

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

Artillery

**Item number:** 13/94/3

**Title:** V/Australian Corps Heavy Trench  
Mortar Battery

April 1918



AWM4-13/94/3



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Original

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

V/ Aust Corps Lt J M. Battery

Vol. 3. Page 1

April 1918.

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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
WULVERHEM 1.6 C 15.45. Sheet 28			Records from the 1 <sup>st</sup> of April to the 10 <sup>th</sup> April, had to be destroyed, to prevent them from being captured by the enemy. Only a general record of Right Section records is to hand, <del>also</del> On the 1 <sup>st</sup> an English (25 <sup>th</sup> ) Division taking over from Australian Division in the line, and owing to their having no Heavy Trench Mortar Battery formed V/Australian H.T.M. Bty is being left in the line.	
	2 <sup>nd</sup>		Right section fired 4 rounds from Bigun to Kingsclear U. 6. B. 20. 30. Deflection used was 40° left and shooting from this angle was unsatisfactory. Ammunition arrived tonight for B1 and C1 guns, which was dumped at Hyde Park corner, instead of usual dump, because the road to dump was torn up by enemy shell fire during the day.	on 15/4/18
	3 <sup>rd</sup>		B1 gun fired 3 rounds, C1 gun 4 rounds. Enemy shelling rather more than usual about this sector.	
	4 <sup>th</sup>		A1 gun fired 10 rounds, B1 gun 3 rounds, and C1 3 rounds. Truted battalion H.Q. at Despaere Farm, and they gave orders that A1 gun was not to be fired under any circumstances whatever, reported accordingly to H.Q.	
	5 <sup>th</sup>		B1 gun fired 4 rounds, C1 gun 4 rounds engaging active minenwerfer positions during the night. Both series very satisfactory, and minenwerfers ceased firing immediately after our beginning in each case. New dugout drained and telephone laid for use of B1 and C1 guns personnel, U. 10. D. 4 2 appose. Telephone lines laid to all company H.Q.s concerned. Authority given to fire 6 rounds on Tower in Frelinghem from A1 gun for purposes of registration.	
			2449 Wt. W14957/M90 750,000 1/16 J.B.C. & A. Forms/C.2118/12.	



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V/Anst Corps H.T.M. Bty

Army Form C. 2118. 326

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
WULVERGHEM T. 6. C. 15. 45 Sheet 28.	6 <sup>th</sup>		Registered A1 gun today. 6 rounds fired with satisfactory results	[Handwritten notes in margin]
	7 <sup>th</sup>		Men occupied new dugout tonight. C1 gun - bed pulled right out and put in a fresh during the night. A1 gun - bed also put in a fresh in preparation for destructive shoot on the 8 <sup>th</sup>	
	8 <sup>th</sup>		A, B, and C1 guns fired 20 rounds each, in conjunction with Heavy Artillery operation order for destructive shoot on enemy mine-works positions. The shooting of mortars was very good indeed. No enemy retaliation to this shoot. Gun beds stood splendidly.	
	9 <sup>th</sup>		A heavy enemy bombardment noticed on the south early this morning. considerable area shoots were fired by the enemy all along our sector lasting most of the day. None of our guns were damaged. Heavy mist all day, weather dull generally.	
	10 <sup>th</sup>		Enemy attacked approximately at 5 A.M. this morning on a line from north of Wiltchacte to south of Armetieres. all six guns of this battery were captured. A1 gun fired its 500 rounds, but the crew had to leave the gun hurriedly after fifth round, because the enemy were then sniping at gun team, from within 50 yds range. One man was killed, one badly wounded and the remaining three managed to escape, fetching wounded men with them. The Hun was behind gun line and within 30 yds of the new dugout when first seen by the crews of B1 and C1 guns. Three of these men did not get out in time and have been missing since this date. The remainder of the	



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
WULVERGHEM T.6 C.15.45 Sheet 28.	10 <sup>th</sup>		<p>men escaped, <del>only one man</del> <sup>only one man</sup> being wounded slightly. The remaining men of right section reported <del>to</del> events to section H.Q. and then did very excellent work during the day, about Ploegsteert Wood, some with N°6 New Zealand field battery, and some collecting infantry stragglers and sending them back to the line, or else sending them to assist N.2. battery with their guns and ammunition. One gun of on left sector blown up, remaining guns of this sector were unapproachable owing to intensely heavy enemy bombardment about them Capt J.B. Darling M.C. visited left sector and with three men namely Cpl Hughes W.J.M. Gnr Brown W.P. and Gnr Welch A.A., worked a rearguard action with a 2 inch M.T.M. gun in a position near Polka Estaminet 0.22 A. 8 rounds were fired and the enemy temporarily held up. Gnr Welch killed, whilst returning along St Eloi road <del>near</del> <sup>in front of</sup> Oosterveene wood. Capt Darling was wounded. Whilst carrying him to a dressing station Cpl Hughes was killed. Gnr Brown took Capt. Darling to the dressing station and leaving him there reported back to H.Q. Capt Darling reported wounded and missing. This because the dressing station which he was at was practically surrounded by the enemy when Gnr Brown left Capt Darling. Casualties today were Capt J.B. Darling M.C. wounded and missing Cpl Hughes killed. Gnr Welch killed of left section Gnr Furphy W.A. killed. Gnr Crapp J.A. missing believed killed. Gnr O'Lealand <sup>C.S.</sup> wounded. Gnr Heggins H. missing Gnr Scott J.E. missing. Gnr Young <sup>F.D.</sup> missing. Gnr Hughes H. slightly wounded. Cpl Millican <sup>J.N.</sup> slightly wounded.</p>	<p>Wulverghem</p>



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WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
WULVERGHEM 1.6.E.15.45 Sheet 28.	10 <sup>th</sup>		<p>Recommendations made for immediate award for gallantry in action are, Capt F.B. Darling M.C., Sgt T.H. Conkey, Cpl W.J.M. Hughes, Gnr Welch, AA Gnr Brown, Cpl Danby, and Bdr J.W. Mulhearn. Gnr H. Hughes, Gnr Gurney, W.A. Battery H.Q. withdrew to Cyclists Camp M.24.A.9.1. and the remaining personnel of battery reported here late in the evening.</p>	
CYCLISTS CAMP M.24.A.9.1 Sheet 28.	11 <sup>th</sup>		<p>A search party went out to find Capt Darling <sup>and</sup> was unable to do so owing to the enemy <del>position</del> being in the locality in which he was last seen. During the afternoon, two officers and 30 ORs proceeded to the line near Neuve Eglise armed with 1 Lewis M-Gun (salvaged) and about seven rifles, also salvaged, another Lewis gun in action was salvaged in Neuve Eglise, also a full complement of rifles, and ammunition obtained. The party joined in with a party of Australian Corps Engineers and took up a position on either side of the Wulverghem - Neuve Eglise road on the Corps line of defence.</p>	
	12 <sup>th</sup>		<p>Party remained in trenches all day, one casualty from rifle fire being sustained in the early morning, Cpl J. Danby wounded whilst out on reconnaissance. <del>During the night</del> About dusk the enemy attacked the front line which broke away shortly afterwards, most of the men coming down the Wulverghem - Neuve Eglise road, these men were stopped, reorganised into small parties, some being sent for ammunition, the remainder being sent back to their unit. A counter attack took place which was apparently successful.</p>	

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CYCLISTS CAM.P M.24.A.9.1 Sheet 28	13 <sup>th</sup>		During the early hours of the morning, the front out post line, withdrawn to the corps line, <del>held</del> as it was now being very strongly held our party with-drew to cyclist camp	
	14 <sup>th</sup>		We reported to 36 <sup>th</sup> (Aust) Brigade H.A. and were attached to them for rations and duty. A <del>number of hand carts were salvaged</del> G.S Waggon was borrowed from a machine gun corps. and took away some of our more valuable <del>pos</del> stores to a new camp position at HEKSSEN, Forks Roads M.3.C. sheet 28.	
	15 <sup>th</sup>		Party of 1 Officer and 20 OR. were sent to assist 319 heavy battery 6" inch in moving from the position at the foot of Kemmel Hill. Handcarts were salvaged and battery personnel with Q.M. Stores, were marched to new camp. Lieut Newland in charge of two Lewis guns and detachments reported to 263 Heavy 6" inch battery at dusk tonight to assist them in retirement, as they were to remain late in action	
	16 <sup>th</sup>		Lieut Newland and party returned this morning to cyclist camp <del>this morning</del> and after a short rest the camp was evacuated and all marched to new camp. A motor lorry was lent to us by 36 <sup>th</sup> Brigade, which went with a party of men to cyclist camp to salvage stores. <del>Enemy</del> captured Bailleul last night.	
HEKSSEN FORK Roads M.3.C sheet 28.	17 <sup>th</sup>		Sent 20 men to 1 <sup>st</sup> Aust. Heavy Battery, 10 men to 155 Heavy battery 10 men to 319 <sup>th</sup> heavy battery, to be ammunition loading parties.	
	18 <sup>th</sup>		Orders from IX Corps H.A. to rejoin Aust Corps tomorrow. Ammunition parties return from batteries. We have only a few battery stores in our possession now, and personal bits of the men, all other stores were lost	

Newland



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HEKSKEN. FORK. Roads.	18 <sup>th</sup>		This owing to the fact that we have no transport of our own, and <del>was</del> were <del>we</del> unable to get transport from anybody at the time	
M 3. C. Sheet 28.	19 <sup>th</sup>		Moved by motor lorries this morning and entrained at Poperinghe bound for Doullens	
	20 <sup>th</sup>		Arrived Etaples and reported to Rest Camp. Stopped here today	
ETAPLES	21 <sup>st</sup>		Still in Etaples at Rest Camp. Orders to leave at 7 A.M. tomorrow.	
	22 <sup>nd</sup>		Entrained at Etaples this morning. Sent on to Canaples and detrained	
PERNOIS	23 <sup>rd</sup>		Marched from Canaples to Pernois <sup>Boys H.A. Reinforcement Camp</sup> at 3 A.M. (this morning) Belletting, poor. Lieut. P.R. Barron <del>found</del> taken on strength of battery today	
	24 <sup>th</sup>		NIL.	
	25 <sup>th</sup>		News today from Capt Darling. word from 10 <sup>th</sup> C.C.S. reported <sup>that he was</sup> wounded	
	26 <sup>th</sup>		<del>11</del> Men paid today.	
	27 <sup>th</sup>		NIL.	
	28 <sup>th</sup>		Received verbal orders to be ready to move tomorrow	
	29 <sup>th</sup>		Moved out from reinforcement camp today. 1 Officer and 30 OR reporting to Heavy Artillery Dump at Cardonette, the remaining	

*followed*



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MOULLIERS	29 <sup>th</sup>		personnel, are forming a dump at B. 8. B. 4. 7. Street 62 D	
B. 8. B. 4. 7.	30 <sup>th</sup>		Receiving ammunition all day	

*Left Bond*  
Lieut  
of Ob V/Anst Corps H.T.M. Battery.