

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

Artillery

Item number: 13/30/47

Title: Headquarters, 2nd Australian Field
Artillery Brigade

October 1918



AWM4-13/30/47

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~~DUPLICATE.~~
~~TRIPLICATE.~~

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

2nd Aust. I. A. Bde.

FOR

October 1918.



Signature of Officer compiling

L. Wood

Signature of Officer Commanding

Lawrence Wood
L. Wood

WAR DIARY


Army Form C. 2118.

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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.)

2nd BRIGADE AUSTRALIAN FA	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Peaucourt	1 st		Brigade remained out of action. During the afternoon the CO. & Bty Commanders were called to H.Q. 84 th Bde R.F.A. & particulars given for an attack, by B. Gen. Phillips C.R.A. 2 nd Aust. Div.	
Nauroy	2 nd		In the early morning the CO. & Bty. Cndrs rode forward & reconnoitred positions. In the afternoon the Batteries pulled into action in #7 bnd (Sheet 62 ^B N.W. 1/20,000). Wagon lines were brought forward to positions in close areas to the St Lanten Canal.	
Peaucourt Blawh	3 rd		At 6.5 am a barrage was put down by all batteries of the Bde as well as all in the vicinity & a stunt started. The 2 nd Div A.I.F. "Hopped over" everything went according to plan & as far as can be ascertained the attack was quite successful. Lieut S.P. Boulton, 6 th Bty, was seriously wounded by a gas shell & died a few hours later. Capt H.E. Kirkland A.A.M.C. at 5 th Bty was killed, direct hit with a b.g.	

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2nd BR Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
AUSTRALIAN F. A. Jeancourt No. Date.....	8th Oct		<p>Capt N.S. Hollis OC 5th Bly received Gun shot Wounds in the Chest & died several hours later. Lieut H.G. Fisher, 5th Bly received Gun shot Wounds in the head & died a few hours later. Capt Kirkland, Capt Hollis & Lt Fisher were all killed by the same shell. Major A.W. Dodd MC 6th Bly was severely gassed while attending to Lieut Boulton & was evacuated. Lieut W.T. Watson 6th Bly was gassed while attending to Lt Boulton but remained on duty. About midday orders were received for the Brigade to pull out of the line & return to Wagon lines in the Jeancourt area. The move was completed without mishap.</p>	
H.P. H.P.			<p>Lieut W.T. Watson DCM evacuated gassed, results of yesterday's work. The CO. & CRA visited all Batteries & everything was apparently in order & satisfactory. At 5 pm the bodies of Capt Kirkland, Capt Hollis, Lieut Fisher & Lieut Boulton were buried in the "Rosiel" Cemetery (K 16 B 3.7 sheet 62 1/10000). The CRA & all the 2nd Aust F.A. Brigade Officers were present, also a large party of men.</p>	

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 (A10266) W1 W5300/P713 750,000 2/19 Sch. 52 Forms/C2118/16

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AUSTRALIAN
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	Hem	5 th		The Bde moved off about midday & trekked to the Hem area the march being about 15 miles in all.	
		6 th		The Bde remained in bivouac at Hem.	
	Vaise-sur-Somme	7 th		The Bde trekked from Hem to Vaise-sur-Somme, a distance of 18 miles, bivouacing area good.	
	St Sauveur	8 th		The Bde trekked from Vaise-sur-Somme to St Sauveur, a distance of 18 miles. The village was very crowded & billeting was very poor, horse lines fair.	
	Conde-Jolie	9 th		The Bde trekked from St Sauveur to Conde-Jolie a distance of about 10 miles. Billeting in the village good & horse standings fair.	
	Conde-Jolie	10 th		Day was spent in cleaning harness & washing vehicles.	
	do	11 th		Same as on 10 th .	

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No.	Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	Bonde-Folie	12 th		Dental Officer inspected teeth of all members of the Brigade.	
	do	13 th		Chaplain the Rev. J. J. Webb conducted Church Services at 0915 and 1000 in the School, Bonde-Folie.	
	do	14 th		Brigade N.C.O.'s classes commenced under Lieut P. Hendley, M.C. as Instructor, and Lieut H. R. C. Barry as Assist. Instructor.	
	do	15 th		Capt (T. Major) G. G. Hogan is taken on strength from 1 st F.A. Brigade, and is posted to command 5 th Battery.	
	do	16 th		Leave to Abbeville commenced. Two Motor Lorries, with accommodation for conveying 18 men to and from, leave from Church, Bonde, at 1045 daily.	
	do	17 th		First period of Brigade Training commences. Subjects:- Saluting Drill, Guards & Picquets, Packing of Vehicles, Fitting & cleaning of Harness. Notification was received of a forthcoming Review of 1 st Australian Division to take place early in November.	

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Date	Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Conde-Folie		17 th		<p>For the purpose of receiving instruction in Ceremonial, 4th + 5th Batteries paraded near Riviere Wood at 1130 and 1430 respectively. The C.R.A. and C.O. were present. Lt Col. D. H. Moore D.S.O. proceeded to Paris on leave. Major G. G. Hogan, of 5th Bty, assumed Temporary Command of the Brigade.</p>	
Do		18 th		<p>6th + 102nd Batteries had a practice Ceremonial Parade near Riviere Wood at 0930 and 1030 respectively. The C.R.A. and Temp. C.O. were present. Capt A. O. Mc Mullin, M.C. relinquished appointment as Adjutant and is posted to command 6th Bty. Lieut L. C. Wade, 102nd Bty, is appointed Acting Adjutant. Miss Appleton, Hon. Sec 2nd F.A. Bde. Comforts Depot, Melbourne, cabled £100 for comforts for this Brigade. The C.O. cabled an acknowledgment with thanks.</p>	

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	Bonde Folie	19 th		The 6 th Bty. held a Ceremonial Parade near Riviere Wood at 1030, 4 th Bty. at 1130. The C.R.A. was present.	
	Do.	20 th		Church Parade was held at 0930 in the Factory, Bonde. Chaplain the Rev. T. T. Webb conducted the Service.	
	Do.	21 st		Ceremonial Parades of 5 th Bty. at 1000, 6 th at 1030, and 102 nd at 1130 were held at Riviere Wood.	
				A Signalling Class of all Battery Signallers was instituted under the supervision of 7 th Lt C. J. Vause, Bde. Signal Officer.	
	Do.	22 nd		Batteries carried on with Training and Routine Work.	
	Do.	23 rd		A Ceremonial Parade of the Brigade was held near Riviere Wood at 1000. The C.R.A. and Temp. C.O. were present.	
				A Lena Ashwell Concert Party gave a performance in the Factory, Bonde, at 1415. The C.R.A. & Staff were present.	
	Do.	24 th		Batteries carried out Routine Work, Training, Cleaning and Pumping Vehicles	
	Do.	25 th		Same as on 24 th	

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Date	Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Conde-Folie		26 th		Batteries carried out Routine Work, Training, and Cleaning and Painting Vehicles. Half holiday.	
Do.		27 th		An "In Memoriam" Service for Officers, N.C.O's, and men of the Brigade fallen in action since 1 st April 1918, was held in the Factory, Conde. Chaplain the Rev. T. T. Webb conducted the Service which was attended by C.R.A. and Staff. Lieut-Col D. D. Moore D.S.O. rejoined from Paris leave.	
Do.		28 th		C.R.A. inspected N.C.O's Classes. Routine Work, Cleaning and Painting of Vehicles.	
Do		29 th		Re-allocation of horses amongst Batteries by C.O. so that uniformity in color may be obtained, viz, 4 th Bty chestnuts and light bays 5 th blacks 6 th Bays, 102 nd divers colors.	
Do		30 th		A Lena Ashwell Concert Party gave a performance in the Factory, Conde at 1415. C.R.A. & Staff were present. Routine work, cleaning and painting of vehicles.	
Do		31 st		21 of ranks left for Australia on furlough. Routine work, cleaning & painting of vehicles.	

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No.	Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	CONDE-FOLIE	31/10/18		<p>Extracts from A.F.B. 213 of 4th October 1918: -</p> <p>Present strength of Brigade - 14 Officers; 619 oprks; 137^{Rd.}; 409^{L.D.}; 3^{HD}; 82^{Males}</p> <p>Taken on strength during week - Lt S.C. Thornthwaite & Lt S. Mollison from 1st Aust DAC: 12 other ranks from Hospital & A.G.B.D.</p> <p>Struck off strength: - 5 oprks killed in action; Major D.J. Toomey wounded ²⁸/₉, Major C.L. Gavan-Duffy wounded ²⁹/₉; also 12 oprks wounded and 3 oprks sick.</p>	
80		80		<p>Extracts from A.F.B. 213 of 11th October 1918: -</p> <p>Present strength: - 16 Officers; 642 oprks; 137^{Rd.}; 409^{L.D.}; 3^{HD}; 82^{Males}</p> <p>Taken on strength during week: - Lieut R. H. Davis and Lt H.R.C. Barry from D.A.C. ⁴/_{hope}: 18 oprks from A.G.B.D.: 28 oprks from D.A.C.: 7 oprks from Hosp.</p> <p>Also joined - Captain E.J. Lutkey A.A.V.C</p> <p>Struck off strength during week: - Captain N.S. Hollis, Lt H.J. Fisher, and Lt S.P. Boulton died of wounds ³/₁₀; Capt. H.B. Kirkland M.C. A.A.M.C. killed in action ³/₁₀; Major A.W. Dodd M.C. wounded 3-10-18.</p>	

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CONDE FOLIE		3/10/18.		<p>Extracts from A.F.B 213 of 11th October 1918 (continued): -</p> <p>Struck off (contd): - Lieut W.T. Watson D.C.M. to Hospital, wounded (gas) ^{4/10}₁₈.</p> <p>Captain W. Graham, MC; Lt C.W. Croft, MC, MM, and 92 others on six months' furlough to Australia ^{3/10}₁₈; Information was subsequently received that Capt. Graham was admitted to Hospital suffering from effects of gas during operations on morning of 3-10-18.</p>	
do	do			<p>Extracts from A.F.B 213 of 18th October 1918: -</p> <p>Taken on Strength during week: - T/Major G.G. Hogan from 1st F.A.B. 15/10/18; Lt R.A. Aynon, Lt J.V. Garner, 2/Lt E.S. Cameron & 1/Lt C.H. Murray from D.A.C. 14/10/18. also 71 other ranks from A.G.P.D.</p> <p>Capt C.C. Harries A.A.M.C reported for duty as R.M.O. 14-10-18.</p> <p>Struck off Strength: - Lieut S.G. Friend transferred to D.A.H.Q. ^{10/10}₁₈. 11 other ranks to Hospital (sick).</p> <p>Honors & Awards: - No 29015 Ser H.C. Courtney M.M., 102nd Bty, Bar to M.M. No 17569 Ser W. Ray, 4th Bty } Awarded Military Medals. No 32099 Ser E.H. Kelly, 102nd Bty }</p>	

(A9475) Wt W2358/P360 600,000 12/17 D. D. & L. Sch. 52a. Forms/C2118/15.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CONDE FOLIE	31 10/18		<p>Extracts from A.F.B. 213 of 25th October 1918: -</p> <p><u>Taken on Strength</u>: - 1st Lieut E. Matson from DAC 18-10-18. also 25 drafts from Hospital and A.G.B.D.</p> <p><u>Struck off Strength</u>: - Lieut A. Morton M.C. to 1st Aust. FA Bde 18/10/18 11 drafts to Hospital - sick; 5 drafts to DAC; 5 drafts to 1st FA Bde.</p> <p><u>Promotions</u> - Temporary Promotions, to replace N.C.Os who proceeded to Australia, were made.</p> <p><u>Strength of Brigade</u>: - 21 officers; 691 drafts; Rd136; ^{L.D}381; ^{H.D}3; ^{Mules}78</p>	
do	do		<p>Extracts from A.F.B. 213 of 1st November 1918: -</p> <p><u>Present Strength of Brigade</u>: - 21 officers; 690 drafts; Rd136; ^{L.D}371; ^{H.D}2; ^{Mules}82</p> <p><u>Taken on Strength</u>: - 1st Major F.T.D. Meares from 2nd Div Arty to command 4th Battery 26-10-18; and 9 drafts from Hospital.</p> <p><u>Struck off Strength</u>: - 1st Lieut C. B. Murray to Hospital - sick 29/10/18 and 20 drafts to Hospital, sick.</p> <p><u>Promotions</u>: - Capt A.O. Mc Mullin M.C. and Capt F.N. Snow to be Majors (Temp) (A.I.F. List 400)</p>	

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CONDE FOLIE	31/10/18		<p>Extracts from A. F. B. 213 of 1st November 1918: -</p> <p><u>Honors & Awards - Military Cross</u> - Lt. W. J. Watson, D.C.M. Lt. A. G. Sheppington</p> <p><u>Distinguished Conduct Medal</u> - No 10588 Bdr R. Howard, M.M. & Bar, 6th Bty.</p> <p><u>Military Medal</u> - 11428 T/BSM, S. C. Weeks, 102nd Bty, 959 Sgt J. Shingles, 102nd Bty, 2828 Dvr N. L. Gunn, 102nd Bty, 4600 Gnr C. R. Dean, 5th Bty, 1094 Gnr L. J. Parer, 5th Bty, 2183 Gnr G. M. Gussell, 6th Bty.</p> <p><u>French Croix de Guerre</u> - 2024 Sgt J. L. Walsh, 6th Bty.</p>	
hops				

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p>The month of October will ever be remembered by all ranks in the Brigade as a period of a maximum of work with a minimum of strength in Personnel. Practically 25% of the strength of the Brigade were withdrawn for furlough to Australia even before we were withdrawn from the line, in the vicinity of Kauray. With Not a single reinforcement arrived & with this reduced strength the Brigade still carried out successfully its part in the operations on the Beaumont Line. Subsequently it was withdrawn to the rear areas but with difficulty as there were hardly enough men even to man the houses. As for officers, three of the Batteries were commanded by Subalterns & the other by a Captain. A week after settling down in our rest area at Bourde Gellie about 50 reinforcements arrived but they only compensated for the extra leave allotment to the W. S. With this reduced strength the Brigade had an enormous amount of work to do such as re-equipment, cleaning of harness & painting of vehicles, as the Engineers did not do the building of harness sheds. As a result the men had little or no time for the rest & recreation which they deserved.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">David H. Wood, M.B.E.</p>	

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			<p>Soon after the arrival of the Brigade at Bourde. Follic an epidemic of Influenza broke out amongst ^{the men} the men. About sixty ^{open} men were affected altogether, all with the exception of a few of the more serious cases were treated by the Brigade M.O who established a hospital & isolated all cases in a Billet in the village. The mens rations were added to by the purchase of vegetables from local Farmers out of the Brigade Funds.</p>	
			<p>Santh's Work Book</p>	

WAR DIARY

OF

2nd Aust. Inf. Bde

FOR

October 1918

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.

Subject.

1

Honors & Awards.

Lieut Arthur George HEPPINGSTONE.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty at PROYART on 23rd August, 1918.

The 102nd Battery was pushed up to a very forward position and at Zero hour was subjected to a heavy barrage from guns of various calibres. Several men were wounded including Lieut Heppingstone and another officer. Notwithstanding his wounds Lieut Heppingstone continued to carry out his work throughout the operation and was eventually evacuated when no longer able to hold out. Under this continual shell fire he passed from gun to gun pit showing an utter ~~regard~~ disregard for his own safety, and by his presence inspired his men to extra efforts required of them. The fire of the Battery was maintained throughout. He showed wonderful courage and set a fine example of coolness and confidence to his men. He is not in possession of any decoration.

Lieut William Thornton Watson, D.C.M.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty at Foucaucourt on 27th August, 1918.

This officer went forward with the attacking party as Group T.F.O.O. the main objective being the village of Foucaucourt. The enemy showed great resistance frequently holding up the advance with M.G. fire. In one case Lieut Watson worked his way forward and took up a position in a shell hole several hundred yards in advance of our ~~own~~ outposts from where he was able to effectively deal with 2 M.Gs. which were holding up our right flank.

By his utter disregard of danger and his determination to do things he set a wonderful example to his two linesmen who accomplished almost the impossible in maintaining the line which was subjected to continual shell fire throughout the whole operation. Lieut Watson directed the fire of the 4th, 6th and 102nd Batteries and was able to give valuable ~~information~~ Artillery assistance to the Infantry by barraging M.G. nests and strong points preparatory to the assault. He showed wonderful courage and initiative throughout the whole operation.

10588 Bdr Harry Richard HOWARD, M.M. & bar.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty at Foucaucourt on 27th August, 1918.

This N.C.O. accompanied the Artillery F.O.O. as linesman and went forward with the attacking Infantry in their advance on Foucaucourt and the ground in the vicinity. The enemy showed great resistance and maintained a heavy artillery fire on the whole forward area throughout the operation. The lines were frequently broken necessitating continual patrolling. Despite the shell fire and M.G. fire this N.C.O. showed no hesitation in going across the open ~~to~~ mend breaks. In no case was communication interrupted for anything but a short period. As a result the F.O.O. was able to give valuable Artillery assistance to the Infantry by barraging M.G. nests and strong points which seriously interrupted the advance - thus facilitating their capture with slight casualties. This N.C.O. showed an utter disregard for his own safety, and displayed wonderful courage, initiative and determination throughout the whole operation.

2183 Gnr George Morris Gunsell.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in the attack on Foucaucourt on 27th August, 1918. In the face of a heavy artillery and M.G. barrage he advanced with the attacking infantry carrying wire and telephone and helped to maintain communication with the Artillery, thereby enabling them to engage and destroy M.G. posts and strong points which were holding up our advance, thus considerably reducing our Infantry casualties. He repeatedly patrolled the lines and mended breaks in the wires under heavy fire. Throughout the whole day's operations he displayed great courage and determination and an utter disregard for his own safety. He is not in possession of any decoration.

11428 Sgt Samuel Cunningham WEEKS.
959 Sgt Joseph SHINGLES.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty at Proyard on 23rd August, 1918. The 102nd Battery was pushed up to a very forward position and at Zero hour was subjected to a heavy barrage from guns of various calibres. Several men were wounded including Lieut Heppingstone and another officer. These 2 N.C.Os. although their detachments were depleted in numbers by casualties showed great courage and resource in maintaining the fire of the guns throughout. They showed a fine spirit of coolness to their detachments and inspired their detachments to the extra efforts required of them.

4660 Gnr Cyril Roy DEAN.
1094 Gnr Leslie John PARER.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty at Proyard on night of 22/23rd August, 1918. These two men were detailed to run a line forward to a position decided on as a Brigade O.P. in connection with the attack on the German position on the morning of 23rd August. The whole area was subjected to heavy shell fire during the night of 22nd August which made the laying of the line exceedingly difficult. Several times after the line had been laid and before Zero hour they had to go out to repair breaks due to shell fire. At Zero hour the enemy put down a particularly heavy barrage breaking the line in several places. Despite the risks these men at once went out, mended the breaks, and maintained it notwithstanding subsequent difficulties. They showed wonderful courage and initiative throughout the whole operation and were the means of enabling information to be sent back to B.H.Q., which resulted in hostile batteries which were giving trouble being successfully engaged. As the Infantry advanced they joined on and continued the line to an O.P. further forward.

3024 Sgt James Leonard WALSH.

During the whole period of his service with this Battery for excellent work and consistent devotion to duty. He enlisted 24-8-14 and embarked 22-9-14. He served with the 2nd B.A.C. up to time of joining this Battery 2 years ago. During the whole of the time he has been with this unit his work has been worthy of the highest praise and he has always performed his duty in a most capable manner. He has been in charge of the Specialists for the past 12 months - a work which demands courage and initiative of the highest degree. He was one of four linesmen who maintained communication with a F.O.O. under exceedingly heavy shell fire during the operation of this Brigade at ZILLEBEKE. For this work all four were recommended for the Military Medal but two only received award. His work has at all times been excellent and his devotion to duty exemplary.

29015 Gnr Horace Clifton Courtney, M.M.
32099 Gnr Ernest Henry TIDDY.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during the attack in front of VILLERS-BRETTONEUX on 8th August, 1918. These men ran a line forward in face of heavy shell fire and M.G. fire, and did their utmost to maintain it. They repeatedly went back along the line to repair same. Three men of the party were killed and one wounded. During the whole day's operation they acted in a most cool and daring manner and under exceedingly trying circumstances showed a strong determination to succeed.

17469 Gnr William RAY.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty at R.19.c.00.30 near Proyart on the night of 20th August, 1918. Whilst going into action the 4th Battery was suddenly enveloped in an extremely heavy barrage. One of the Drivers and Corporal Wallace were both badly wounded and fell from their horses. Gunner RAY, in face of the above shelling, immediately dressed the Driver and carried him to a place of safety. Returning he at once dressed Cpl. Wallace and took him to a place of safety also. On the above occasion 3 men were wounded and 2 horses killed. The gallantry and devotion to duty of Gunner Ray, I consider saved the lives of the above 2 men, and set a fine example of courage to the whole of the Battery.

Appendix

No. 34789 Gunner Ronald MacMILLAN, 4th. Battery.

Awarded the Military Medal,

" For gallantry and devotion to duty at NAUROY near BELLICOURT on the night of 2/3rd. October 1918.

The Battery position and the surrounding area was subjected to heavy shell fire-- H.E. and Gas. One shell set fire to the camouflage and ammunition in No. 3 gun pit. At great personal risk Gunner MacMILLAN proceeded to extinguish the fire. The blazing camouflage he quickly got under control but the ammunition was exploding and burning fiercely. Gunner MacMILLAN subsequently got this under control also by covering it with sand. He undoubtedly saved a large amount of other ammunition which was close by. He showed a splendid example of courage, resource and determination. He is not in possession of any decoration.

No. 3924 Sergeant James Leonard Walsh, 6th. Battery. .

Awarded the Military Medal,

"For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty at ROISEL on 17th. September 1918."

The area between the Batteries and Brigade H.Q. was subjected to particularly heavy shell fire, which destroyed the lines in several places. This N.C.O. showed marked determination and utter disregard of his own safety. He patrolled the line consistently for four hours, mending breaks, and with the exception of short periods of interruption, communication was maintained throughout. His difficulties were added to the night being particularly wet and dark. He showed a splendid example of courage and resource. He is not in possession of any decoration.

No. 2137 Sergeant CHENNER, Alexander Bert, 4th. Battery. .

Awarded the Military Medal,

"For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty at NAUROY near BELLICOURT on the night of 2/3rd. 1918."

The Battery position was subjected to a heavy bombardment with H.E. and Gas shell. One shell fell in the gun pit setting fire to the camouflage and ammunition. Sergeant CHENNER at once rushed to the gun pit and proceeded to extinguish the fire. His difficulties were added to as the ammunition was alight and exploding freely. Ignoring this danger and the shelling which continued throughout, he persevered and eventually succeeded in getting the fire under control. By his action Sgt. CHENNER showed a splendid example of courage and determination and was the means of saving further destruction to material and ammunition. He is not in possession of any decoration.