

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

Artillery

Item number: 13/33/17

Title: Headquarters, 5th Australian Field
Artillery Brigade

April 1917



AWM4-13/33/17

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Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN FIELD ARTILLERY BRIGADE.

FOR

APRIL

1917.

Signature of Officer compiling

Lieut.

Adjutant, 5th.Aust.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
VAULX.	1.4.17 to 2.4.17.		An attack on NOREUIL was carried out successfully. LONGATTE Road was occupied during the day. The 7th. Div. on left advanced simultaneously and took LONGATTE. Counter attacks were successfully driven off. Later in the day troops were reported in the valley of the R. HIRONDELLE, this was kept under a constant fire.	
	3.4.17		General barrage kept up on enemy area. Our troops advanced to the Railway Line in C.5.a. All Batteries prepared positions in valley C.15.central.	
	4.4.17		Between 9.30 a.m. and 10 a.m. 300 rounds were fired on ground in front of S.O.S.lines on reported enemy massing. Working parties fired on. 4th. Aust. Div. Arty. took over from 2nd. Aust. Div. Arty. 13th. Inf. Brigade handed over to 4th. and 12th. Brigades.	
	5.4.17		Operation carried out on Railway in C.5.a., 4th. F.A.Brigade and 15th. Battery.	
	6.4.17		Infantry line established. Batteries moved up into valley NOREUIL C.15.central.	
	7.4.17		Considerable movement observed in vicinity of QUEANT and PRONVILLE. Working parties fired upon and registrations carried out. Combined howitzer bombardment of BULLECOURT. Left Sector 1st. Anzac Arty. established under command of Brig. General ROSENTHAL consisting of 'M', 'Q' and 'P' Groups. 'M' Group - 1st. Div. 'P' Group - 4th. D.A. and 'Q' - 2nd. D.A. plus 12th. Army Brigade. Colonel RABETT assumed command. Routine firing nightly on back country, and for prevention of repair to wire, commenced.	
	8.4.16		3 p.m. to 3.10 p.m. Bombardment by all guns on HINDENBURGH Line. Patrol reported Sunken Road in U.29.c. unoccupied. Gas shells in valley. Heavies wire cutting. Hows. bombarding BULLECOURT.	
	9.4.17		5.30 to 5.40 a.m. and 11.30 to 11.40 a.m. Enemy trenches bombarded lifting through from front to rear. 3 to 5 p.m. General bombardment of whole front.	

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VAULX.	10.4.17		Routine firing searching REINCOURT. 18-pounders 350 rounds. Hows. 150 rounds.	
	11.4.17		4.30 a.m. Operation launched on HINDENBURG Line. 5.39 a.m. Our Infantry seen in BULLECOURT and REINCOURT. 6.10 a.m. Word received that two tanks detailed for breaking down wire had moved along the line. 6 a.m. Second objective gained. 8.15 a.m. Third objective gained. 11.45 a.m. First barrage placed. Word received that we were back in our original line. 1 p.m. Enemy wireless call for concentration of fire on our Batteries C.15.cent.	
	12.4.17		Villages and approaches in rear of enemy lines searched. Wirecutting continued by Howitzers.	
	13.4.17		Situation quiet. Routine fire carried out.	
	14.4.17		Routine firing. Several working parties fired on. Several heavy howitzers observed in action. 12.30 p.m. Fire in BULLECOURT. Situation quiet.	
	15.4.17		4.45 a.m. Report received that the enemy had broken through our line on the right (1st. Div) and were up to 1st. Div. guns. All Batteries opened on S.O.S. Lieut. C.C. MORTON established O.P. on ridge overlooking LAGNICOURT. 13th. Battery ran their guns out into the open to obtain fire on the enemy who had advanced on to road in C.17.b. Instructions received to reconnoitre for positions in rear of BEUGNY - YTREES Line, one Officer per Battery detailed for this duty. re Second Aust. Div. Infantry came up in support and/captured LAGNICOURT. Brigade Major 4th. D.A. instructed Adjutant by telephone to hold Brigade in readiness to advance. Rendezvous selected J.l.d.central. Wagons and limbers brought up.	
	17.4.17		Routine firing carried out. 1st. Aust. Div. take over part of our Sector on right.	
	18.4.17		Routine firing on enemy trenches and wirecutting, Strong point blown out by Hows.	
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VAULX.	19.4.17		Enemy planes very active for one hour over NOREUIL Valley. Report from Major J. RAY forwarded to D.A. on inactivity of Anti-aircraft fire in QUEANT.	
	20.4.17		Enemy aircraft again active over Batteries. Aeroplane targets fired on and routine firing. 600 rounds on country and roads in rear of line. 14th. Battery hand over 2 guns to 13th. Battery one to 15th. and withdraw to wagon lines for rest. 15th. Battery withdraw to a rear position on left C.14.a.	
	22.4.17		Front system, Corps support - MORCHIES-VAULX line and Corps main line - BEUGNY-YTREES, nominated.	
	23.4.17 to 24.4.17		Routine firing.	
	25.4.17		14th. and 105th. Batteries go into the line. and 13th. withdraw for a rest to wagon lines. Front quiet, visibility low.	
	26.4.17 to 27.4.17		A bombardment of smoke shell followed by shrapnel was carried out by 14th. Battery on trenches. Registrations for attack on HINDENBURG Line carried out.	
	28.4.17		10 p.m. Bombardment of REINCOURT with gas shell by 105th. Battery in conjunction with 18-pounders of 4th. F.A. Brigade was carried out.	
	29.4.17		Bombardment of dugouts by 105th. Battery in conjunction with 11th. Battery.	
	30.4.17		Several enemy machine gun emplacements were bombarded.	