

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

Artillery

**Item number:** 13/93/7

**Title:** 5th Australian Divisional Trench  
Mortar Officer

February 1917



AWM4-13/93/7

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.**

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5<sup>th</sup> Aust Div French Mortar Bde

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field FRANCE.	31/1/17		M.T. Mortars fired 24 bombs on enemy wire from N.21.D. 9.5 to N.22.C. 1.7. 80% of bombs were effective on wire which was effectively cut.	MS.
	2/2/17	12.45 p.m. to 5 p.m.	M.T. M's. fired 26 rounds on enemy wire from N.21.D. 85.50 to N.22.C. 05.65. TEMPLE SILENCER. was used. 80% of bombs were effective on wire & remainder fell in enemy trench. Lane cut in wire at N.21.D. 95.55. Casualties incurred while preparing M.T.M. position at N.34.B. 60.25. Killed - 2 J.R. Wounded. 1 officer, Lieut E.C. Haviland & 1 J.R.	MS. GUEDECOURG to Thillois & Beaulencourt.
	2/2/17		Work continued on gun positions. Lieut E.J. Ferguson 25.A. M.T.M. Battery awarded Military Cross for distinguished services in the field (vide A.I.F. Orders 20/1/17). 743. Corporal P.H. Throver 25.A. M.T.M. Bty mentioned in despatches for gallant services & devotion to duty. vide A.I.F. Orders 20/1/17.	MS.
	3/2/17	4.45 p.m.	M.T.M's. registered on SUNKEN ROAD from N.35.A. 40.35 to N.35.A. 7.7 at 4.45 p.m. Registration very effective.	MS.
	4/2/17		Work continued on mortar positions.	MS.
	5/2/17		do do do	MS.

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5th Aust Div Trench Mortar Bde

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field FRANCE	5/2/19		work continued on mortar positions	MS
	6/2/19	do	do do do 4.9.45. H.T. No 4 stores complete handed over to 53 Army T.M. School	MS
	7/2/19	do	do do do	MS
	8/2/19	do	do do do	MS
	9/2/19	do	do do do	MS
			Lieut. E. H. Booths reported from reinforcements & attached to 5 A. M.T.M. Battery	MS
	10/2/19		work continued on mortar positions 1 SA killed in action by enemy sniper	MS
	11/2/19		work continued on mortar positions	MS
	12/2/19	do	do do do	MS
			SE B. H. Barnes reported from hospital & attached as surplus to Establishment	MS
	13/2/19	4.40 p.m.	M.T.M.s registered on enemy wire & trenches from N 21.5 to 20.00 to N 21.5 to 20.20. at 4.40 p.m. 4 bombs fired & registration successful	MS
	14/2/19	11.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.	M.T.M.s registered on enemy wire & trenches from N 22.D. 5.6 to N 22.D. 5.6 from 11.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. 10 bombs fired with good results, a flare dump being set on fire in enemy line at N 22.D. 5.6	MS

MS Goedecourt to Thillox & Beaulencourt.

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5th Aust. Div T.M. Bgde

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field	25/2/17		Work continued on mortar positions	MS
FRANCE	16/2/17		do do do	MS
	17/2/17		O.C. X.5.A M.T.M. Battery reconnoitred front line & mortar positions preparatory to relieving batteries in the line	MS
	18/2/17		X.5.A. M.T.M. Battery relieved. Y.5.A. & Z.5.A. M.T.M. Batteries in the line & personnel of V.5.A. H.T.M. Battery in the forward area. Stores taken over were 4 2" M.T.M.'s with beds & stores complete & 2 TEMPLE SILENCERS complete. X.5.A. & Z.5.A. M.T.M. Btys & V.5.A. H.T.M. Battery took up quarters in billets at FRICOURT.	MS
			Work continued on mortar positions in front line & defensive positions selected. Batteries at FRICOURT refitting with stores clothing & equipment.	MS
			Authority received to maintain the following establishment of T.M. Ammunition in advance of railheads. Pa Division 2" M.T.M. = 1000      9.45" H.T.M. = 40 per mortar. (1st Angas Q26/180. of 12/2/17)	MS
			Authority received to replace present steel caps used with Fuze 109 with a special light cap. This because the heavy steel cap was the cause of premature in bombs. (Q.O. 5/36/52/B) 10/1/17.	MS
			4 officers & 20 TAs returned from 1st Angas T.M. School	MS

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the field FRANCE	19/2/19	2 p.m. to 4 p.m.	M.T.M.'s, with Temple Silence fired 28 rounds on wire from N 22 D 55 to N 22 D 25.53 between 2 P.M + 4 p.m. Wire well cut at points fired on. Remaining personnel refitting at FRICOURT.	MS. MS. Vvedecourt to Beaulencourt M. Map. M.
	20/2/19	4 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.	M.T.M.'s fired 10 rounds on wire & trenches from N 22 D. 50.58 to N 22 D. 30.58 between 4 P.M. & 5.30 p.m. Retaliation heavy wire effectively cut & trenches damaged. Owing to the condition of the ground being very bad on account of the thaw, & trenches being from 3 to 4 feet deep in water & mud it was only possible to fire 10 rounds. Sides of trench were continually falling in & covering beds & parts of guns. Remaining personnel refitting at FRICOURT.	
	21/2/19		Owing to condition of trenches on account of the thaw it was found impossible to fire M.T.M.'s. 1 PR wounded. Remaining personnel refitting at FRICOURT.	
	22/2/19		baptain T.F Miles DT.M.O. evacuated to hospital sick. Lieut N.Scott acting for DT.M.O. in place of Capt. T.F Miles sick. Thaw conditions still rendering the employment of M.T.M.'s impossible. Remaining personnel refitting at FRICOURT	
	23/2/19			

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field FRANCE	24/2/17		Owing to thaw conditions prevailing it was found impossible to use M.T.M's in the line.	MS
	25/2/17		Remaining personnel refitting at FRICOURT 1 officer & 10 <sup>9</sup> / <sub>16</sub> marched out to 5 <sup>th</sup> Army T.M. School's A.I.F. 663 bombs & component parts taken over from 4 <sup>th</sup> Div T.M's. Work recommenced on mortar positions in the line	MS MS
	26/2/17		Remaining personnel refitting at FRICOURT. Captain T.F. Males, D.T.M.O. died of cerebro-spinal meningitis	MS MS MS
	27/2/17		Work continued on mortar positions in the line Remaining personnel refitting at FRICOURT. 13 <sup>9</sup> / <sub>16</sub> marched in from 5 <sup>th</sup> D.A.C. as reinforcements	MS
	28/2/17	8.15 P.M. to 8.45 P.M.	Work continued on mortar positions in the line Lieut A.F. Macallister returned from hospital & attached to V 5 <sup>th</sup> H.T.M. Battery as surplus to establishment M.T.M.s. fired 9 rounds on enemy wire & trenches at 11.22. a. 9.9. Temple Silence was used. 5 rounds were effective on wire & trenches; the remaining 4 owing to defective charges, fell short & were blunders.	MS MS MS MS

Mab. Guedecourt to Thilloy & Beaulencourt.

Scott  
Lieutenant  
for D.T.M.O.  
5<sup>th</sup> Aust Div