

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

Artillery

Item number: 13/54/9

Title: A Battery, Honourable Artillery
Company

October 1917



AWM4-13/54/9

Confidential

Copy

War Diary

of

1/A Battery HAC

from

1st - 31st October 1917

(Volume 105)

1/2

Copy.

WAR DIARY

"A." Battery Hon. Art. Company
1st City of London Horse Artillery

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.)

Summary of Events and Information

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|------------|------|------|--|--------------------------------------|
| UMA URGAN | 1917 | | Rained slightly at 0715. | # Reached North 4 36 |
| Africa | | | Battery normal training | E W |
| North N 36 | | | Reconnoitred Outpost line - 570 - KARM - KHASIF and beyond for gun positions | 125000 |
| E III | 2 | | Normal Day. Battery in reserve. Reconnoissance by Aust. Mt. Buis 570 to IBN SAID. | |
| Bafar | | | | |
| 1/125,000 | | | | |
| on E bank | 3 | | Well order in morning - Bde Major 4 th A.K.B. Bde came at 1345 to collect etc was battery for 1 Squadron and 1 section Machine Guns to act with us. 4 th Bde took over the outpost. Major Lt. SHEY came into camp during morning (buddy 60 th Division) | |
| of WADI | | | | |
| SHUZZE | | | | |
| | 4 | | Normal training - D.A.D.M.S - A.M.D imperted camp in morning Went to RA (19 th Bde) Hdqrs in afternoon | |
| | 5 | | Reconnoitred Outpost line - 2 Loc. Jam. - 570 - 550 - KARM - KASIF. | |
| | 6 | | Normal training - Went to G 19 th Bde R.H.A in afternoon 49 mins operations against Pts 630 and 720. | |
| | 7 | | Reconnoitred actual positions for guns and worked out ranges angles etc. Left camp 0700 - ret'd 1300 - Went to G 19 th Bde with report | |
| | 8 | | O.C. 19 th Bde R.H.A came to camp in morning re minor operations on 9 th . Went 4 th A.K.B. Bde to G at 1400 to settle final arrangements | 23 1/2 |

(A7092) W.L. War 229/M1293. 750,000. 1/17. D. D. & L., Ltd. Forms/C.2118/14

WAR DIARY
OR
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place
UM URSAN
Su Shuti

Date
Oct 9

Hour

The scheme for these minor operations was to surprise and endeavor to kill, wound or capture a proportion of the enemy patrols that invariably occupied Pts 630 and 720 at dawn. Left camp at 0145 unaccompanied to KHASIF with 1 Squadron as escort. Egress of vehicles had been bound down and every endeavour was made to minimise noise. Arrived KHASIF 0345. Right section in action at 0520 a.s. 3 - noise. Arrived KHASIF 0345. Right section in action at 0520 a.s. 3 - noise. Left section in action 520 a.s. 1.0. C.P. for both positions 521 a.s. 9 (ESANI 1/20,000). Loop of enemy cavalry appeared at Pt 630 at 0525. Opened fire on both points immediately. Braces firing at 0552. Withdrew left section at 0553 and right section at 0600. Round fired 47 H.E and 50 Shrapnel. Arrived in camp at 0730. For the operation guns were limbered on wagon limber in order to have 30 rounds per gun. No wagons were taken. Received message from 0.0.1 outpost to meet him personally at 502 EL BASAL at 0900 but William (5th Mtr Bde), Rattery nominal training. Went to 10th Bde RHA and Lt. H. N. Budge and saw G.S.O. 1 re further minor operations. 2nd section sent to 502 EL BASAL to observe enemy gun flashes.

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2/3/18

WAR DIARY

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|---------------|-------|------|--|--------------------------------------|
| URBAN Shut | 12/11 | 12 | <p>Battery normal training. Has Col. Lt. J. A. Achram to look out for enemy gun flashes - nothing seen.</p> <p>Recconnaitred outpost line beyond KHASIF for further gun positions. Lt. J. A. Achram to same post to observe for flashes. Located gun on bearing of 51° 30' from Pt 570. Ascertained range from fuzes and sent particulars to 19th Bde RHA.</p> | |
| | | 13 | <p>Thick fog in morning. cleared about 0840. Brenois comes at 0930 from 5th Bde to bring out section to KARIM at 1200. Has orders for Right Section with Lt. Col. Andrew and Lt. Achram to recon camp at 1200 and marching south via ABU-SOCCIN and mountains at KARIM. Road to BOZ EL CASAL myself for orders. Saw Col. Williams at 1320 and he explained he wanted me to take on Pt 650 from KHASIF. Left books and 2 troops at KARIM also 1 troop at KHASIF post. Remains in position at 1430. O.P. at Pt 550 (South) opened fire at 1400 on Pt 650 and marched in direction of WADI HANAFISH. ceased firing and withdrew at 1610 via S. side of KHASIF valley. Reached camp at 1700. Found 2 Shapars and 2 H.E.</p> | <p>11/12</p> |

(App. No. 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100)

A. P.atty

Oct '17

WAR DIARY

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|----------------------|------|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| IN URGAN du shell | 15 | | <p>Normal Training. Short Parade 11.30. Collection for bed brass.</p> <p>Receives message at 0850 to send one section to 302 EL BASAL immediately. Section moved off at 0915. Sent 2nd Lt. Jackson to report for orders. Went to 302 EL BASAL myself and saw Major Wiggins (Worcester 490) and he told me he had had difficulty with Pt 630 and wanted me to shell it. Arranged to open fire at 11.0 and stop at 11.15. Came into action at N. 18 d. 3.5 with O.P. at N. 18 d. 6. 3 (ESANI 1/20,000). Opened fire at 11.10. Down 34 Sharpshoot and 12 H.E. at Pt 630 and swept ground behind brass firing at 11.15. Received message that our troop had occupied Pt 630 so withdraw S. of KARM to camp. Arrived in camp at 13.30.</p> | |
| | 16 | | <p>Receives message from 5th Bde to send one section to 302 EL BASAL at 12.00. Section left camp at 10.00 with 2nd Lt. Jackson and walls. Saw Col. Williams personally at BASAL at 10.50 and he and Col. Palmer explained scheme which was to fill in the trenches the Turks had dug over and around Pt 630. Suggested to Col. Williams that I brought the section into action between</p> | 25/1 |

WAR DIARY

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|---|------|--------|--|--------------------------------------|
| GOS'EL BASAL Africa BEERSHEBA N. 18. 4. 2. L (ESANI 1/20.000) E IV 1/25,000 | 16 | Contd. | SERBI Spring and Pt 587. He told me however he wished me to fire from KHASIF as he had so few men for escort. Arranged with Capt Mitchell (Stonewort. GPO) details of scheme. Established radio communication with Capt Mitchell on Pt 587. Action in action N. 18. 4. 2. L (ESANI 1/20.000). Received messages by radio at 1405 that Pt 630 was being fired on from ruins E of that hill. Received message 1417 Troops chas of 630. Opened fire with H.E. on ruins and on E slopes of Pt. 630. Withdrew at 1533. Reached camp at 1710 | |
| | 17 | | Normal Training. Received particulars of reconnaissance on 16th | |
| | 18 | | Left camp with battery at 0845. Reported to Staff Capt 3 rd ALN Bde outside wire at 0930. Marched behind 2nd ALN Bde to point just S of KHASIF (3 rd ALN Bde in rear). Battery moved 1 mile SSE at 1400 and came under cover of 19 th Bde R.N.D. Withdrew at 1715. Arrived camp at 1945. Reconnaissance personally during the day Pt 630 and ruins beyond also was HANATISH. Pt 720 and back to KHASIF | 19/5/41 |

(Appx. W. Wright/Memo. Form. 127. D. D. & L., Ltd. Form C. 2118)

A Batty

Oct 1917

WAR DIARY

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OR
-INTELLIGENCE-SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|-----------|-------|------|--|--------------------------------------|
| UM URSAN | 20/49 | | Normal Training | |
| the Shell | 20 | | do Sea Patrol Drill | |
| | 21 | | do Recd orders re Operations Shell arrives in evening | |
| | 22 | | Battery with 4 th ALH Bde on Outpost. Board of 0410 via URSAN entrance to west and moved S to FARA entrance. Artillery Squadron 12 th H. Bgt at 0500. Marched down to 502 nd EL BASAL. Reconn'd and fed horses. Reconn'd's ground again in vicinity of 51 st W (ESANI: 1/20,000) with a view to operating against Pt 600. Recd orders at 1000 from the command to withdraw battery at 1500. Reached camp 1745. | |
| | 23 | | Reconn'd with Major PRICE HARRISON (Y/1000, 000) guns positions and observing station for defence and attack of Pt 630-700 and the 3 rd EL BUSAR ridge. | |
| | 24 | | Sub station to SHELLAL and man and store to 5000. Recd orders re outpost duty with 4 th ALH Bde on 20/49. Order re advance outpost duty and tactical scheme for defence and attacking guns received. | 13/4 |

(Amplify by writing in margin where necessary.)

A B atty

Oct '17

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2113.

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—INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY—

(Erase heading not required.)

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|--|-------------------|------|--|--------------------------------------|
| UM URGAN By the Pass | Oct 25 | | Left camp at 1400. Believed 11 th Bde RHA at 7645. 1 section at Pt about 1000' E of KHASIF and 1 section at Pt just W of Pt 550 (N. OF KARIM). Look over artillery data. Night quiet. 2 nd Lt. Acton and Wells at Pt 550 covering Pt 630. Capt Harris and Lt. MacAndrew at KHASIF position covering Pt 720. F.O.O sent forward to both points at 0450 on 26 th . | |
| KHASIF 1 Sect and Pt 550 1 Sect. | 26 (-5 day) | | Slept personally at KHASIF. Left there at 0600 via Pt 720 and moved in front along ridge to Pt 630 reconnoitering ground in front for gun positions. Saw Lt. Acton at Pt 630 and told him to fire 6 rounds for registering. Reconnoitered Pts 550-510 and in front. Registered in afternoon from KHASIF position with 6 rds. Handled over all particulars of alternative gun positions, normal ranges etc to HANTS RHA at 1430. Watched KHASIF 1530. Believed by Hants RHA at 1710. Left section in camp at 1850. Right section in camp at 1950. | |
| UM URGAN | 27 (-4 day) | | Received orders from 19 th Bde RHA at 0830 to saddle up at once and stand to as enemy had occupied EL BUSSAR-720-630 ridge. Reported to 4 th ALH Bde and 19 th Bde RHA ready to move off at 0855. Received telegram from 4 th ALH Bde at 0935 to move immediately E of wire - must Bde and march behind Machine Gun line. Received orders at 0945 cancelling. Remained saddled up until 1600. Looked | 23/8 |

(A7092). Wt. W1239/M1293 750,000. 1/17. D. D. & L., Ltd. Forms/C.2113-14

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| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
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| | 27 | | Conference Bty. orders in Notts RHA lines at 1330. Put up lines and men slept between hours. Thunderstorms and about 1/2 hours heavy rain. Quiet night. | |
| UM URBAN | 28 | (-3 day) | Stood to 0445. Sent men to GAMLI dump orders from 19 th Bde RHA at 0725 to off saddle. Stood to until battery moved off from camp at 1500. Realted battery at rendezvous of Aust. Mts. line No. 1 columns (whirls) 400' W of FARA (S crossing) at 1600. Board off at 1815 at head of 4 th A.L.H. Bde (whirls) and immediately following rear of 3 rd A.L.H. Bde. Arrived ESANI bivouac site 2045. | |
| ESANI | 29 | (-2 day) | Worked ESANI. Sent advance bivouac parties to KHALASA. Bty. left ESANI at 1630 and led 4 th Bde. whirls via E bank of WADI IMALABA to KHALASA. Arrived 2230. | |
| KHALASA | 30 | (-1 day) | Rested horses and men. Went to 19 th Bde. Horn morning and conference 4 th A.L.H. Bde at 1415. Board off at 1730 with 4 th A.L.H. Bde. Handed to ASLUZ. Worked. marched all night. | |
| | 31 | 2800 DAY | 2nd horse at 0100. Arrived in vicinity of ISWAININ. 3 rd A.L.H. Bde leading as before. Remained in this vicinity all morning because urgent orders at 1615 to report to Gen. HOBBSON immediately. | |

(A599) W. W. Wright/M193 795,000, 1/15, D. D. & L., Ltd. Form C. 2118-14

W/C

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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| BEERSHEBA | Oct 31 | contd. | <p>Reported and Col Preston (19th Bdr R.H.A.) explained scheme for immediate attack on BEERSHEBA. 4th ALH Bdr (less 1 Bgt) and A Bty HAC to go straight for the Mosque (about 4 miles from starting off point). Col Preston told me to find Capt R.H.A. and tell the O.C. to cooperate in this charge. I saw Capt Price Harrison and informed him. Arranged for him to act on left flank. 4th A.L.H. Bdr advanced on BEERSHEBA in regimental line at a gallop at 1700. A Bty HAC in line with them at or centre. Light extremely bad. Heavy rifle fire practically all evening as the Brigade galloped over the trenches. German 77 mm. Shrapnel bursting at intervals. Two enemy planes overhead dropping bombs. Some into action immediately behind Brigade but light now so bad (1720) and dust raised by charge so thick and our men advancing at such a rate that I did not see opening for BEERSHEBA fall at about 1800. Moved off into the town at 1845 guided by the light of burning houses, a granary alays and a ammunition dump on fire. Set guns into position for defence of town.</p> | <p>MAJOR COMD. 17th BATTERY H. C.</p> |