| | | | 2 guns in action. | |

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| 28/C280575 St Jean | 4/10/17 | 6 AM | Attack Barrage commenced. About 8.40 AM Bty shelled by 5.9 HV gun: casualties were caused as follows 17 OR killed 1 OR wounded or shell shock. 1 officer killed 1 officer shell shock | plu |
| | | | with a few shells fired. 376 rounds expended on Barrage task. | |
| | | 5 PM | 36 rounds fired on Barrage task. | |
| | | 10 PM + 10.11 PM | 8 rounds fired on Barrage lines. | |
| | | | Between the hours of 12.30 PM + 4.30 AM of 5/10/17 122 rounds were fired on S.O.S. lines. | |
| | | | Only 1 gun in action. No 16. Carriage condemned. No 221 Elevating gear damaged by shell fire. No 108. Condemned by 10 M. | |
| | 5/10/17 | 5.15 AM | 50 rounds fired on Barrage. ST/6/12. | |
| | | 10 PM . 10.11 PM . 11 PM + 11.11 PM | 35 rounds were fired in Bursts on PASSCHENDAELE. | plu |
| | | 6.47 PM . 7.6 PM + 10.16 PM | 42 rounds fired on S.O.S. lines. | |
| | | | No 16 gun mounted in carriage of No 108 condemned. 2 guns in action. | |
| | | | Orders received to prepare forward position at SPREE FARM. Work commenced. | |

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| St Jean | 6/10/17 | 1 AM - 5.30 AM | 20 rounds fired in grasses on Passchendaele. | White |
| | | 6 AM | 22 rounds fired on Practice Barrage ST/24/1. | |
| | | 2 PM | Hostile Battery at Dbd 8.3. engaged. 57 rounds expended. | |
| | | 5.15 PM | 3 rounds crashed on Passchendaele Church. | |
| | | | Two guns in action. No. 221. dismantled & prepared for moving forward to position at SPREE FARM. | |
| | 7/10/17 | 6.10 AM | 40 rounds fired on Practice Barrage VI. 4 PM. 32 rds on Barrage V2 | White |
| | | 5.40 PM | 16 rounds in answer to S.O.S. call. | |
| | | 11.30 PM | Passchendaele crashed. 10 rounds. Two guns in action. | |
| | | | Great difficulty experienced in getting guns & material forward to Sprce Farm. Alternative position at Hielte reconnoitred. found possible. | 1 |

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| 28/C2800575 St Jean | 7/10/17 | 6:33 AM | 4 rounds fired on Barrage W1. | phh |
| | | 11:30 AM | 32 rounds fired on Barrage W2 Orders received from Group to "stand fast" on all moves. Works proceeding at Wieltse. Two guns in action: One on road, travelling position. 3:15 PM, area about Eic. Eid crashed, 14 rounds. | |
| | 9/10/17 | 5:10 AM | X Day. 139 rounds fired on Attacks Barrage. 1:20 PM. 51 rounds fired on Dugouts at D4d9.7-8.9. 2:40 - 5:25 PM. 40 rounds fired in answer to S.O.S. calls. Remounting 40 221. at St Jean position. 4 PM. Orders received to dismount & have two guns on road ready for travelling before daylight. 1 Gun in action Reg No 221. | phh |

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| St Jean | 10/10/17 | 4.45 AM | 30 rounds on Barrage lines. 9.45 AM. 20 rounds fired in response to S.O.S call. 3.45 PM. VINDICTIVE X Rds. crashed with 8 rounds. 9.30 PM + 9.41 PM. Bursts of fire directed at PASSCHENDAELE. 16 rounds expended. 6.10 PM. S.O.S signals answered with 11 rounds. One gun in action at St Jean. Nos 16 + 216 on roadway in SPREE FARM. | Mahr |
| SPREE FARM Wieltye | 11/11/17 | | No firing. Nos 16 + 216 being mounted at SPREE FARM. Orders received to hand Nos 16 + 216 over to 186 Siege Bty + take over their Reg Nos 53 + 55. No 53 being mounted at WIELTJE. + No 55 on road near Widge. Position selected at RAT FARM 28/C23 b 43. No 221. dismounted at St Jean + mounted at above position. | Mahr |

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| 28/C2CB43 RAT FARM. | 12/10/17 | 5.25 AM 3.50 PM 4.10 PM | 130 rounds fired on Attack Barrage. 15 rounds fired in answer to S.O.S call. 7 rounds on Barrage lines. No 55 being mounted at Rat Farm. No 53 partly dismounted at Niellje. | White |
| | 13/10/17 | 5.15 AM | 20 rounds on Barrage lines. Two guns now in action at Rat Farm. | White |
| | 14/10/17 | | No firing. Work of constructing shelters for personnel & cartridges. | White |

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| RAT FARM 28/C23643 | 15/10/17 | 12.45 PM | 10 rounds registration on meetshale. Visual observation. Construction of cartridge shelters being carried out. Orders received that shelter must be provided for 1600 carts. Two guns in action. | Mshh |
| | 16/10/17 | | No firing. Construction of BC's post. Exchange & Wireless station carried out. Improvements for reception of shell cartridges etc. | Mshh |
| | 17/10/17 | 3.15 PM | 8 rounds crash on N.W. arm of Passchendaele. 2 guns in action. Improvements being carried out. | Mshh |

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| RAT. FARM: 28/C 23643 | 18/10/17 | 5.50 AM | 24 rounds Barrage starting on S.O.S lines. | psh |
| | | 11.25 AM | 8 rounds crash on north arm of Passchendaele 2 guns in action. | |
| | | 3.15 PM | Crash NW arm of Passchendaele. | |
| | | 2 PM | 100 rounds on Dugout at D 44 45 45. 2 OKs obtained | |
| | | 11.30 PM | 30 rounds fired on Messelmarkt. | |
| | 19/10/17 | 7.30 | 9.15 + 9.45 for 100 yds on Messelmarkt at D 62 70.70. | psh |
| | | 12.30 PM | 240 rounds on "Pill Box" at D 44 45 45. Very satisfactory explosions observed & several direct hits obtained. | |
| | | 9.15 PM | 30 rounds on Messelmarkt. Orders received from Group to have beds beams of No 53. brought from Hiellje to Ratofarm. Work carried out. | |

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| Rat Farm 36/C 23 b 43 | 20/10/17 | 7/10 | No firing. Improvements being carried out. Orders received that Battery to be handed over complete to 5 th Canadian Siege. | Mluh |
| | 21/10/17 | | Bty handed over to 5 th Canadians. Personnel proceeding by road to Angres to take over Guns + stores of 5 th Canadians at ^{36/} M 33 a + c. Billeted at BRUAY en route. | Mluh |
| | 22/10/17 | | Remained billeted at BRUAY. | Mluh |
| ANGRES 36/M 33 a + c | 23/10/17 | 12 noon | Took over from 5 th Canadian Siege Bty at 36/M 33 a + c Reg nos of guns taken over 158 - 172 - 162 - 168. | Mluh |

D. D. & L., London, E.C.
(A7883) Wt. W809/M1672 350,000 4/17 Sch. 52a Forms/C/2118/14

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| ANGRES 36/m 33a+c | 24/10/17 | 2 PM | 50 rounds fired on PUIT 18 at N2825.4. line of guns found very unsatisfactory All guns in action: | W.M.H. |
| | 25/10/17 | 10:15 AM | 41 rounds on PUIT 18. N2825.4. stopped owing to high winds blowing. Capt G.E. Mander reports from 3 rd Aust. Sq. AFC. by phone. for duty. | W.M.H. |
| | 26/10/17 | 7:30 PM | 28 rounds Retaliation on Area. N36060. N36005.25-2.0-T6078 All guns in action. | W.M.H. |
| | 27/10/17 | | no activity | W.M.H. |

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| ANGRES 36/17332+c | 28/10/17 | 7pm | Retaliation 14 rounds on Area No 1. | [Signature] |
| | | 2.30pm | 28 rounds on Area No 4. | |
| | | 5.30pm | 14 rounds on Area No 1. | |
| | | 6.30pm | 28 rounds on Area No 4. All guns in action. | |
| | 29/10/17 | | No Activity | [Signature] |
| | 30/10/17 | | do. | [Signature] |
| | 31/10/17 | 6.10pm | Batteries (Hostile) engaged at N23b 90.10. N23d 0070. N23 e 70.65. 36 rounds fired. Registration of Right Section satisfactorily carried out on | [Signature] |