

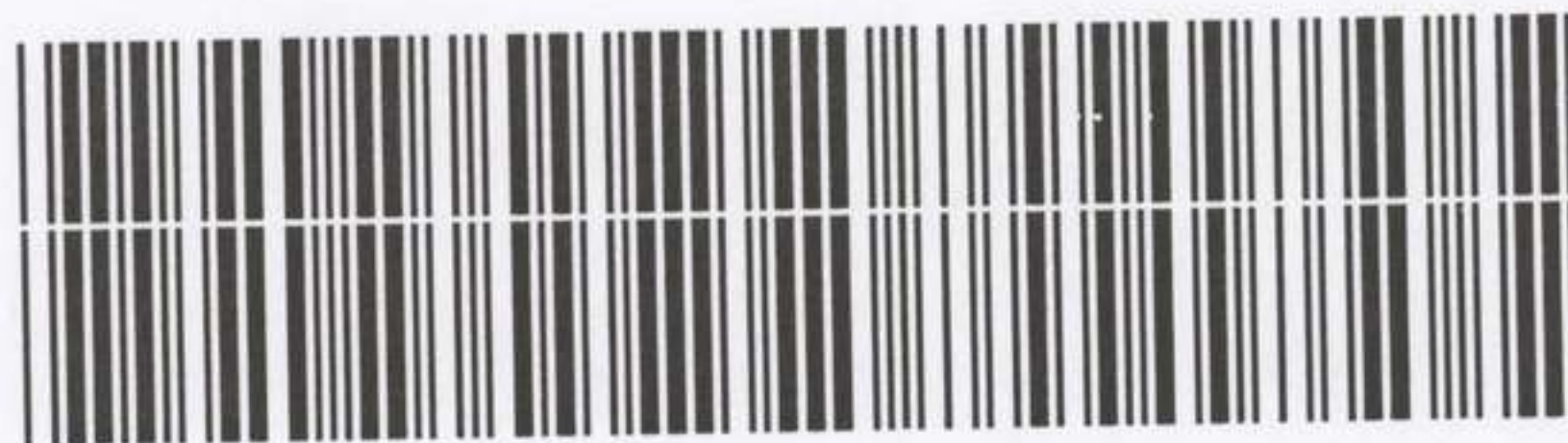
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Artillery

Item number: 13/89/3

Title: HQ, 1st and 2nd Australian Siege
Battery Ammunition Columns

May 1918



AWM4-13/89/3

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
~~DUPLICATE.~~
TRIPLICATE.

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

1st & 2nd Australian Siege Battery Columns.

FOR

period 1st to 23 rd May 1918.

191

Signature of Officer compiling

Signature of Officer Commanding

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.

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Confidential Original
1st + 2nd Aust Regts
Battery Ammunition Columns
Army Form C. 2118. *20*

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Oxelaere Sheet 27 O 17 d.3.0	<u>M a y.</u>			
	1st.		Dull day. Cold. Quiet on Front. Arranged a concert in conjunction with French Soldiers and our own. A good night's entertainment. All ranks enjoyed same . Advised Colonel Tunbridge, D.M.T.S., re allotment of Caterpillar Drivers. Pay Day. Drew 8,000 francs from the British Field Cashier.	<u>Appendix 1.</u>
	2nd.		Fine and warm. Aeroplanes very active. Heavy artillery fire all night.	
	3rd.		Fine and warm. Heavy artillery fire on front. Aeroplanes very active. Enemy planes shelled over Camp. Heavy shelling on the roads near the Park, and in front of Hazebrouck. Roads congested with French M.T. Transport.	
	4th		Fine and warm. Heavy artillery fire on our Front. French Officers of Infantry Battalions quartered near by and visit our mess. French soldiers play the men of our Units Association Football. Terrific artillery fire at night till early morning. Letter of appreciation from Bath's Officer, A.I.F., for services rendered, received.	<u>Appendix 2</u>
	5th		Rain sets in at 1 a.m. Cold and wet. A very misty morning. Heavy fighting North of Kemmel. Roads heavily shelled. Intermittent artillery fire on our front. Very heavy artillery fire at night. Wet and muggy.	
	6th		Misty and muggy. Quiet morning. Inspect roads around the immediate vicinity of Park. Most roads marked motor roads are in a bad condition, and unsuitable for motor traffic. Australians play French football. 41st, 2nd, 12th, and 36th Brigade Lorries move out of Park to report to their Battery Columns. Heavy Artillery fire all night. Roads very heavily shelled.	

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WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Confidential Original
1st & 2nd Aust. Siege
Battery Amm Columns

Army Form C. 2118.

662

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Oxelaere Sheet 27 0 17 d 3 0	<u>M a y.</u>			
	7th		Fine morning. Visited Cassel to refund surplus Cash to the British Field Cash ier. Terrific Artillery fire on front all night. Attack by French. Received from E Siege Park, LX Corps, letter of appreciation for services rendered. Issued a Special Order for the day.	Appendices 3 & 4.
	8th		Heavy artillery fire. In the early morning, 8.30 a.m., a bomb was dropped by enemy aircraft at the head of the Column in an R.E. Camp. One man killed and two wounded. Heavy and continued artillery fire all day. Aeroplanes active. Terrific artillery fire at night. Mist and smoke rising at Front. Transferred to "H" Siege Park, VIII Corps from "E" Siege Park.	
	9th		Wet. Heavy artillery fire. Bombing by enemy aircraft. Quiet night. Roads very bad. Men put on to repair roads in the vicinity. Motor lorries put on to cart metal for the roads.	
	10th		Dull and cold. Light artillery fire. Quiet night.	
	11th		Dull and quiet day. Men of the Units play a cricket match in the afternoon with 138th R.E. Company and win. Very wet night.	
	12th		Wet and quiet day. Heavy bombing by enemy aircraft. "E" Siege Park, LX Corps move out.	
	13th		Wet. Bombs dropped around camp by enemy aircraft. "H" Siege Park, VIII Corps move in.	

Charles J. Cassard

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WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Confidential. *Original.*
1ST & 2ND AUSTRALIAN SIEGE
BATTERY AMMUNITION COLUMNS.

Army Form C. 2118.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Oxelaers. Sheet 27 O 17 d 3 O.	<u>M a y.</u>			
	14th		Windy and fine. Gunfire light. Heavy bombing by enemy aircraft all night. Machine Gun fire very heavy. One enemy plane shot down over Camp. Cloudy night. No moon.	
	15th		Warm. Units put through rifle and drill instruction. Drew 7,000 francs from the Australian Field Cashier, 1st Division for pay purposes. Heavy bombing by enemy at night on roads around camp area. "H" Siege Park, VIII Corps move out. "Y" Siege Park, XXII Corps Move in.	
	16th		Officers of the 1st & 2nd Australian Siege Battery Columns and Caterpillar Parks to inspect men detached for instruction. Planes very active. Bright moonlight night. Many bombs dropped. Heavy artillery fire on front.	
	17th		Fine and warm. Heavy artillery fire. Fine night.	
	18th		Fine and warm. Rifle and musketry drill at Rifle Range. Good shooting by all ranks. Moonlight night. Heavy bombing by enemy aircraft. 2 ammunition dumps fired on the Cassel-St Omer Road.	
	19th		Fine and warm. Enemy aircraft busy. Inspect the damage at Bavingchove around dumps. Moonlight night. A few bombs dropped. Heavy artillery fire. Guard withdrawn on the Ammunition dump on Cassel- St Silvestre Road. Dump evacuated and ammunition withdrawn.	
	20th.		Fine and warm. Many planes over in the early morning. Quiet night. Heavy artillery to the South. Received orders from S.M.T.O., XXII Corps and O.C., "Y" Siege Park to take over from the British Personnel, the 1st & 2nd Australian Siege Battery Columns on the 23 rd instant. Received orders to have Dvr. Champion A.B., present at a F.G.C.M. on the 22nd instant and witnesses were duly warned.	

Charles L. Swadlow

Appendix 5

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

CONFIDENTIAL. *Original*
1st & 2nd A.S.B.A.Cols . A.I.F.

Army Form C. 2118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
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and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages
will be prepared in manuscript.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Oxelaere Sheet 27 P 17 d 3	May 21st		Visited Boolzeele and discussed with S.M.T.O. XXII Corps the necessary arrangements for taking over of the 1st & 2nd Aust. Siege Battery Ammunition Cols. Driver A.B.Champion awaiting trial by Field General Court Martial admitted to Hospital suffering with Malaria. Fine night. heavy artillery fire on our immediate front.	<i>Handwritten: 299</i> <i>Handwritten: 299</i> <i>Handwritten: 299</i>
	22nd		Warm. Fine day. Visit Battery Column Lorry Parks, and make necessary arrangements with O.C., 36th Bde A.S.C. re taking over of vehicles, on the 23rd. Visit Y Siege Park Met Colonel Tunbridge and received orders re transfer of vehicles. With Colonel Tunbridge visited Heavy Artillery Headquarters, and discussed with Imperial Caterpillar Officers re taking over Caterpillars and manning with Australian Personnel. Arrangements discussed and made to retain Imperial Non Commissioned Officers and other ranks for further instruction in driving to the Australians.	
	23rd.		Dull, rain threatening. Parade of all ranks held at 7 a.m., Colonel Tunbridge addressed men and lectured them in reference to what was required of them on taking over from British Personnel. Camp struck at 8 a.m. Sections move out under Lieut. Anderson, and Lieut. Septon, to new site near Sheet Location 27 B 18 a. where lorries of 1st and 2nd Siege Columns are parked. Depart for Hospital under instructions from Colonel Tunbridge to have arm attended to. (Broken on 20/5/18 .)	

WAR DIARY

OF

1st & 2nd AUSTRALIAN SIEGE BATTERY AMMUNITION COLUMNS.

FOR

period 1st to 23rd M a y. 1918.

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.

Subject.

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| ✓ Appendix 1. | Allocation of Caterpillar Drivers attached from various units for instruction. |
| ✓ Appendix 2. | Letter of Appreciation from Baths Officer, A.I.F. dated 4/5/18. |
| ✓ Appendix 3. | Letter of Appreciation from E Siege Park, 1X Corps dated 7/5/18. |
| ✓ Appendix 4. | Special Order of the Day issued by Commanding Officer re Appendix 3 etc dated 7/5/18. |
| ✓ Appendix 5. | Correspondence copies giving Authority for taking over from the British Personnel. |
-

WAR DIARY COPY.

Appendix 1.

CC18/75.

Col. W. H. Tunbridge, C.B., C.M.G., V.D.,
D.M.T.S. A.I.F.

Sir,

Adverting to my CC18/58 of 21/4/18, re Caterpillar Drivers, the 5 men reporting to E Siege Park mentioned in the last paragraph (On 19/4/18 today,) were returned to this Camp. On 23/4/18, Driver Doherty B, was apprehended by the A.P.M., St Omer, charged with Drunkenness and remanded. On 29/4/18 he was given 7 days field punishment No 2, which he is at present undergoing.

On 26th instant, No 571 Driver Herbert A.J., paraded ~~and~~ sick and the Medical Report shows him to be suffering with Neuresthenia. I should say he is entirely unfitted for Caterpillar driving. Will you please advise as to the disposal of this man? No 1552 Dvr Turton G., has not yet reported.

The remaining three were sent to join the Caterpillars of the 1st Australian Siege Battery on the 27th instant. Instructions will be given for Driver Doherty to be sent ~~when~~ on the termination of his 7 days field punishment. No2.

Charles J. Loadard
Major.

O.C., 1st & 2nd A.S.B.A. Cols. A.I.F.

1st May 1918.



War Diary Copy. Appendix 2.

CC18/58.

Col W.H. Tunbridge, C.B., C.M.G., V.D.,
D.M.T.S. A.I.F.

Sir, Re Caterpillar Drivers.

The following is the position with regard to the Caterpillar Drivers at present receiving training.

Prior to the present action on the IX Corps Front, 6 drivers from No 1 A.S.B.A.C., and 5/ Drivers from No 2 A.S.B.A.C., reported for training at the Caterpillar Park at La Creche.

Immediately the offensive started, the Caterpillars in the park reported to their respective batteries, and have been with them since together with the Australian Personnel attached for training.

According to your memo dated 3/4/18, three drivers from No 1 A.D.M.T.C., and four drivers and one artificer ~~xxxxxx~~ from No 2 A.D.M.T.C., were reporting to the La Creche Park for instruction. On the eve of 11/4/18, of the above mentioned men, three (Driver Gregory, Driver Granger and Artificer Millen - 2nd A.D.M.T.C.) reported to camp at St Jans Cappel - searching for the Caterpillars. I instructed these men to remain with the Columns for duty until arrangements could be made to attach them to the caterpillars with the batteries. Today instructions were given for them to stand by to join the 2nd Aust. Siege Brigade now coming out of the Rest Area to report to the 36th Brigade A.S.C.

On 19/4/18, Dvr French and five other drivers reported. Today Dvr. French was admitted to Hospital marked "P.U.O." The other 5 drivers have been sent through E Siege Park H.Qrs to join the first Aust. Siege Battery at Map Location Sheet 28 M 8 d, 9.2. today.

21st April 1918.

Charles J. Coasard
.....Major.
B.C., 1st & 2nd S.B.A.Cols, A.I.F.



War Diary Appendix 2.

Field.

My Dear Major Goddard,

Lieut. Holmes has told me about the very great help you rendered him by lending lorries to move clothing from Fletre Depot, and I should like to let you know how much I appreciate your action.

Thanks mainly to your assistance, he was able to save, and hand over to 1st Division, 59,000 pieces of clothing.

Again thanking you,

I remain,

Sincerely Yours,

HUGH Mac KNIGHT, Capt.,

4/5/18.



War Diary. Appendix 3.

7. 8. 18.

Dear Goddard,

Before leaving I should very much like to place on record my appreciation of the manner in which you and your officers, N.S.O's, and men have assisted me during the past month.

Everyone has been of the utmost help, and have greatly assisted in carrying on in the face of enormous difficulties.

Lieut. Anderson has been invaluable with the Reserve Vehicles, and Lieut. Bone and the Workshops Personnel have been of great assistance despite the difficulties under which they have worked.

All ranks are to be very highly commended for the manner in which they get on with the job at all costs.

Yours sincerely,

B.B. CHISHOLM, MAJ. A.S.O.

Major Goddard, D.S.O.,
A.I.F.



1st & 2nd A.S.B.A.Cols. A.I.F.

SPECIAL ORDER NO 3. Dated 7/5/18

By Major Goddard, D.S.O.,
Officer Commanding.

1. Letter of appreciation.

The following letter of appreciation has been received from the Officer Commanding B Siege Park, B.E.F., and is promulgated for the information of all ranks:-

"Before leaving I should very much like to place on record my appreciation of the manner in which you and your Officers and N.C.O's., and men have assisted me during the past month.

Everyone has been of the utmost help, and have greatly assisted in carrying on in the face of enormous difficulties.

Lieut Anderson has been invaluable with the Reserve Vehicles, and Lieut Downe and the Workshops Personnel have been of great assistance despite the difficulties under which they have worked.

All ranks are to be very highly commended for the manner in which they get on with the job at all costs.

Yours sincerely,

B.M.CUNNINGHAM, Maj A.S.C.

2 Appreciation.

The Commanding Officer congratulates all ranks on the splendid results obtained during the recent operations, and notes with pleasure the discipline and conduct of the reinforcements who, under trying conditions and heavy shell fire, have fully upheld the excellent records attained by their comrades in the past.

Charles J. Goddard
.....Major.,
O.C. 1st & 2nd A.S.B.A.Cols. A.I.F.



357
Q.A.1/6575

War Diary
Appendix 5.
Copy.

APPENDIX 57

11290/3

H.Q.A.I.F.

att. Aust Corps
22/1/18.

Q.M.G.,
G.H.Q.

It is desired to bring to your notice for consideration the question of withdrawing the Australian Personnel serving with the H.Qrs, Y Ammunition Park, serving with XXII Corps, and the substitution of Australian for British Personnel in the Headquarters of the Siege Park serving with the Australian Corps.

If this is approved it will enable the principle that Australian Personnel serve with Australian Units, which is desired by the Australian Government, to be further extended, and also will be a step further in the provision of the Auxiliary Units serving with the Australian Corps from Australian sources.

The Australian Officers and other ranks serving with Y Ammunition Park would be utilized in the Australian Siege Park Headquarters, and there are sufficient A.S.C.(M.T.) personnel available in England and at the Base to supplement the former so as to bring the Australian Siege Park H.Q. up to establishment, and still leave sufficient for reinforcement requirements. It is proposed later to bring forward the question of supplying the Mechanical Transport personnel for the Australian Siege Battery Columns, and so complete the provision of all M.T. personnel serving with A.I.F. with Australian Personnel, but it is desirable to complete the H.Q. of the Siege Park with the Australian Corps before this is done.

sd.M.R.BIRDWOOD, General,
Commanding Australian Imperial Forces.

Second Army.

6060/Q.B.2&

1. With reference to the last paragraph of the above copy of a letter from H.Qrs. Aust. Imperial Forces No 25/142 dated 22/1/18, I am informed that the requisite officers and men belonging to the Aust. A.S.C., M.T., were, on the occasion of the Aust. Corps moving South, left behind with 717 Coy A.S.C. attached H.Q.IX Corps Heavy Artillery. I am informed also that this personnel is now considered fit for posting to the Siege Battery Columns for which they are intended.

2. Please issue instructions for the A.S.C. M.T., personnel attached to the 1st & 2nd Australian Siege Batteries to be relieved by the Australian A.S.C. personnel referred to in para 1.

The A.S.C. personnel so relieved will be disposed of as under:-

- (a) Officers to the M.T.School of Instruction, A.S.C.WISSANT
- (b) Other ranks to No 2 Base M.T. Depot. CALAIS.

3. Please report date on which this exchange is completed and the number of A.S.C. personnel evacuated under para 2(b).

Sd. G.H.LYON B.G.,

14th May 1918.

for Quarter-Master General.

XXII Corps.

T463.

The above copies of letters are forwarded for information and action. It is understood that the personnel mentioned in para 1 of minute of Q.M.G., G.H.Q., is now with Y Siege Park.

Please render reports called for in para 3 to this office in due course.

sd. S.M.WILSON, Brig. Gen.
D.D.S.T. Second Army.

16th May 1918.

S.M.T.O. XXII Corps.

No A 4150/13.

For necessary action.

sd. H.H.PRIDEAUX, Major,
D.A.A.G. XXII Corps.

Headquarters,
19.5.18.

O.C. Y Siege Park,

Kindly arrange for the A.S.C. M.T. personnel attached to 1st and 2nd Australian Siege Batteries, to be relieved by the Australian personnel that you recently took over from the 1X Corps Siege Park. These exchanges to take place on Wednesday 22nd instant, and the A.S.C. personnel so relieved should be disposed of as shewn in the attached letter from the Quartermaster General, with as little delay as possible.

The report called for in Minute 3 of Quartermaster General's letter to be forwarded to this Office after the change has been made. All correspondence to be returned.

sd. H.M.WILSON, Lieut. Colonel,
S.M.T.O. XXII Corps.

29.5.18.

A 243.

O.C., A.S.C. att 36th Bde R.G.A.
Major Goddard, O.C. Aust. Personnel Att. 1st & 2nd S.B.A.Cols.

Instructions have been received for the Aust M.T. to take over the Mechanical Transport of the 1st & 2nd Aust. Siege Batteries on 23.5.18. O.C., A.S.C. att 36th Brigade R.G.A., will arrange for the transfer of vehicles to be completed and one copy of A.F. W3346's rendered to these Headquarters.

O.C., A.S.C. att 36th Bde R.G.A., will render nominal rolls in triplicate of the A.S.C. personnel of these S.B.A.Cols and instructions will be given as to their despatch to No 2 Base M.T.Dpot. Transfer to be completed by 2 p.m. on the 23 rd., and certificates rendered by O.C., 36th Bde that transfer has been duly completed. Nominal Roll of Officers of A.I.F. taking over to be rendered at the same hour.

O.C., Australian A.S.C. personnel is at present located at OXELAIRE in O,23.d.1.2. Sheet 27.

Please arrange to get in touch with him.

sd. W.A.LANE, Capt & Adjt.
for O.C., Y Siege Park.

20.5.18.

To O.C., A.S.C.
Australian Imperial Troops,
att 1st & 2nd Aust. Siege Batteries.

Will you please see attached and return. Copy of letter sent to O.C., A.S.C. att. 36th Bde R.G.A. is also attached. (above is copy).

Will you please issue the necessary orders as regards the personnel under your command. Please furnish a nominal roll in duplicate of the personnel taking over shewing to which battery they are being attached. The lorries are now parked in the vicinity of S 27 B 13 A

sd. W.A.LANE, Capt. & Adjt.
for O.C. Y Siege Park.

20.5.18.