

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

Artillery

Item number: 13/33/13

Title: Headquarters, 5th Australian Field
Artillery Brigade

December 1916



AWM4-13/33/13

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
DUPLICATE.
TRIPLICATE.

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

Fifth Field Artillery Brigade

FOR

December 1916.

Signature of Officer compiling

[Handwritten signature]
is
Lieut
Adjutant
5th F. A. Bde.

Signature of Officer Commanding

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
FLer FLe	FLERS.	1.12.16	<p>Infantry report much work being done by enemy on his front line trenches. Brigade shelled enemy front line at intervals during morning.</p> <p>5.30 p.m. Very heavy enemy bombardment commenced on our immediate right.</p> <p>5.40 p.m. F.O.O. reported that bombardment had extended to our sector. Batteries opened on S.O.S. lines till 6 p.m. when situation quietened. Infantry requested our fire to continue at slow rate until 7 p.m. when we ceased fire. No raid eventuated.</p>	
		2.12.16	<p>Very quiet day. Registrations carried out. It is very difficult to approach our front line on account of enemy's snipers and machine guns having direct observation on our sector.</p> <p>5.30 p.m. to midnight. Enemy relief suspected. Fired at slow rate on tracks and approaches.</p>	
		3.12.16	<p>Enemy shelling normal.</p> <p>The Brigade with remainder of Group fired a programme on S.O.S. lines for verification. Shoot witnessed by C.O., CoO. Infantry Batn., Lieut. L.R. BLAKE MC. and Lieut. B. BARLOW.</p>	
		4.12.16	<p>Clear day. Registrations checked.</p>	
		5.12.16	<p>Foggy day. Programme shoot carried out; witnessed by Lieut. B. BARLOW. Brigade satisfactory but observation was difficult for checking line of fire.</p>	
		6.12.16	<p>Very quiet day. Usual barrage maintained on enemy trenches.</p> <p>10 p.m. to midnight. Engaged enemy tracks and approaches.</p>	
		7.12.16	<p>Normal barrage continued.</p> <p>11.10 p.m. to midnight. Enemy heavily shelled our front line system. Infantry asked for retaliation which was given.</p>	
		8.12.16	<p>Lieut. R.C. OSBORNE registered 14th. and 15th. Batteries from front line.</p> <p>Very quiet day, wet and foggy.</p> <p>A Stray shell hit 14th. Battery telephonist dug-out, killing one and wounding two others.</p>	
		9.12.16	<p>Raining all day. Usual barrage maintained.</p>	

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FLERS.	10.12.16		Lieut. R.C. OSBORNE again registered Batteries from front line.	
	11.12.16		Quiet day. Cloudy and observation very bad. Our barrage continues during day and night. 11 a.m. Batteries shelled - 100 rounds 5.9's.	
	12.12.16		A very quiet day. Cloudy and observation very bad.	
	13.12.16		Enemy artillery inactive. Our barrage continued.	
	14.12.16		Quiet day, very foggy and observation bad.	
	15.12.16		Command of 'B' Group Artillery passed from Lieut.-Colonel J.H. HURST to Lieut. Colonel B.A.G. WATTS, DSO.	
	16.12.16		Very wet and foggy. A Quiet day.	
	17.12.16		Still very quiet.	
	18.12.16		6.30 p.m. 14th. Battery shelled by enemy. No casualties or damage done.	
	19.12.16		A few shells fell in the vicinity of GUILLEMONT, otherwise quiet.	
	20.12.16		Enemy working party in their front line engaged - 30 rounds fired. Fine clear day.	
	21.12.16		Very quiet day.	
	22.12.16		Very quiet day, observation bad.	
MONTAUBON.			10 p.m. 5th. F.A. Brigade relieved by 4th. F.A. Brigade and withdrawn to wagon lines. During period that Batteries were under control of 'B' Group Arty. 5th.F.A.B. Headquarters remained in reserve near DELVILLE WOOD. Lieut.-Colonel H.W. LLOYD, DSO and Lieut. S. PLAYFAIR (Adjutant) proceeded to NAOURS about 18th. inst. to prepare a school of instruction for the Brigade whilst in rest area.	
FRANVILLERS.	23.12.16		The Brigade moved off from Wagon Lines and trekked to FRANVILLERS where we billeted for the night.	

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NAOURS.	24.12.16		Continued trek to NAOURS.	
	25.12.16 to 31.12.16.		Time fully occupied cleaning stores, equipment, vehicles, harness etc. Horses watering arrangements bad. School of Instruction for Officers and N.C.O's commenced under Lieut. Colonel H.W. LLOYD DSO. Lieut. N.T. KINGSMILL appointed Acting Adjutant,	