

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

Artillery

Item number: 13/33/15

Title: Headquarters, 5th Australian Field
Artillery Brigade

February 1917



AWM4-13/33/15

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Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN FIELD ARTILLERY BRIGADE.

FOR

FEBRUARY

1917

Signature of Officer compiling

W. H. M. M. M.
Adjutant, 5th. Aust. F. A. Brigade.

Lieut.

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.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
NAOURS.	1.2.17		Batteries busy packing wagons and vehicles and generally preparing for Trek to the Line. Lieut. B.S. PLAYFAIR resumed duty as Adjutant.	
BEHENCOURT.	2.2.17	x	Brigade marched to BEHENCOURT.	
	3.2.17	x	Personnel of 1 Section per Battery relieved one section per Battery of the 71st. Brigade R.F.A.	
MARTINPUICH	4.2.17	x	Personnel of the remaining two section per Battery relieved the remainder of the 71st. Brigade R.F.A. Brigade Headquarters relieved Brigade Headquarters of 71st. Brigade R.F.A.	
	5.2.17	x	The positions occupied were as follows :- Brigade H.Q. Church, BAZENTIN-LE-PETTIT. 13th. and 14th. Batteries - 500 yards West of MARTINPUICH. 15th. and 105th. " - In MARTINPUICH.	
	6.2.17	x	The horses and vehicles of the remaining two sections per Battery proceeded to their respective wagon lines. S.O.S. Lines checked and registrations obtained.	
		x	For the relief see 2nd. D.A.H.Q. Operation Order No.1 of 1.2.17 on type pages 7,8,9, and 10 of 2nd. DA.H.Q. War Diary for February 1917.	
	7.2.17		Lieut. Colonel H.W. LLOYD, DSO relieved Brig. General G.J. JOHNSON CB.VD. at 2nd. D.A.H.Q. for a month during the absence on leave of the latter. Batteries zero lines and registrations checked. During early part of night a Minnenwerfer at M.17.a.0.6. was engaged by 18-pounders. MARTINPUICH and vicinity shelled from direction of LOUPART WOOD. Hostile aircraft active. Major J. PAUL temporarily Commanding Brigade during absence at 2nd. D.A.H.Q. of Lieut. Colonel H.W. LLOYD, DSO.	
	8.2.17		During the night LOUPART WOOD, LOOS CUT and various tracks etc. were subjected to bursts of fire. MARTINPUICH, LE SARRS and DESTREMONT FARM shelled by 15cm. Howitzers during the day. Enemy planes active.	

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MARTINPUICH.	9.2.17		Usual enemy approaches, Headquarters, etc. were kept under fire. Considerable movement noticed and engaged.	
	10.2.17		Enemy front line, sunken road in M.4.d. and M.5.c. was barraged. GALLWITZ Switch and GALLWITZ and GRID Trenches were subjected to occasional bursts of fire. MARTINPUICH and DESTREMONT FARM shelled by enemy. 7.45 p.m. and 10 p.m. Lachrymatory shelling of LE SARS. 8 p.m. Small operation carried out.	
	11.2.17		3.45 p.m. SHELTER WOOD CAMP was shelled by 4.2 H.V. Gun from direction of ACHIET-LE-GRAND. Counter battery Group notified and shelling ceased at 4 p.m.	
	12.2.17		8.10 p.m. The enemy carried out a raid on the Sector of the Div. on our immediate left. Enemy tracks and communications shelled.	
	13.2.17		Usual shelling of enemy front line, support and communication trenches and tracks was carried out during the night. In conjunction with the Stokes Mortars our guns shelled all suspected Trench Mortar positions and working parties observed.	
	14.2.17		8.30 p.m. Infantry patrols reported strong working party about 100 men in front of GALLWITZ Trench at M.9.d.45.40.	
	15.2.17 to 16.2.17.		See 2nd. D.A.H.Q. War Diary for February 1917, pages 34, 35, 36 and 37.	
	17.2.17		5.45 a.m. Small Operation in support of 2nd. Corps (on our left) carried out. 9.5 a.m. Rate of fire reduced to 1 round per Battery per minute. 10.30 a.m. Hows. ceased firing and 18-pounders rate increased to compensate. 3.10 p.m. All fire ceased. Gun pits had to be pulled down and rebuilt to get the necessary switches.	
	18.2.17		See 2nd. D.A.H.Q. War Diary for February 1917 page 43.	
	19.2.17		do do do 49.	
	20.2.17		do do do 51.	
	21.2.17		do do do 53.	
	22.2.17		do do do 55.	
	23.2.17		do do do 57.	

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FLERS. MARTINPUICH.	24.2.17		2nd. D.A.H.Q. advised Brigade that it is suspected the enemy is vacating vcertain country on our front. Registrations were obtained on the BUTTE Trench. Suspected machine guns and trench mortars were fired on at M.16.b.85.55 and M.10.c.20.80. During the night GALLWITZ (M.10.c and d) GALLWITZ SUPPORT (M.10.a) and LOUPART WOOD were harassed. Visibility low, observation poor.	
	25.2.17		1.15 a.m. Corps message states front system vacated by enemy. 1.45 a.m. 13th. Battery moved forward to new position at M.28.d.50.80; considerable difficulty was experienced in moving, several guns being bogged-and was not in action until the afternoon. 3.10 p.m. 105th. Battery warned to be prepared to move forward tonight.	
	26.2.17		14th. Battery moved forward and were in action at noon. 11.30 a.m. to 3.45 p.m. MALT TRENCH kept under constant bombardment in support of our Infantry who have so far made two unsuccessful attempts to capture it.	
	27.2.17		2.25pm.No firing to take place on MALT TRENCH in M.4.d. after 5 p.m. by request of Left Inf. Brigade.	
	28.2.17		1.25 a.m. Another attack by our Infantry on MALT TRENCH supported by our Artillery again proved unsuccessful. 1 p.m. 13th. Battery fired 250 rounds to cut wire on LOUPART Road at M.5.c.55.50 to allow a patrol to get through. points 3 p.m. 105th. Battery engaged, point M.5.a.30.20. and M.5.a.15.65. 6.11 p.m. S.O.S. reported. 6.13 p.m. Brigade opened at slow rate. 6.17 p.m. Ceased fire.	