

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

Artillery

**Item number:** 13/104/5

**Title:** X5A Medium Trench Mortar Battery

November 1917



AWM4-13/104/5

284

# WAR DIARY

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.

## or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p>X5A Medium T. M. Battery.</p> <p><u>Personnel</u> O. C. Lieut A J Filshie Lieut. A. B. Newmarch 31 Other Ranks.</p>	
	November	1st	X5A Battery in Reserve at Dikebusch T.M. Camp. (H 276 7.7. Sheet 28 Belqu)	France)
		5 <sup>th</sup>		1917
		4 <sup>th</sup>	1 NCO and 7 other ranks departed for 2 <sup>nd</sup> Army Trench Mortar School.	1917
		4 <sup>th</sup>	Lt Filshie with all available men departed for line to prepare	1917
		5 <sup>th</sup>	for a shoot on the following morning at 6 a.m.	1917
			Lt Filshie with Sgt Butters, Cpl Maumill & 3 men remained at	1917
			Battalion H.Q. for the night, the remainder returning to	1917
			camp.	1917
		6 <sup>th</sup>	At 6 a.m. in conjunction with attack on Passchendaele, a	1917
			demonstration was held on night. This battery participated	1917
			firing 20 rds from one 6" mortar in position at D290 6.4.	1917
			Party returned safely to camp, no casualties incurred.	1917
			Orders recd that all available personnel were to be attached	1917
			to Field Artillery temporarily with exception of Lt Filshie and 5	1917
				1917
				1917

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284

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November.			Other ranks, who were to stand by in reserve for work with the 6" mortar in the line.	1192
	9 <sup>th</sup>		Lieut Newmarch with 9 other Ranks reported for duty to 13 <sup>th</sup> F. A. Bde and 8 other Ranks to 14 <sup>th</sup> F. A. Bde.	1192
	11 <sup>th</sup>		Orders received to be ready to move at 2 p.m with all stores and equipment - Attached for moving to B Echelon, 5 <sup>th</sup> D. A. C.	1192
	12 <sup>th</sup>		Moved with D. A. C at 12 noon to Busseboom where camp was pitched for the night.	1192
	13 <sup>th</sup>		Moved to Neffe via Berthen Bailloul.	1192
	15 <sup>th</sup>		Lt Filshe with 5 other Ranks rec'd orders to proceed to Tunnel Camp (T5a.50.50. Sheet 28 Belgium & France) to take over guns, stores etc from 14 <sup>th</sup> D. T. M. O. 1 6" mortar in position at (035c 85.80.)	1192
	18 <sup>th</sup>		Battery store removed from D. A. C. camp to T. M. camp at Gregory X Road T5a.5.0.	1192
	19 <sup>th</sup>		All other ranks returned from 13 <sup>th</sup> & 14 <sup>th</sup> F. A. Brigades - 8 other ranks returned from 3rd Army T. M. School. Lieut Bond attached for duty with X5A Battery.	1192

284

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November.	20 <sup>th</sup>		8 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Bde front reconnoitred for T.M. positions by Lieut Bond & Lieut Felskie	1192
	21 <sup>st</sup>		6" gun in position at 035° 85.80 fired in Kewi Farm. (20 rounds fired)	1192
	22 <sup>nd</sup>		all available men employed in putting another 6" gun in position at 056° 35.55	1192
	24 <sup>th</sup>		left gun again fired by Lieut Bond with good effect - 40 rds fired in Kewi Farm & Angle Farm. Remainder of Battery employed on ammunition fatigue. No 3900 Sgt Butler & No 11372 GY Makins mentioned in Anzac Order 436 for services rendered.	1192
	26 <sup>th</sup>		25 Rounds fired on Kewi Farm and enemy trench near Datum House.	1192
	27 <sup>th</sup>		Ammunition fatigue for all hands.	1192
	28 <sup>th</sup>		Gun in right in action at daybreak. 40 rounds fired at 6.45 a.m. on Kingsclere & wood to South of Kingsclere.	1192
	29 <sup>th</sup>		6.45 p.m. left gun fired by Lieut Felskie - 20 rounds in enemy trench - Enemy retaliated with 8" - no casualties. 7.45 p.m. Lieut Bond fired 40 rounds from right gun on Kingsclere. Both parties returned safely to camp; no casualties being sustained.	1192

284

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November.	30 <sup>th</sup> .		<p>X5A Battery relieved by Y5A Battery at noon. X5A battery processed to T.M. Reserve Camp at Dramontre</p> <p>The following are copies of letters read from 8<sup>th</sup> Infy Bde &amp; 13<sup>th</sup> A.F.A. Bde.</p> <p><u>To</u> C.O. Right Group Artillery.</p> <p>I would like to place on record the good work done by Lt Filstue, commanding X5A. M.T.M. Bty whilst working with this Brigade. His guns were emplaced in positions which entailed considerable difficulties. His shoots were carried out successfully &amp; with good effect &amp; the infantry in the line express their appreciation of the result of the shooting.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Sgd. J.W. Clarke Lt. Col Commandg. 8<sup>th</sup> Inf. Bde</p> <p><u>To</u> D.A.H.Q 5<sup>th</sup> Aust. Div. (Cops)</p> <p>The attached is forwarded to you please. X5A Bty has done very well. This post does not provide cover for T.M. but this has not deterred Lt Filstue &amp; his battery from carrying out their tasks, though the enemy's reply to their fire was at times heavy.</p> <p>I have found Lt Filstue very keen &amp; energetic whilst working with this Brigade and am pleased to be able to call the attention of the C.R.A to this fact.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Sgd. St Baddy Lt. Col Commandg. 13<sup>th</sup> Aust F.A Bde.</p>	<p>HgZ</p> <p>HgZ</p> <p>HgZ</p> <p style="text-align: right;">4</p>