

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

Artillery

Item number: 13/33/16

Title: Headquarters, 5th Australian Field
Artillery Brigade

March 1917



AWM4-13/33/16

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Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

Fifth Field Artillery Brigade

FOR

March 191*7.*

Signature of Officer compiling

Wm. M. Smith
Adjutant
5th F.A. Brigade

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
LEAUCOURT ABBE.	1.3.17		Warning order and new boundaries issued for attack on GREVILLERS Line.	
	3.3.17		Registrations were carried out by Guns in forward positions. Night firing stopped for patrols. Front line improved. Enemy heavies quiet.	
	4.3.17		Hows. fired on junction of MALT and GREVILLERS Trenches to obliterate same. Registrations were carried out.	
	5.3.17		Normal barrage maintained on Machine Gun and working party during night. Enemy planes very active.	
	6.3.17		Our planes very active. 12.29 a.m. S.O.S. given from Battalion (1 rocket) not seen by us, report submitted to D.A. on inadequacy of same. Barrage not required.	
	7.3.17		Our planes active driving off enemy planes.	
	8.3.17		Wire cutting commenced in front of GREVILLERS Line. Covering fire for Trench Mortars provided.	
	9.3.17		MALT Trench reported cleaned out to a depth of 4 or 5 feet. Minnenwerfer firing on our posts was satisfactorily engaged.	
	10.3.17		A 60 mins. bombardment of Grevillers Trench carried out. Raid postponed owing to raid wire not being cut. British success on left 9 Machine Guns, 53 Trench Mortars and 240 prisoners taken.	
	11.3.17		Wire cutting continued. IV Div. advance parties moved on. Noon. Intensive bombardment of wire. (Two Battery) Two Counter Battery engagements.	
	12.3.17		Wirecutting systematically carried out in front of GREVILLERS line. Divisional Boundaries readjusted.	

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L'EAUCOURT ABBE.	13.3.17		During 12th. and 13th. WARLENCOURT and GREVILLERS line were captured. Reconnaissance of forward positions made and registrations. Left Group take over responsibility of Div. Sector.	
LE BARQUE.	14.3.17		Sections of 5th. Brigade Batteries moved into forward positions LE BARQUE.	
	15.3.17		B.H.Q., Col. LLOYD, Lieut. N.T. KINGSMILL and portion of staff move up to LE BARQUE, Lieut R. SYNNOT remaining at old position with clerks etc. to control 45th. 46th. 47th. and 105th. Batteries also remaining at their old positions. 10 a.m. 4 min. intense bombardment of enemy line. Forward sections registered. Lieut. WOOD killed by shell. Normal barrage maintained by rear Batteries.	
	16.3.17		45th. Battery moved up to forward position Left Group. 46th. and 47th. Batteries to Right Group. Right Group took over control of Div. Front. Div. Salvos fired on movement.	
	17.3.17		Remaining sections of Batteries moved up. Machine Guns, party of Infantry and Batteries moving out were fired on by 13th. and 105th Batteries. SAPNIC SAPIGNIES, BENAFATES and surrounding villages burnt. Reconnaissance made of area south of BIEFVILLERS for Brigade Positions. One section of 13th. Battery moved up to H.26.d. to cover the advance.	
	18.3.17		During the night 17th. and 18th. one section of the 14th. Battery moved up to H.26.d. West of BAPAUME and during the morning proceeded to H.15.c. 13th. Battery advanced to B.29.c. This position was found to be in advance of the Infantry. The section withdrew to H.15.c. Capt. RAY entered MOREY. No firing was done. 30th. Battalion entered BAPAUME. Brigade Wagon Lines moved up to MARTINPUICH.	
BAPAUME.	19.3.17		The 13th. Battery passed to the control of the G.O.C. advance guard. 2 Guns of 14th. transferred to 13th. Battery.	

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BAPAUME.	20.3.17		Wagon lines ordered up to LE BARQUE owing to traffic. Order cancelled. 12 noon. Left Group System changed. 45th. Battery return to 12th. Brigade who form reserve Brigade. Orders received for Colonel H.W. LLOYD to Command advance Brigade.	
BEUGNATRE.	21.3.17		B.H.Q. moved and established advance guard H.Q. at BEUGNATRE. 11th. Battery came under control of Advance Guard Artillery. 13th. Battery relieved by 14th. Battery.	
VAULX.	.		15th. and 105th. Batteries take up positions South of VAULX in I.12.a and c.	
	22.3.17		Intermittent shelling of LAGNICOURT and NOREUIL. Advance Guard Arty, co-operated with Heavies. Transport fired on. Registrations and preparations for attack. Heavies and Siege Batteries registered on LAGNICOURT and NOREUIL.	
	24.3.17		Fire was kept up on LAGNICOURT and roads in enemy country.	
	25.3.17.		Chinese bombardment of LAGNICOURT was carried out . 5 a.m. Constant fire was kept up on NOREUIL and LAGNICOURT and roads and working parties in vicinity.	
	26.3.17		5.15 a.m. Operation on LAGNICOURT carried out; Village taken. The enemy counter attacked at 10.10 a.m. and again at 11.15 a.m. Barrages were placed and attacks driven off. Fire was kept up on roads throughout the day. At about 10 p.m. on receipt of a report that the enemy were massing between NOREUIL and LAGNICOURT a barrage was placed down and attack reported to be abandoned.	
	27.3.17		7th. Infantry Brigade relieved by 13th. Advance Brigade Headquarters moved to 13th. Battery old billets in the Village temporarily. Town Hall BAPAUME mined.	
	28.3.17		Continuous fire was kept up on ridge and valleys behind NOREUIL. Wiring parties fired on and registrations carried out on NOREUIL. Train Trains and a large body of Infantry marching were reported.	
	29.3.17		Fire kept up on Ridge behind NOREUIL and Valleys between NOREUIL and LONGATTE. Numerous parties and transport observed on roads were fired on.	

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VAULX.	30.3.17		<p>Trains reported in C.6 and various transports. Roads and Valleys kept under fire in preparation for the attack on NOREUIL. Considerable movement observed in rear of the enemy lines.</p> <p>Advance Bde. Arty. Headquarters moved to open ground and dugouts in road.</p> <p>Late H.Q., 7th. A.I. Brigade, BEUGNATRE blown up in the night by mine.</p> <p>Orders issued for 5th. Brigade to withdraw from the line and march to ALBERT afterwards cancelled. 5th. F.A.B. ceased to be advanced guard Artillery.</p>	
	31.3.17		<p>Trains observed hourly entering QUEANT empty and leaving full at dawn.</p> <p>New trenches N.W. of NOREUIL were bombarded by 4.5's. Working parties and transport continually fired on.</p>	