

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

Artillery

Item number: 13/33/20

Title: Headquarters, 5th Australian Field
Artillery Brigade

July 1917



AWM4-13/33/20

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Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN FIELD ARTILLERY BRIGADE

FOR

JULY 1917

Signature of Officer compiling

Lieut.

Signature of Officer Commanding

Adjutant, 5th. Aust. F.A. Brigade.

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.)

75

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
A VELUY.	1.7.17)		Batteries of 5th. F.A. Br-igade marched to the Corps Artillery Range at BAVELINCOURT (half mile due East of Church). Batteries had to be in position on the Range by 1 p.m. daily. At that time daily Battery Commanders received a task from the G.O.C.R.A., 1st. Anzac after which Brigade Commanders took charge of their own shoots. Batteries on arrival at the range immediately filled their echelons with ammunition. The route traversed was BOUZINCOURT,- SENLIS - WARLOY - CONTAY. Batteries returned to AVELUY.	
	2.7.17)			
	3.7.17)			
	4.7.17		Training resumed.	
	5.7.17		Training. Experiments with "Smoke Candles" and "P" Bombs for screen from observation	
	6.7.17		Orders received for Brigade to prepare for move to YPRES Area on 9th. instant. (see 2nd. A.A.H.Q. War Diary for July 1917 type pages 5 and 7).	
ORVILLE.	7.7.17		Batteries busy cleaning and painting vehicles, packing and training.	
	8.7.17		Every detail completed preparatory to the move tomorrow.	
	9.7.17		Brigade moved off at 5.30 a.m. (with rain falling) passing the Divisional Starting Point, the cross roads South of Church, BOUZINCOURT and proceeded by the route HEDAUVILLE - ACHEUX to ORVILLE where we bivouaced for the night.	
ETREE-WAMIN.	10.7.17		The Brigade moved off passing the Divisional Starting Point, V road 200 yards North of O in ORVILLE, at 5.15 a.m. passing through LUCHEUX - IVERGNY thence to ETREE-WAMIN for the night.	
ROELLECOURT.	11.7.17		Passed the starting point, Church, ETREE-WAMIN at 7 a.m. and passed through MONCHEAUX-MAISNILL- TACHINCOURT to ROELLECOURT where we remained until the 13th. instant.	
	12.7.17		Wagons and harness cleaned and everything prepared for tomorrow when the march will be continued.	
AMETTES.	13.7.17		Passed starting point, cross roads 200 yards N.W. of BRITEL on ST.POL - TERNES Road at 8.5 6.50 a.m. passing through TERNES and AUMERVAL to AMETTES for the night.	

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BOESEGHEM.	14.7.17		Passed starting point V Roads by E in ST.HILAIRIE passing through LAMBRES - AIRE to BOESEGHEM where a bivouac was made for the night.	
near STAPLE.	15.7.17		Passed starting point, Cross roads 100 yards north of last E in BOESEGHEM at 6.50 a.m. and passed through(WALLON---GAPPEL-area) STEENBECQUE arriving near STAPLE for the night.	
GODEWAERSVELDE.	16.7.17		Moved off from starting point, Cross roads 500 yards South of last E in OXELAERE at 8.5 a.m. and arrived at GODEWAERSVELDE at midday.	
DICKEBUSCH.	17.7.17		Moved to DICKEBUSCH (5th. Army Area) where we pitched camp. (For AVELUY, ORVILLE, ETREE WAMIN, ROELLE COURT, AMETTES and BOESEGHEM see Map LENS 11 1/100,000) (For STAPLE, GODEWAERSVELDE and DICKEBUSCH see Map HAZEBROUCK 1/100,000)	
	18.7.17		Instructions received for Brigade to take up positions near SPOILBANK (YPRES-COMINES Canal.)	
	19.7.17		One Section per Battery took up positions and preparations made for the remaining Guns to be taken into action tomorrow night.	
	20.7.17		Remaining sections took up positions;- Batteries were shelled on arriving at Positions but no casualties caused.	
	21.7.17		Registrations carried out. Communications difficult owing to length of wire necessary, and several test boxes being destroyed.	
	22.7.17 to 30.7.17.		In view of an operation taking place on 31st. instant new Battery Positions were reconnoitred and selected in vicinity of LARCH WOOD and HILL 60. This proved rather a difficult task as the Batteries on the forward slope were in full view of the enemy, and all gun pits and ammunition dumps had to be very carefully camouflaged. Several showers of rain caused gun pits and ammunition recesses to collapse necessitating extra work.	
	31.7.17		5 a.m. Operation carried out in support of British Infantry attack. 6 a.m. Owing to the success of the operation the Brigade moved forward to their selected positions near HILL 60 and were in position and firing to programme with 46 minutes in	

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SPOILBANK.	31.7.17		Batteries suffered casualties which were light in comparison with the 1st. Divisional Artillery who moved up only half a mile to our North. Rain during the day added to the strenuous task of the Infantry and the Artillery.	