

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

Artillery

**Item number:** 13/55/3

**Title:** B Battery, Honourable Artillery  
Company

April 1917



AWM4-13/55/3

A26/1

6 APR 1917

Confidential  
War Diary

of  
B. Battery Hon Artillery Co

from 1st April 17. to 30<sup>th</sup> April 17

Vol No \_\_\_\_\_

WAR DIARY

Army Form C, 2114

or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

B. BATTERY

HON. ART. CO

(Erase heading not required.)

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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
OSR EL BELAH	1/4/17		C.P.A. visited camp. Normal training	
	1/5/17		C.P.A. visited camp. "	
	1/6/17		C.P.A. visited camp in morning + 9.00. 5 <sup>th</sup> batt. later in afternoon. Normal training.	
	1/7/17		Normal training.	
	1/8/17		C.P.A. inspected houses. OC + Lt. Knabbs to outpost line held by 5 <sup>th</sup> ME. on reconnaissance	
	1/9/17		Normal training.	
	1/10/17		" " OC to watch experimental firing with 18 pr. Q.F. and 4.5 how. at cactus hedge.	
	1/11/17		Shovel used as for wire cutting appears to be best method of clearing it, but little effect can be obtained on old cactus hedge. Normal training	
	1/12/17		Church services for C.P.A. + R.C. OC. on reconnaissance S. of WADI GHUZZE.	
	1/13/17		C.P.A. inspected camp. Normal training.	
	1/14/17		OC on reconnaissance for crossing for wheeled traffic over GHUZZE, SHERIA, BANA, JIHAN bridges with Lt. Col. Kelly of 5th Div. 17th B. Normal training	
	1/15/17		C.P.A. inspected camp. Normal training.	
	1/16/17		Normal training.	
	1/17/17		" " Lt. Phillips on reconnaissance to Sgt. Hamouda with officer of C.P.A.'s staff	
	1/18/17		" "	
	1/19/17		Lt. Knabbs on reconnaissance to Sgt. Hamouda again with officer from C.P.A.'s staff. OC on reconnaissance with C.P.A. Church services for C.P.A. + R.C.	

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B Batty

April 17

WAR DIARY

or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Brass heading not required)

B BATTERY

Army Form C, 2118

HON. ART CO

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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TEL EL JEMMI	18/4/47	2100	The battery marched from Camp at DAK EL BELAH to TEL EL JEMMI arriving at	
TEL EL JEMMI	18/4/47	0300	The battery planned 0300 12/4/47. On arrival OC went out with Lieut Phil Barry to make a reconnaissance of Wadi GUZZE, and found G.O.C. 5th Mtn Bde at Pt 280 on East bank of Wadi GUZZE shortly after dawn. At 1200 OC was sent forward by G.O.C. 5th Mtn Bde to report on Ridge of MOUNTAIN INFANTRY observed on SAVASAH RIDGE. At 1300 the battery came forward arriving in position about 1430. Engaged enemy digging trenches and fortifying their houses the battery with HE, apparently with good effect. Returned to TEL EL JEMMI at 1600.	
	18/4/47		Remained at TEL EL JEMMI	
	19/4/47	0200	Marched out at 0200 arriving at MUN KEILEH about 0500	
		0730	At 0730 OC went forward to front firing line and established OP in a Mtn emplacement. Battery came into position at 0800 and opened fire on enemy's infantry on lower slopes of SAVASAH RIDGE. Subsequently engaged his infantry along whole front of 5th Mtn Bde - following them up the further slopes.	
		1200	At 1200 OC moved his OP forward to the support line on ridge bank of WADI EL BAHN as our troops had advanced as far as bed of WADI and sent for 2/Lt Phillips. On his arrival OC left him at the new OP and went forward to the firing line. OC saw Colonel Eady right of the battery there and ascertained their movement and requirements. OC then returned to OP and sent Lieut Phillips forward with a telephone and a wire to the front line. Battery was engaged thereafter in supporting the advance of the bde.	
		1500	About 1500 enemy launched a counter attack with very heavy forces. OC received instruction from G.O.C. bde to place a barrier in front of the bde keeping fire on enemy's line as it advanced & to keep firing at all costs.	

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1918

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

B BATTERY.

FION ART. CO

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	19/4/17	1630	<p>It was done - About 1630 enemy aircraft located the battery and turned their heavy guns on to it. Fire was very accurate about thirty heavy shells being put into or around the battery. O.C. however was unable to stop firing as the brigade was being very heavily pressed in front. At about 1700 one gun was hit the whole detachment being put out of action. Gun numbers were however immediately sent from the other guns and the gun fired again.</p>	
		1700	<p>At 1715 O.C. received information from the I.O.C. that the attack had been driven off and enemy were retiring. O.C. at once ordered detachments to leave the guns and take cover in the bed of the road in rear. Shortly after this was done another shell struck a gun putting it out of action.</p>	
		1715	<p>At 1730 an order was received from 5th Inf Bde to withdraw to F.L. MENDUP. Enemy's shell fire had now lifted and was passing over the battery. O.C. therefore ordered up team for left section which got away safely. Just as right section was about to leave there were three more heavy shells which hit the battery. Several horses were hit and a team and some led horses stampeded. The section was however quickly got out of action, and all except one horse was found again. The battery collected in a bunch of assembly and marched to F.L. MENDUP via T.E. F.L. JEMMAY, making camp at the latter place. Arrived at F.L. MENDUP</p>	
		2330	<p>2330 and bivouacked for the night.</p> <p>Number of rounds fired during the day, 1042, 29.353.</p> <p>Days being moderately. Clear for day 156.</p> <p>Casualties - 8 O.R. were serious wounded, killed, and wounded. 6 wounded, remaining with night 2.</p> <p>The following services of the following officers were recommended to the C.R.C. for recognition: Lieut. K. J. H. Phillips, Lieut. O. J. Birchbrooke, Lieut. D. S. Baring, 2/Lieut. C. Phillips, WO 624783 Sgt. Nathan, WO 624031 Cpl. Bates, WO 625024 2nd Lt. J. S. L. H. No 625120 9th G. R. Rockell, No 624978 9th W. L. Haynes</p>	