

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

Artillery

**Item number:** 13/115/10

**Title:** 2nd Australian Light Trench Mortar  
Battery

April 1918



AWM4-13/115/10

18,000-12/1 -8723

**CONFIDENTIAL.**

ORIGINAL.

~~DUPLICATE.~~

~~TRIPLICATE.~~

Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

OF

*2<sup>nd</sup> A.L.T.M. BTY*

FOR

*APRIL 1918*

Signature of Officer compiling

*[Handwritten Signature]*

Signature of Officer Commanding

*[Handwritten Signature]*

2nd A.L.T.M. Bty

## WAR DIARY

APRIL 1918

Army Form C. 2118. 51

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
LINE WYSCHAETE	1		WEATHER - FINE and SUNNY. 53 rounds were fired by our mortars last night on pill boxes occupied by the enemy, many direct hits being obtained. The front is exceptionally quiet. ARRIVALS - NIL. DEPARTURES - NIL. UNIT STRENGTH: 4 OFFICERS 60 O'RANKS	
"	2		WEATHER - FINE. A successful raid was carried out by the 8th Batt last night. In support our mortars fired 347 rounds protecting the flanks. The front remained quiet. We sustained 2 Casualties WOUNDED. ARRIVALS - NIL. DEPARTURES. CASUALTIES 2. STRENGTH. 4 OFFS. 57 O'RANKS. HOSPITAL SICK 1.	
"	3		WEATHER - FINE. All mortars were active during the night firing 58 rounds on PILL BOXES occupied by the enemy and enemy tracks. Good results being observed. We sustained 1 Casualty WOUNDED. Situation remained quiet. ARRIVALS - NIL. DEPARTURES CASUALTY 1. UNIT STRENGTH. 4 OFFS 55 O'RANKS. HOSPITAL SICK 1.	
WYSCHAETE LOCRE	4		WEATHER. SHOWERY. Steady rain towards evening. Front very quiet. We were relieved in the line at night by the 62nd & 64th T.M. Bty. Both relieving Batteries had no guns, taking over positions only, consequently our seven guns had to be carried out. The relief was completed without incident at 10.30 P.M. The Battery proceeded by march route to a rendezvous behind the WYSCHAETE RIDGE, thence by light railway to LA CLYTTÉ and thence by march route to DONCASTER HUTS. LOCRE, transport carrying all gear the latter portion of the journey. ARRIVALS - EX HOSPITAL - 2. DEPARTURES - NIL. UNIT STRENGTH 4 OFFS 57 O'RANKS	

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LOCRE — TRAIN	5		<p>FRY WEATHER - FRESH. Rveille Breakfast was early and at 8.30 AM we were conveyed by motor buses to STRAZEELE village and rested for a few hours, proceeding later to station and entrained. We moved out at 5.30 PM. ARRIVALS - NIL. DEPARTURES - NIL. UNIT STRENGTH as on 4<sup>th</sup></p>	
BERTEAUCOURT	6		<p>WEATHER. FINE. We detrained at HANGEST SUR/SOMME at 5.30 AM after a fairly comfortable trip. Proceeded by march route to BERTAUCOURT arriving at 9 AM. Breakfast being partaken en route. Good billets were <del>for</del> obtained and the remainder of the day was spent in resting. ARRIVALS - Ex Hospital 1 DEPARTURES - NIL. UNIT STRENGTH. 4 OFFS 58 O'RANKS</p>	
— " —	7		<p>WEATHER. FINE after wet night. Advantage was taken of the spell to refit &amp; reorganise. A.I.F. Order No 314 of 2/4/18 received today publishing the appointment to Temp Captain of Lieut D.M. MUIR whilst commanding the 2<sup>d</sup> A. L. T. M. Bty. also the seconding of Lieut D.C. MACKINNON from 7<sup>th</sup> BATT to duty with 2<sup>d</sup> A. L. T. M. B. ARRIVALS - NIL DEPARTURES - NIL. UNIT STRENGTH as on 6<sup>th</sup></p>	
— " —	8		<p>WEATHER - DULL Resting. Pay to the amount of £ 91-13-4 was drawn &amp; paid to all ranks ARRIVALS - NIL DEPARTURES - NIL STRENGTH 4 OFFS - 58 O'RANKS.</p>	

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BERTEAUCOURT — RAINEVILLE	9		<p>FINE WEATHER.</p> <p>The Brigade was ordered into support &amp; left BERTEAUCOURT at 10.30 AM proceeding by march route (F.M.D) through VIGNACOURT, FLESSELLES, VILLERS BOCHAGE to RAINEVILLE where we billeted. This village contained a number of refugees and good accomodation was hard to obtain.</p> <p>ARRIVALS - NIL. DEPARTURES. HOSPITAL SICK - 1. STRENGTH. 4 OFFS 57 O'RANKS</p>	
RAINEVILLE — PONT NOYELLES	10		<p>WEATHER - DULL</p> <p>The Brigade being ordered into close supports we moved away from RAINEVILLE at 1.30 PM proceeding by march route through QUEREUX to PONT NOYELLES where we billeted. This village had been evacuated by the civilian population consequently good accomodation was obtained</p> <p>ARRIVALS - NIL DEPARTURES - NIL STRENGTH as on 9<sup>th</sup></p>	
PONT NOYELLES	11		<p>WEATHER - FINE</p> <p>The expectations of the Battery of going into action on the SOMME again were not to be realised as orders were received for another move, and back to Flanders. Packs, Blankets - stores were dumped we left PONT NOYELLES at 1.30 PM proceeding by march route to SAINT ROCH STATION. AMIENS. where we entrained, moving off at 7 PM. The journey was enlivened by the presence overhead on a couple occasions of enemy aircraft, though nothing serious eventuated. The train accomodation was not too good.</p> <p>ARRIVALS - NIL DEPARTURES - NIL STRENGTH as yesterday</p>	

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HAZEBROUCK	12		<p>WEATHER - FINE</p> <p>Arrived at HAZEBROUCK at 5.30 AM. after a very uncomfortable trip. Billets were provided in the town. The final evacuation of this town was in progress and it was being shelled continuously by the enemy &amp; much damage done.</p> <p>ARRIVALS - NIL DEPARTURES - NIL STRENGTH. 4 OFFS 57 O'RANKS.</p>	
HAZEBROUCK. NIEPPE WOOD	13		<p>WEATHER. DULL and MISTY.</p> <p>Being under orders all preparations were made for a move forward. This was done late in the afternoon. Battery H.Q. being established on the eastern edge of NIEPPE WOOD. The situation was a little obscure, however two mortars with ammunition went forward to a support line. Positions had to be selected and emplacements made and the guns set on an S.O.S. line. Everything being completed before dawn.</p> <p>ARRIVALS - NIL. DEPARTURES - NIL. STRENGTH as on 12<sup>th</sup>.</p>	
NIEPPE WOOD	14		<p>WEATHER - DULL. STRONG cold wind blowing.</p> <p>Being called upon by the "Devons" one mortar was taken forward and fired 20 rounds doing excellent work. Lieut F. J. SHRIMPTON in charge of the gun being highly commended by the C.O. of this unit. In the afternoon on account of an adjustment of the Brigade sector both these guns were withdrawn &amp; moved to the left. Officer crews being relieved. A definite line had been established &amp; the situation well in hand. We sustained two casualties. 2 O'RANKS WOUNDED.</p> <p>ARRIVALS - NIL. DEPARTURES - NIL. STRENGTH as yesterday</p>	
"	15		<p>WEATHER - DULL.</p> <p>The situation was very active and the area heavily shelled by the enemy. Our artillery greatly strengthened, many batteries coming into action. Our two right mortars very soon got into action firing 45 rounds on building used by enemy, good results being obtained. Early in the evening another 27 rounds were fired as a barrage during an attempted raid by the enemy. We sustained 3 casualties. 1 Officer Lieut F. J. SHRIMPTON being severely wounded &amp; later DIED OF WOUNDS. 2 O'RANKS WOUNDED.</p> <p>ARRIVALS - NIL. DEPARTURES CASUALTIES 4 O'RANKS. UNIT STRENGTH. 3 OFF 53 O'RANKS.</p>	SEE APP No 1

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
NIEPPE WOOD	16		<p>Weather - Dull At 3 AM a mortar was placed on the left sector of the Brigade front. another gun going forward that same night with supply of ammunition. Both these guns are silent &amp; to be used only on S.O.S. signal. The right sector guns fired 26 rounds on buildings occupied by the enemy with good results. The day was fairly quiet. ARRIVALS - NIL. DEPARTURES. 1 O'Rank to Hospital Sick UNIT STRENGTH. 3 OFFICERS 52 O'RANKS</p>	
— " —	17		<p>Weather - Fine Enemy artillery very active during the day on forward and back areas. Firing by our mortars considerably hampered on this account. However 16 rounds were fired by the right section on buildings occupied by the enemy with good results. We sustained 4 casualties viz:- 1 KILLED No 3143 Pte R. L. EAMES. 3 Wounded. ARRIVALS - NIL. DEPARTURES - NIL. STRENGTH as on 16<sup>th</sup></p>	
— " —	18		<p>Weather - SHOWERY. STRONG COLD WIND. The situation calmed down considerably during the day and towards evening became very quiet. Right sector guns fired 15 rounds with good results on buildings occupied by the enemy. Extreme left gun was put out of action by enemy artillery &amp; had to be replaced. ARRIVALS - NIL DEPARTURES - 4 CASUALTIES UNIT STRENGTH. 3 OFFICERS 48 O'RANKS.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
NIEPPE WOOD LE PEUPLIER.	19		<p>WEATHER - VERY FRESH and SHOWERY. SNOW fell during last night The situation remained quiet. During the evening the Brigade was relieved in the line by the 4<sup>th</sup> GUARDS BDE and 92<sup>nd</sup> BDE. The T.M. Bty of these Brigades taking over four guns on the right &amp; left respectively Relief was completed at 10-15 P.M. without incident. The Battery then proceeded by march route to RAILWAY HUTS - LE PEUPLIER (near CAESTRE) arriving at 1.30 A.M. ARRIVALS - NIL DEPARTURES - NIL STRENGTH as on 18<sup>th</sup></p>	
LE PEUPLIER	20		<p>WEATHER - IDEAL. The day was spent in resting &amp; cleaning up ARRIVALS - NIL DEPARTURES - NIL STRENGTH as on 18<sup>th</sup></p>	
— " —	21		<p>WEATHER - FINE Reorganising and refitting Battery personnel was carried out today and preparations made for another tour in the line. The area in the vicinity of our camp was heavily shelled ARRIVALS - 1 Ex Hospital DEPARTURES - NIL UNIT STRENGTH. 3 OFFS. 49 O'R.</p>	
LE PEUPLIER STRAZEELE	22		<p>WEATHER - FINE. Light rain fell in the evening. Orders were received this AM for another tour in the line and final preparations made. Personnel moved forward at 7 P.M. relieving the 1<sup>st</sup> Aust Bde in the STRAZEELE SECTOR. This relief being completed without incident by 11 P.M. ARRIVALS - NIL DEPARTURES - NIL STRENGTH as on 21<sup>st</sup></p>	



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
STRAZEELE	23		<p>WEATHER - DULL, gradually becoming fine. Six Mortars were taken over on this sector, one having to be withdrawn by us owing to the Battery being short of men. No firing was done, operations being hampered by the relief and patrols. The locality is very lively both forward and back areas receiving considerable attention by enemy artillery. ARRIVALS - NIL. DEPARTURES - NIL. UNIT STRENGTH 3-OFFS 49-O'RANKS</p>	
"	24		<p>WEATHER - DULL. The situation quietened down a little, though STRAZEELE and PRADELLES was continuously shelled and several fires started. Our guns on the right sector fired 53 rounds on buildings occupied by the enemy and on enemy posts with good results. ARRIVALS - NIL. DEPARTURES - HOSPITAL SICK - 1. STRENGTH 3-OFFS. 48 O'RANKS</p>	
"	25		<p>WEATHER. DULL and MISTY. The area was subject to heavy and consistent bombardment all through last night. The right sector guns fired 72 rounds, excellent targets being provided in buildings occupied by the enemy, listening posts, Machine gun positions, and working parties. Good results were obtained. One of our left guns was put out of action by enemy shell fire about midnight, this was immediately replaced. The Battery sustained 3 casualties - O'Ranks' wounded. The day was fairly quiet. ARRIVALS - NIL. DEPARTURES - <del>4</del> CASUALTIES - 3-O'RANKS. STRENGTH. 3-OFFS. 45 O'RANKS.</p>	
"	26		<p>WEATHER - DULL gradually becoming fine. Last night was very much quieter. Right sector guns very busy firing 103 rounds on enemy posts, working parties and buildings occupied by the enemy. Some very good shooting resulting. Left sector gun opened by firing 15 rounds on building occupied by enemy with good result. The day was quiet. ARRIVALS - NIL. DEPARTURES - NIL. STRENGTH as yesterday</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
STRAZEELE	27	27	WEATHER. DULL & MISTY. Except for spasmodic shelling the area was quiet last night. Our right mortars fired 44 rounds on enemy posts with satisfactory results and succeeded in silencing a machine gun. The left sector fired 14 rounds on building used by the enemy as an observation and sniper post and succeeded in setting fire to this target. Up to this time much work has been done in consolidating positions taken over, building new emplacements and otherwise securing our defences. A very large fire broke out in STRAZEELE during the evening. The day has been fairly quiet. Arrivals - 6x Wounded Hospital. 2. DEPARTURES - NIL. STRENGTH - 3 OFFS. 47 OR.	
"	28	28	WEATHER - MISTY. Gradually fineing. Our right sector guns fired 39 rounds on Enemy posts and machine guns. The left firing 16 rounds as harassing fire on buildings and roads. Good results being obtained. Area subject to spasmodic shelling during last night. Today being fairly quiet. ARRIVALS - NIL DEPARTURES - NIL. STRENGTH as on 27th.	
"	29	29	WEATHER - FINE The sector has become fairly quiet the enemy's shelling being light. Our right sector guns fire 26 rounds harassing enemy posts with good results. ARRIVALS - NIL DEPARTURES - 2 Hospital Sick - 1 STRENGTH. 3 OFFS. 46 OR.	
"	30	30	WEATHER. <del>Rain</del> Light rain early, gradually becoming fine. Enemy artillery more active and the forward area was subject to a heavy bombardment early in the morning, quietening down during the day. Owing to inter battalion relief our activity was hampered, however we fired 29 rounds from right sector on enemy posts as harassing fire. ARRIVALS - NIL DEPARTURES - 2 Hospital Sick - 1 STRENGTH 3 OFFS 45 O'RANKS	

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APPENDIX

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# WAR DIARY

OF

2nd A.L.T. M. BTY

FOR

APRIL 1918

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1	OBITUARY (Lieut F. J. SHRIMPTON)
2	C.O'S REPORT

APPENDIX No 12<sup>nd</sup> A. L. T. M. BtyWAR. DIARY APRIL 1918OBITUARY

It is with very deep regret that we record the death of Lieut. F. J. SHRIMPTON, from wounds received on 15<sup>th</sup> April 1918.

This officer was seconded to this unit from 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion on 7<sup>th</sup> March 1918, and during the short period he was connected with the Battery, became very popular with all ranks and was admired for his good comradeship and excellent courage in action. The day prior to his death he was highly commended by the Commanding Officer of the "Devons" for excellent work done when called to the assistance of that Battalion during an enemy attack at Nippe Wood.

Message of appreciation from C. O. Devons re this Officer attached.

"A" Form.  
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Prefix.....	Code..... m	Words.	Charge.	No. of Message.....	
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.		Sent		This message is on a/c of:	
.....		At..... m.		..... Service.	
.....		To.....		Recd. at..... m.	
.....		By.....		Date.....	
.....		.....		From.....	
.....		.....		By.....	

TO { Capt. Mann

Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
* C.O 117	18		

↓ Shrimpton has done some excellent work for us -  
Much obliged

PRB  
Dennis

From	
Place	
Time	

The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z)

Censor.	Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.

(3198.) Wt. W 12952/M1294. 375,000 Pads. 1/17. H. W. & V., Ld. (E. 818.)

## APPENDIX No 2

WAR DIARY 2<sup>nd</sup> A. L. T. M. BTY APRIL 1918  
C. O.'S REPORT

During the month under review the Battery had considerable amount of movement and activity, visiting the forward area on four different sectors of the front. The detail work in connection with the moves was carried out in an efficient manner by all and is highly commendable. Great inconvenience however was caused through lack of transport.

Casualties and sick evacuations were abnormally heavy and the arrivals few, consequently the strength of the unit reached a stage lower than on any previous occasion. This considerably hampered our line operations and made a lot of extra work for those present. However, the reputation of the Battery was maintained and on all occasions good reports were received.

All leave to England & Paris being cancelled the unit received no allotment.

On account of constant movement it was found impossible to salvage waste paper, fat etc.

Gifts of Cigarettes, Cocoa & Milk were gratefully received by the Battery from the Australian Comforts Fund. These items were highly appreciated by all.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month the Battery attained its 2<sup>nd</sup> Birthday. The 2 years of operations can be looked back upon as very successful and similar results are hoped for in the future.

Pommes Cap.

C. O. 2<sup>nd</sup> A. L. T. M. BTY