

**AWM4**

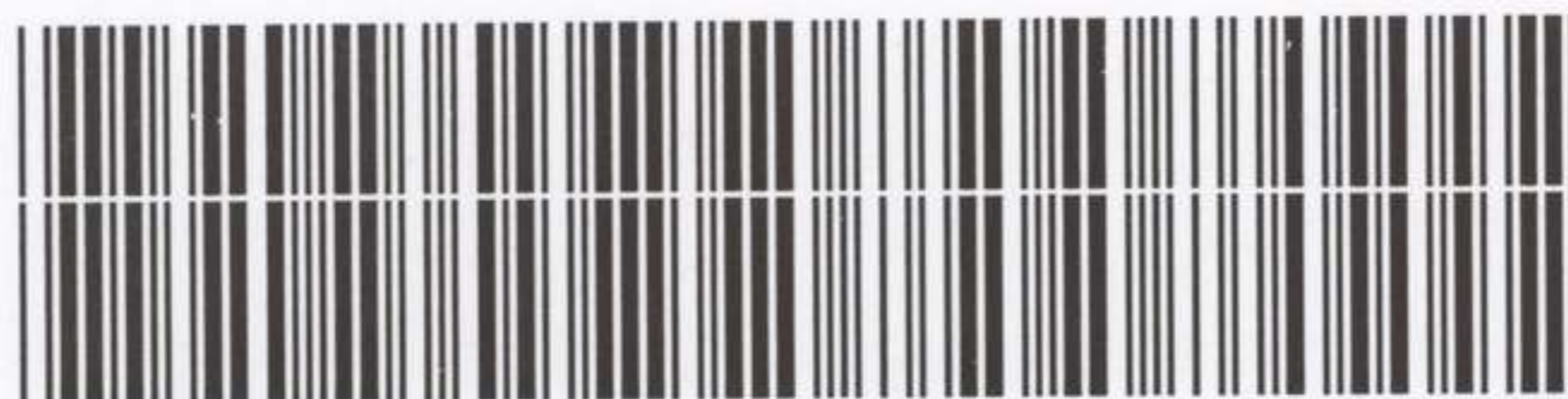
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,  
1914-18 War**

Artillery

**Item number:** 13/33/22

**Title:** Headquarters, 5th Australian Field  
Artillery Brigade

September 1917



AWM4-13/33/22

## 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
DICKERBUSCH.	1.9.17 2.9.17		1300 rounds 18 pdrs and 900 how ordered by Corps: Arranged with 24 <sup>th</sup> DAHQ for Decanville transport: 6 trucks per day: Visited 2 <sup>nd</sup> DAHQ re re-arrangement of D.A.C supply: order subsequently issued that "B" echelon would be unloaded & carry to Wagon lines and 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> sections cart forward to gun line	
	3.9.17		BM + A/S.C called.	
	4.9.17	2 PM.	105 Battery ordered to relieve 104 <sup>th</sup> Bty in the line:	
	5.9.17	6.30 PM	Orders for relief cancelled.	
	6.9.17		14 <sup>th</sup> Battery relieve 15 <sup>th</sup> Battery in the line: Took over "A" Group from N Co 4 <sup>th</sup> FABde	
	7.35	PM	S.O.S signals reported.: all batteries opened on S.O.S line	
	7.45	PM	T.O.P report shelling increased on our front and extends to 326 CO-1 no further signals	
	7.58	PM	T.O.P reports shelling slackening off.	
	8.4	PM	Reported BM situation on our front quiet. batteries ceasing fire.	
	8.6	PM	T.O.P reported shelling slackening considerably: heavy shelling now only at 40°-45°	
	8.7.		Ordered stop firing to all Batteries.	
	8.30		Stand down	
	9. PM		25 rds were fired on suspected carrying parties in — by 10 <sup>th</sup> Bty. at request of Inf Bty	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	7.9.17		13 <sup>th</sup> Battery fired 50 rds (observed) on to house at -	
Larch Wood.	9.9.17	4:14 am	T.B./156 reported S.O.S on our front.	
		4.15.	T.O.P. confirmed this & that there was a heavy barrage on our sector.	
		4.16.	Gave S.O.S to all Batteries.	
		4.20.	T.O.P. reported shelling dying down considerably	
		4.23	Reported above to B.M.	
		4.28	S.O.S rockets reported at J.14.a.	
		4.32	No further rockets but shelling continuing.	
		4.39.	T.O.P. shelling decreasing slightly on our front. (T.O.P. report)	
		4.40	Shelling extends from 19 Central to 25 Central; slightly decreasing.	
		4.45	Liason Officer said that Infantry had asked for support from heavies but knew nothing of S.O.S.	
		4.52.	Reported above to B.M. who said to carry on at a slow rate.	
		4.54.	T.O.P. reported shelling still continuing from 19D cent <sup>e</sup> to 25 Central.	
		4.57	Liason asked that rate of fire be reduced to 1rd per gun per 2 mins.	
		4.59	Liason reports no trouble on our front: but S.O.S. further north.	

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<i>Dickbusch</i>	<i>9.9.17</i> <i>26.9.17</i>		<i>5<sup>th</sup> B.H. Co at Wagon line: Relieved in the line by 14 Co. 4<sup>th</sup> F.C. Bde</i>	

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Larch Wood	9.9.17	5.4 AM	Reported above to Bill who said to cease fire.	
		5.6 "	Message to all batteries. "Stop"	
		6. am	Opened fire on Operation Order No - Attack day No 2.	
	26.9.17	6.7 "	Liaison report up to the present no enemy shell in our sector (reported Bill.)	
		6.20	Liaison Major Ray reports Lieut Whitty: wounded slightly.	
		6.35	Enemy barrage placed between old front & support line: doing us harm (to Bill).	
		6.35	Liaison report prisoners coming in. (reported Bill)	
		7. am	Arranged Major Manton to send Lt Mell. to 13 <sup>th</sup> Bty to replace Whitty.	
		7. am	Liaison report V3 B 33. captured; 2 U. Gs: number of prisoners: Everything OK (to BM)	
		7.10 "	Liaison reports prisoners still arriving	
		7.40 "	Liaison report St Josephs believed to be taken: no confirmation	
		7.45 "	Liaison report Bde on our right in Red line. They are in touch on their right but not with us (BM)	
		7.50 "	Liaison report red line now in our hands also TOKIO & ridge in D28A: Casualties light (BM)	
		8.10 "	Liaison reports red line definitely taken F.O.D in TOKIO. believed to be on left & is taken on right (to BM)	
		8.35 "	F.O.D reports in touch with both flanks: reported Bill.	
		8.35 "	F.O.D reports "taken 2 <sup>nd</sup> objective: consolidating (to BM).	

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	26.9.17	9 AM.	PAHO state Left Bn. R. Inf Bde. are in touch on both flanks on Blue line.	
		9 AM.	Liason Reports prisoners state counter attack Dura at BROEDSEMD (reported BM)	
		9.25.	Liason reports contact on our left good. casualties slight: have seen our people moving about beyond Butte of POLYGON. Visibility becoming better.	
		9.35.	V <sup>th</sup> Corps report they have ZONNEBEKE CHURCH, STATION, and WINDMILL HILL (sent through by BM)	
		10.7	Ceased firing on Operation Order.	
		11.20.	BM reports that message (incomplete) was picked up on Amplifier. "Enemy massing for Counter Attack" asked Liason for ammendment to S.O. Sluis	
		11.45.	Liason ask for a line 200 yds East of Final protective Barrage. Orders issued to Blip: Test suggested of 2 rds per gun at 1.30 PM.	
	26.9.17	1.45.	BM reported enemy massing in D29a. Four Blis put on to fire short bursts rapid fire.	
		1.50	F.O.O. states Test Barrage was satisfactory for range.	
		2 PM.	Liason submits the following front line and posts: LINE D28 E75. to a 2525. Posts D28 E 70 67/a 60/a 3517.	
		3.30.	Liason states F.O.O reports enemy massing for Counter Attack on Bde Sector Stand by; do not open on P.O.S yet.	

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	26.9.17	4 P.M.	Liaison reports from F.O.O no sign of attack from enemy but large numbers are in valley east of our S.O.S. lines in a demoralised condition. Four Btys ordered to search back 300 yds east of S.O.S. 100 Rds per Bty.	
		4:15	Orders issued moving Tactical O.P. to block house in T12 70.15.	
		6 P.M.	Enemy reported to be advancing in three waves towards ZOTTENBEKE.	
		6.2	Liaison reports no sign of enemy yet. advancing on our front. No call from Inf so far.	
		7.25	Liaison reports no information yet. reduce rate to 0 Rds per gun per 3 mins.	
		7.26	Ordered all Btys to reduce accordingly.	
		7.50	Liaison report pri no longer required by Div Bde HQ.	
		7.50	All Btys ordered to "Stop"	
		11 P.M.	S.O.S reported by Liaison "no confirmation yet"	

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