

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

Artillery

Item number: 13/54/10

Title: A Battery, Honourable Artillery
Company

November 1917



AWM4-13/54/10

Confidential

Copy.

War Diary

of

1/A Battery H.A.C.

from

1st - 30th November 1917.

(Volume 11).

23/11

Copy

WAR DIARY

"A." Battery Ren. Art. Company

Army Form C. 2118.

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or
~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

1st City of London Horse Artillery

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date 1917	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BEERSHEVA Afua North H 36 E IV	Nov 1		Reconnitered Gun positions as detailed by O.C. 19 th Bde R.H.A. Enemy planes bombed 4 th ALH Bde's field ambulances - 4 men killed. Moved battery out of WADI SABA northwards on to softer ground.	
		2	High wind and objectionable dust storm. Water supply difficult - none available at 0900. Found well near by - had water analysed and found O.K. watered men and horses. Enemy planes over at 1400.	
		3	Watered horses at 0600. Conference 4 th Bde HQ at 0900. Enemy planes bombed camp at 0850. 2 long range shells W of town about 0730.	
		4	Working difficult. A Bty HAC at disposal of 50 C. ANZAC MTD DIVN. from 0900 on 4 th went to HQ 19 th Bde R.H.A. at 1130 received orders to get ready to move at once. Struck bivouacs and saddled up. Moved off at 1330 behind 11 th & 16 th Regiments. Extremely dusty and very rough road and a most trying task for men and horses after the work they had just accomplished. Arrived KARM at 2215. watered. Bivouacs about 2000' N of KARM. 13 th equipment left at BEERSHEVA.	2/3/17

(A709) Wt. W1039/M1293. 750,000. 1/17. D. D. & L., Ltd. Form C. 2118/14

WAR DIARY

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Place	Date 1917	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
KARIM	Nov 6		<p>Moved from bivouac at 0530 and took over 14 Pz Gun from Lieuten RHA at 0630. changed gun position. water hoses at FARA. O.P. at pt. 550. F.O.O (Lt MacAndrew) at S.O. of forward squadrons with phone.</p>	
2000' N of	6		<p>Stood to with teams behind guns at 0500 - guns in position and layed on IFTEIS crossing of WADI. IMLIEN. Heavy gun fire on our right front. Durd O.P. on Pt 630 as Devin wanted Pt 550. but Preston told me to cover a point on the WADI IMLIEN where a squadron of light horse had last been seen. Received orders at 1445 to dismantle O.P. and saddle up. watched battle all day from Pt 630. magnificent view saw KAWUKA taken and our troops advance on the RUSHDI system. Received orders to march behind 12th L.H. Regiment to SIRHEIR. Moved off at 1645. Bivouaced SIRHEIR (E bank of WADI) and unsaddled. Received message from 4th ALH Bde that they would probably be moving at 0200 on 7th. Last orders for move at 0115.</p>	<p>2/3/17</p>

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3
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
GIRHEIR	Nov 7		<p>Moved off 0200 - followed 4th Bde. HQ to IRBEIG. Reached 11. of IRBEIG. Received orders from Bde. HQ to report at once (1000). Went forward with Brig Gen Grant and B.O. and formed explained scheme for frontal attack on KH BUTEIHAN. Battery moved into action at 1015. Crossed WADI SHARIA at about 1030. Went forward with my P.O. and staff and selected position for battery and O.P. opened fire at 1100. Trunks at 3150⁺. Trunk with trunks at 5200⁺. on long line of enemy on right flank on crest at 3400⁺ which dispersed. On cavalry moving to right flank at 3400⁺. on O.P. at 3100⁺ and on 6 or 8 minor targets. Dred 274 rds. came out of action at 1745. Battery and O.P. under shell fire (77 mins) 5-9) all day. No casualties and extraordinary luck. Withdrawn to S. side of WADI SHERIA and bivouaced. Endeavoured to find B.H.Q. - unsuccessful.</p>	
SHARIA SYRIA JERUSALEM 1/250,000	8		<p>Sent officer out at dawn to find B.H.Q. Got information and moved to within 3/4 mile of B.H.Q. Received orders to water at SHARIA at once. Received orders while horses still away watering to move out at once and follow 4th Bde. Sent out connecting</p>	23/14

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Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HUS.	Nov 8 th	contd	and bivouaced at point about 1 mile WNW of HUS. No water available for men or horses. Immense quantities of enemy ammunition left at HUS.	
HUS.	9		No water available. Received orders at 1500 to get ready to move off at once. Moved off 1600. Reached NEJILA at 2250. Watered in wadi bed. Bivouaced in wadi bed 0100 (10 th). Lt ALH Bde went on to ARAK EL MENSHEIYE. Fixed ambulance and A Pte HAC stopped night at NEJILA with 1 Squadron as escort.	
NEJILA	10		Moved off 0545 up WADI HESY - watering in running stream - reported to HQ at 0900. Received orders at 1135 to get ready to move at once. Moved off at 1255 behind 11 th L. B. Bde. Went off personally with R.O. and Staff with Brig Gen Grant and reconnoitered ground for taking over immediate objective i.e. SUMMEIL. Came into action 1430 - opened fire 1445. Moved on trenches - 1 Battery - machine gun emplacements and put salvoes of H.E. into the town as enemy was using high buildings as O.P.s. My O.P. 1000' ahead of Battery - with personal O.P. on the open 50'	

2-11-18

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			Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Place	Date	Hour		
About 2 1/2 miles N. OF HATTE	NOV 10	Contd.	yards ahead. Hatte, proved to be untenable owing to snipers and I had to withdraw to O.P. brass firing and slept beside guns withdrawing O.P. at Brigades order. Fired 238 rounds.	
	11		Orderly arrived at 0615 with orders which were unreadable - man had been looking for battery all night in the rain. Sent a man at once to B.H.Q. for duplicate. All horses at FALUSA at 0430. Horses left for FALUSA at 0710 and could not return for some hours. Enemy still occupied BERKUSIE and I suggested to Gen Grant that I could reach the place with H.E. Had 49 rds at angle up to 23° 20'. Two rounds of fire. Reconnard on gun positions.	
	12		Received orders at 0615 to be ready to move at 0630. (order times 1935 - 11 th orderly lost his way again) Another orderly arrived at 0645. to water horses at once locally under own arrangements. Sent horses to HATTE at once (order). All horses not returned at 1440 (nearly 8 hours) when order received to advance to a point SE of Pt 248. Sent for all	2-3/16

WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
PT. 248 2 miles NNW of 135E1R	Nov 12 th contd.		horses whether watered or not and advanced. 4th Brigade at about 1/2 mile S of Pt 248 and came into action 1/2 mile NE of Pt 248. O.P. in second line rifle pits - F.O.O. 2 nd Lt. detectors in front line. Fired 147 rds - ceasing firing 1715. Left F.O.O. out.	
	13		stood to from 0500 - enemy had retired however and infantry on our left flank pushed them back past TURMUS. Strong opposition. Left F.O.O. out and shelled enemy left flank to assist infantry attack. Fired 53 rds. Enemy evacuated position shelled. 4 th Brigade advanced but battery could not as it had no rations or forage and had not watered. Started to leave position and advance N at 1250 with 1 section and 2 wagons; all horses tucked up and showing signs of exhaustion. Water drawn in village with 200 ft rope and 1-10 ball stuns. Water for shells full constantly - fired from the hills in the East. Saw Lt. Grant who pointed out targets. Took them in hand with one section and sent orders back to Capt. Harris for rest of batt. to rejoin at once. Fired 59 rds at trenches - enemy retreating.	2/12/18

(A7092) SW. W12839/M1293 750,000. 1/17. D. D. & L., Ltd. Forms/C.2118/14

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	13		and house used as O.P. Got direct hit on house. Received orders at 1655 to move to TURMUS that night. Board off at 1710. Rejoined at TURMUS. Received orders to attack on EL TIME in the morning.	
TURMUS	14		Board off at 0530. Crossed wadi and arrived at point E. of railway line and NE of EL TIME station (which place has already been taken or evacuated). Watered at KHEIME - good water. 100 ft. Received orders from 2nd A.L. Bds to move on 15th and be ready to move off at 0500 on the 15th.	
EL TIME	16		Received orders at 0600 to off saddles and water. Rested men and horses. Guns in position pointing S.E.	
	16		Rested men and horses but watering both 5 hours daily. Board battery clear of road.	
	17		Received orders at 0900 to be ready to move at 1200. Men would be relieved by 5th A.L. Bds. 5th Bds arrived but 4th Bds stood fast and advanced when ordered. Received orders to meet 4th Bds at KEZAZEH at 1030 on 18th after watering at KHEIME.	

13/12

A. M. S. atty

Nov. 19

WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	Nov 18		<p>15th Cth. Bde. left at BEERSHERA around 18th watered KHEIME and arrived KEZAZEM 1015. Moved off with Brigade at 1315 to ABU SHUCHE. Went about 1/2 mile E of ABU SHUCHE when I received orders (1415) to return to Garden with 1 mile W. OF JERUSALEM railway junction for the night. The roads were strewn with great boulders, in fact for some miles there was no road at all and the going for 11th Bde guns was a very serious worry. Arrived bivouac at 2000.</p>	
	19		<p>Received orders that 2nd Bde. was moving to KHIRBET DEIRAN but that the battery was to stop where it was under orders of S. O. C. 75th Division, then Brig. Hodgson at 0900 and asked him if he could possibly get orders for me to join my Brigade as the loss and men needed not badly. Received orders at 1000 to rejoin 2nd Bde at DEIRAN. Watered and moved off at 1200. Passed through luxuriant cultivation. watered DEIRAN. Rejoined 2nd ALH Bde. Rotted men and horses. Rained night 19/20.</p>	
KHIRBET DEIRAN	20		<p>Rained night 20th/21st. Left DEIRAN at 1000. Arrived (via YERONA) at</p>	
	21		<p>ESDUB at EL MEJDEL at 1930 (about 49 miles track)</p>	

23/19

(Approved by War Office/Headquarters, D. D. & L., Form C. 2118)

A Batty

Nov'17

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	Nov		Battal men and horses. All men to beach for bathing	
	24		do. 2 nd Lt. Anderson to 2 nd Ambt	
	25		do.	
	26		Received orders from 4 th A. L. 2 nd Bde. to be in readiness tomorrow at short notice.	
	27		Left EL MEJDEL at 0600. Arrived RAS DEIRAN at 1600. Received orders tomorrow off at 0600 following day.	
	28		Marched from RAS DEIRAN at 0600 on route for LAFFA. Battal and 2 nd Lt. Anderson caught up and fed at 0900 at AYUN KARA. 2 nd Lt. Anderson caught up. Battery and rations transferred to battery to enable 2 nd Lt. Anderson to draw further rations at RAMLEH. 2 nd Lt. Anderson was sent forward to report H.Q. ANZAC Bn at 0945. Battal battery outside LAFFA at 1220 having received orders through H. Q. ANZAC Bn to go no further. Personally reported at H.Q. ANZAC Bn and received orders from Staff Capt to proceed to SELMEH and to send officer to report to Brig Genl SMITH. Imperial Camel Corps in neighbourhood of 0.25.6. Battery arrived SELMEH 1405 and instructions were received through H.Q. of 2 nd Lt. Anderson, who sent	

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SELMIH	Nov 28	Cont	<p>to report to Gen Smith, to bring battery into action at 0.25. d opened fire at 1640 and registered on hill 6° E of Hill 265 on which Ayosher's RHA Battery had night line laid out. Dawn 7.00 H.E. light too bad for further registering. Orders received to if saddle. All quiet during night except for 5000 fire by Ayosher's Battery on Hill 265, on which Luke was digging in. [Major J Rainford Smith remained at RAC DEIRAN to procure 2 Field Ambulances].</p>	
	29		<p>stood to at 0400. all clear at 0800. horses sent to water and fire at 0840. Lt. MacAndrew went forward 500 yards S of 265 and acted as F.O.O. Several rounds of H.E. were fired. range 3000 correct or 156. At 1015 received information that a gun was in P7 south of our guns across and tried to find it receiving observations from Capt of 3rd Batta A.B.B. Unable to find guns but a good target consisting of Luke both mounted and dismantled was found. Immediately put battery on and Luke withdrew. Left section switched back to 265 at 1135. Fighting continued all day up to 1800. Round fired from 156. 265 89. Orders to report to O.C. I.C.C. at 1615 and was</p>	<p>17/2/1</p>

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SELMEH	Nov 29 Contd		<p>informed that 265 was to be attacked at 2200 and that barrage was to be put up. Necessary arrangements were made. Barrage continued at periods up to 2130 when a barrage was put on a trench by A Battery HAC and Laverne's P.H.A. Barrage lifted at 2155. The infantry were then allowed 20 minutes. At 2215 the barrage was dropped to its original range. The enemy replied with heavy artillery. Barrage successful and barrage came at 2240. 2nd Lt M.C. SMITH, P.F.A. attached to battery. Stood to 0400. All clear 0815. Information received from Bde Major that an attack on the 5th L. H. Bde trench was repulsed and in consequence a few places were registered 2nd Lt with well relieved H. D. J. Bar and ord as F.O.D. Shooting continued periodically during the day. Rounds fired 1800 1805 to 1800 1805. Shrapnel 257 265 235.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Certified true copy. The Commandant MAJOR COMDG. 1/4th BATTERY H. A. O</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">1/22</p>