

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

Artillery

**Item number:** 13/11/16

**Title:** Headquarters, 2nd Australian  
Divisional Artillery

June 1917



AWM4-13/11/16

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.)

HEADQUARTERS,  
2nd. AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY.

66

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MARTIN-SART.	1/6/		Brigades, D.A.C., and Divisional T.M. Batteries commenced training in SENLIS Area.	
	1917			
	3/6/		Syllabus of Training for all units for period 1/6/1917 - 21/6/1917 issued.	
	1917.			
	4/6/		Map Reading and Topography Class for N.C.O's held by Lieut. L.R. BLAKE, M.C. (Reconnaissance Officer).	
	1917			
	5/6/		Lieut-General Sir. W.R. BIRDWOOD, Corps Commander, inspected the 2nd. Aust. Div. Artillery.	
	1917			
	6/6/		Map Reading and Topography class for N.C.O's continued. Artificers sent in parties of 4 per Brigade to I.O.M. Workshops, ALBERT, for instruction in 18-pdr. air recuperator buffer.	
	1917			
	12/6/		C.R.A. 2nd. Australian Division proceeded on 10 days' leave to LONDON. Lieut-Colonel W.J.S. DAVIDSON acted as C.R.A.	
	1917.			
	18/6/		Instructions issued for 15th. Battery to relieve a 1st. Aust. Div. Artly. battery which was acting as Depot Battery at 1st. ANZAC Corps Artillery School Range, ESBART FARM.	
	1917			
	23/6		<i>CRA 2nd Aust. Div returned from leave.</i>	
	26/6/		Demonstration in the use of the Power Buzzer and Ground Wireless was held at MARTINSART Chateau for Brigade and Battery Commanders and any other subalterns.	
	1917.			
	27/6/		Divisional Artillery Sports held at AVELUY.	
	1917.			
	30/6/		Instructions issued with regard to practice series at Corps Artillery Range, ESBART FARM during coming week.	Instructions No. 1.
	1917.			

*Geo J Johnston*

BY  
BRIGADIER-GENERAL G. J. JOHNSTON, C.B., V.D.  
COMMANDING 2ND AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY.

2nd Aust. Div. Artly. H.Q.  
JUNE 3rd. 1917.

STRENGTH.

1.

The following officers, having reported for duty from reinforcements, are taken on the strength of the 2nd Australian Divisional Artillery, and posted as follows : to date from 1/6/1917 :-

2nd/Lieut. C.N. RICHARDS	to	5th.A.F.A.Bde.
" C.T.M.HEATH	"	5th.A.F.A.Bde.
" J.W.MURRAY	"	5th.A.F.A.Bde.
" S.L.ROBERTS	"	5th.A.F.A.Bde.
" C.G.ROBERTS	"	4th.A.F.A.Bde.
" C.A.NIXON	"	2nd.Aust.D.A.C.
" E. MILBOURNE	"	2nd.Aust.D.A.C.
" R.J.B.HURST	"	2nd.Aust.D.A.C.
" T.HOLDSWORTH	"	2nd.Aust.D.A.C.

(The seniority of the above officers has not yet been definitely ascertained).

The following officers are taken on strength of the 2nd Australian Divisional Artillery from 5th Australian Divisional Artillery, and are posted as follows - to date from 2/6/1917 :-

Lieut. L.RUSSELL,	to	5th.A.F.A.Brigade.
" A.S.FORD	to	2nd.Aust.D.A.C.
" F.N.SNOW	to	2nd.Aust.D.A.C.
" B.H.CATRINE	to	Div.Trench Mortars
" H.P.ROBINSON	to	2nd.Aust.D.A.C.

(The seniority of the above officers has not yet been definitely ascertained).

PROMOTIONS.

2.

To be Captains - dated 21/1/1917 :-

Lieut. E.S. PLAYFAIR	
" " MACLAREN	
" R.W. HORE	
" G.H.KIRBY	
" C.E. HOBSON	and to remain seconded.
" A. CRAYFORD	
" C.C.C.WREN	
" J.E. MITCHELL	
" D.G.CAMPBELL	

Authority: A.I.F.List No.180 of 22/5/1917.

To be Lieutenants - dated 6/5/1917 -

2nd/Lieut. W. R. BIRKS
" C.E. MICHELL
" F.M. DRAPER
" I.J. WHITTY
" C.J.F.CAMPBELL
" J. DALY
" C. KINGSMILL

Authority: A.I.F.List No.179 of 22/5/1917.

APPOINTMENTS

RELINQUISHED. The undermentioned officers relinquished appointment of Orderly Officer, as from 8/5/1917 :-

3.

Lieut. N.T.KINGSMILL,	5th.A.F.A.Brigade
" F.J.RYAN,	4th.A.F.A.Brigade.

SECONDDING.

4.

The following officers, evacuated for reasons as shown, are placed on the Seconded List, as from the dates mentioned :-

Lieut. N.R. IRVINE	(Sick)	19/2/1917
" C.E. MICHELL,	(Sick)	18/3/1917
2/Lieut. A.B.C.LAING,	(Wounded)	2/4/1917.

Authority- A.I.F.List No.179 of 22/5/1917.

E.S.PLAYFAIR, Captain,

STAFF CAPTAIN, 2nd.AUST.DIV.ARTLY.

DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY ORDER No. 129  
BY  
BRIGADIER-GENERAL G. J. JOHNSTON, C.B., C.M.G., V.D.  
COMMANDING 2ND AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY.

2nd Aust. Div. Artillery Headquarters

June 7th. 1917.

PROMOTION.

1. No. 5348, Gunner COCKE, A.J. 2nd Australian Divisional Artillery Headquarters, to be Bombardier - dated 6/6/1917.

STRENGTH.

2. 2nd/Lieut. T.K. ROWAN is taken on the strength of the 2nd Australian Divisional Artillery, and is posted to 2nd Aust. D.A.C. as from 4/6/1917.

TRANSFER.

3. 2nd/Lieut. T.K. ROWAN, 2nd Aust. D.A.C. is transferred to 4th A.F.A. Brigade - dated 7/6/1917.

SECONDED.

4. The undermentioned officers, evacuated wounded, are placed on Secoded List :-

Captain	G.F. HOBSON	- dated 15th May, 1917
Lieut.	B. MINNER	- dated 2nd May, 1917
Lieut.	J.B. HENLIP	- dated 7th May 1917
Lieut.	W.H. EVANS	- dated 14th May, 1917
Lieut.	R.P. SIDSWELL,	- dated 27th April, 1917
S/Lieut.	G.A. BRID,	- dated 8th May, 1917.

(Authority: A.I.F. LIST No. 124 of 1/6/1917.)

E.S. PLAYFAIR, Captain

STAFF CAPTAIN, 2nd Aust. Div. Artillery.

DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY ORDER No.131.

BY

BRIGADIER-GENERAL G.J.JOHNSTON, C.B., C.M.G., V.D.  
COMMANDING 2nd.AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY.

2nd.Aust.Div.Artillery H.Q.

June 10th. 1917.

APPOINTMENT.

1.

During the absence, on leave, of  
Brigadier-General G.J.JOHNSTON, C.B., C.M.G., V.D.,  
the 2nd.Australian Divisional Artillery will be <sup>temporarily</sup> administered by Lieut-Colonel W.J.S.DAVIDSON,  
C.O., 2nd.AUST.D.A.C. All details of  
training will remain in the hands of Brigade  
Commanders. - Dated 11/6/1917.

E.S.PLAYFAIR, Captain,  
STAFF CAPTAIN, 2nd.AUST.DIV.ARTLY.

W.D.

DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY ORDER No. 132.

by  
Brigadier General G.J. JOHNSTON C.B., C.M.G., V.D.  
Commanding 2nd Australian Divisional Artillery.

Headquarters,  
2nd Aust. Divisional Artillery,  
11th June 1917.

APPOINTMENT.

2nd Aust. Divisional Artillery 151 is

1.

cancelled and the following substituted:-

During the absence, on leave, of Brigadier-General G.J. JOHNSTON C.B., C.M.G., V.D., Lieutenant-Colonel W.J.S. DAVIDSON, in addition to commanding the 2nd Aust. B.A.C., will attend to any administrative matters in connection with the 2nd Aust. Div. Artillery which may be submitted to him by the Brigade Major. All details of training will remain in the hands of Brigade Commanders.  
Dated 11th June 1917.

E.S. PLAYFAIR Captain  
Staff Captain 2nd Aust. Dival. Arty..

APPENDIX.

DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY ORDER No. 158  
 BY  
 LIEUTENANT-COLONEL W.J.S. DAVIDSON,  
 TEMPORARILY COMMANDING 2nd AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY.

2nd Aust. Div. Arty. B. Co.  
 June 10th, 1917.

- APPOINTMENT.** 1. T/Captain L. SHENOUR, in addition to his duties as D.F.B.O., will temporarily perform the duties of Staff Captain, 2nd Aust. Div. Artillery, during the absence on leave of Captain E.S. PLAYFAIR. - dated 16/6/17.
- PROMOTION.** 2. Lieutenant (T/Captain) W.J. CHRISTIE to be Captain and to remain seconded for duty with British Formation as Staff Trainee. - dated 31/1/17.  
 (A.I.F. List No 187 of 8/6/17.).
- Lieutenant S.O. LEWIS is granted the temporary rank of Captain. - dated 20/6/17.  
 (Authority - A.I.F. List No 187 of 8/6/17.).
- SECONDED.** 3. 2nd Lieutenant K.F. HOKING, evacuated sick, is placed on the Secoded List. - dated 19/6/17.  
 (Authority - A.I.F. List No 187 of 8/6/17.).
- SUPERANNUARY LIST.** 4. 2nd Lieutenant S.O. MARSHALL is placed on the Superannuary List - dated 4/6/17.  
 (Authority - A.I.F. List No 187 of 8/6/17.).

L. SHENOUR. Captain,  
 Acting Staff Captain, 2nd Aust. Div. Arty.

DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY ORDER No. 134.  
BY  
BRIGADIER-GENERAL G. J. JOHNSTON, C.B., C.M.G., V.D.,  
COMMANDING 2ND AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY.

2nd Aust. Div. Artillery H.Q.

June 28th, 1917.

STRENGTH.

1.

2nd/Lieut. M. B. CONNOR is taken on the strength of the 2nd Australian Divisional Artillery, from reinforcements, and is posted to 2nd Aust. D.A.C..  
Dated 27/6/1917.

TRANSFER.

2.

2nd/Lieut. M. B. CONNOR, 2nd Aust. D.A.C., is transferred to Divisional Trench Mortar Batteries.  
Dated 28/6/1917.

L. SEYMOUR, Captain,

Actg. STAFF CAPTAIN, 2nd AUSTR. DIV. ARTILLERY



SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY.

Headquarters,  
June 30th. 1917.

INSTRUCTIONS No. 1.

Reference Map: AMIENS, 1/100,000.

1. It is intended during the coming week to carry out calibration tests for battery commanders and elementary series for other officers, at the Corps Artillery Range as BAVELINCOURT ( $\frac{1}{2}$  mile due east of Church).

2. Batteries will proceed to the range according to table as under, leaving present area in time to be in position on the range and ready to commence firing at 1.p.m. daily. At that time daily, Battery Commanders will receive a task from the G.O.C.R.A., 1st.ANZAC, after which Brigade Commanders will take charge of their own shoots.

TABLE OF MOVES.

Date of arrival at Range.	Date of departure from Range.	Battery of
July 1st.	July 2nd.	5th.A.F.A.Brigade.
July 2nd.	July 3rd.	5th.A.F.A.Brigade
July 3rd.	July 4th.	* 4th.A.F.A.Brigade
July 3rd.	July 4th.	* 4th.A.F.A.Brigade
July 5th.	July 6th.	4th.A.F.A.Brigade.

NOTE: 15th.Battery will not carry out practices.

(\*). One of these Batteries will carry out its practice on July 3rd.. The other will proceed to ESBART FARM direct, arriving there by 10.a.m. and will relieve the 15th.Battery as Depot Battery to the Corps Artillery School, carrying out its practices on July 4th.. The 15th.Battery (present depot battery) will return to the SENLIS Artillery area on the same day, to be clear of billets by 10.a.m. The relieving battery will take over the duty of supplying patrols for the practices on July 3rd. and will therefore send an officer to the Depot Battery on July 2nd. to obtain instruction in this connection. This officer will also take over details re billets, rationing, ammunition supply, etc.

(ESBART FARM is at Cross Roads  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile due N. of BAVELINCOURT Church).

3. The 2nd.Aust.D.A.C. will attach one subaltern on each day to the battery carrying out the practices. He will proceed with the Battery to the range and be given an instructional series. The names of the officers detailed together with the units to which they are to be attached, will be forwarded to this office by 9.p.m. June 30th. 1917.

Lieut.KURTS and DALY, T.M.Batteries, will be attached to the Batteries proceeding to the Range on July 2nd. and 5th. respectively, reporting to them prior to their departure. Brigade Commander will arrange for their transport. If possible they will be given a series.

2.

4.

Batteries on arriving at the Range will at once fill their echelons with ammunition. Location of dump will be notified later.

5.

ROUTE: BOUZINCOURT - SENLIS - WARLOY - CONTAY.

*C. Calowes*

Distributions:-

Copy. No. 1. 4th. A. P. A. Brigade  
 2. 5th. A. P. A. Brigade  
 3. 2nd. Aust. D. A. C.  
 4. D. T. M. O.  
 5. 2nd. Aust. Div.  
 6. H. A., 1st. ANZAC  
 7. 20th. A. A. S. C.  
 8. File  
 9. War Diary  
 10. War Diary.

Major,  
 Bde-Major, 2nd. Aust. Div. Artly.