

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

Artillery

**Item number:** 13/95/18

**Title:** V1A Heavy Trench Mortar Battery

December 1917



AWM4-13/95/18

Confidential  
Original

V.I.A. H. J. M. Bty  
Vol. VI Page I

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence  
Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs. art II.  
and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages  
will be prepared in manuscript.

or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

December, 1917.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Doulicu FRANCE	Dec 1917 1 <sup>st</sup>		Parade 09.00 Route March, Muster Parade 14.00 Inspection by Capt. R.A. Rowland M.C., D.T.M.O. Strength 4 Officers 49 O.R.	[Handwritten signature]
	2 <sup>nd</sup>		Church Parade CgE 08.30., R.C. 10.00. Camp fatigues.	
	3 <sup>rd</sup>		Parades 09.00 + 14.00 Route march + foot drill till midday, Sports meeting afternoon	
	4 <sup>th</sup>		Parade 09.00 Route March + foot drill Parade 14.00 Recreation.	
	5 <sup>th</sup>		Parade 09.00 Route march and signalling. Football match in afternoon T.M.'s v. 102 <sup>nd</sup> How. Bty. The latter <sup>won</sup> by 3 points (Australian rules.)	
	6 <sup>th</sup>		Parade 09.00 Physical training, Gun drill on 2" mortar. Lecture by Lieut Titchener on 6" mortar. Parade 14.00. Held voting for Referendum on Conscription	
	7 <sup>th</sup>		Parade 09.00 Route march + gun drill 2" mortar. Football match (rugby rules) in afternoon T.M.'s. played 1 <sup>st</sup> F.A.B. + were beaten.	
	8 <sup>th</sup>		Parade 09.00 Route march until 10.30 Lecture on 6" mortar till noon. Football match in afternoon (Australian rules) T.M.'s. defeated B. Echelon 1 <sup>st</sup> D.A.C.	
	9 <sup>th</sup>		Church parade CgE. 09.00., R.C. 10.30. Rain set in. 1 OR went on 8 days leave to Paris	
	10 <sup>th</sup>		Parade 09.00 + 14.00. Route march in morning. Afternoon football match (Australian rules) T.M.'s. played 1 <sup>st</sup> F.A.B. and were defeated.	

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WAR DIARY  
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December 1917.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Doulien FRANCE	Dec 1917 11 <sup>th</sup>		Parade 09.00 + 14.00 Route march + gun drill. Lecture on Interior Economy Distribution of clothing in afternoon Parade at 15.30 for all men who have not been inoculated in last 12 months. Capt F. Darling M.C. returned to unit from 1 <sup>st</sup> F.A.B.	
	12 <sup>th</sup>		Parade 08.30. The Bty was marched to Sailly for hot bath + clean change of underclothing Lieut Bryan + 1 O.R. (batman) returned to unit from 2 <sup>nd</sup> Army T.M. School.	
	13 <sup>th</sup>		Parade 09.00 + 14.00. Route march and Physical drill.	
	14 <sup>th</sup>		Parade 09.00 + 14.00. Route march + Reception. 2 drivers + G.S. Waggon attached to Bty fr. 1 <sup>st</sup> D.A.C.	
	15 <sup>th</sup>		Parade 09.00 + 14.00 Gun drill + lecture. 2 O.R. went on leave to Paris. 1 O.R. returned fr. Base.	
	16 <sup>th</sup>		Church parade 09.00 (C of E). Lieut J. Lawrie M.M. + 5 O.R. to report to 2 <sup>nd</sup> Army T.M. School. 1 O.R. went on leave to Paris.	
	17 <sup>th</sup>		Parade 08.30 Bty marched to Sailly for hot bath + clean change of underclothing Lieut Bryan + 1 O.R. (batman) to report to 1 <sup>st</sup> Army Gas School. 1 O.R. returned from Paris.	
	18 <sup>th</sup>		Parade 09.00 + 14.00. Sgt Paull. went up to 5 <sup>th</sup> Div. T.M. position to check gun stores.	
	19 <sup>th</sup>		Parade 08.00. Lieut J. L. G. Johnstone and 10 O.R. proceed in motor lorries to Parma Dump N. 18. B2.7. and took over 1, 9.45 Howitzer in the line (gun pit position O.16 D. 60.10.) and 5 guns at Rest Billet at Dramontre.	

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WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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December 1917.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Dranoutie	Dec 1917 20 <sup>th</sup>		Parade 08.00. The remainder of Bty left Doullien in motor lorries at 10.00 & proceeded to Dranoutie S.5d.7.7. Lieut Johnstone picked fresh positions for gun pits. Bty paid in evening.	
S.5d.7.7.	21 <sup>st</sup>		Party working on gun positions Camp fatigues at Dranoutie.	
	22 <sup>nd</sup>		Party working on gun positions Camp fatigues at Dranoutie.	
	23 <sup>rd</sup>		Party working on gun positions. 11 other ranks to report to Parma dump (Cpl. Pretty in charge)	Lieut Johnstone
	24 <sup>th</sup>		Party working on gun positions Lieut Bryan & 1 O.R. (batman) transferred to 1 <sup>st</sup> Div H.Q. 2 O.R. returned from leave to Paris.	
	25 <sup>th</sup>		Christmas Day. Party working on gun position Snowing all day.	
	26 <sup>th</sup>		Registration right H.M. gun on to important targets. Fired 12 rounds with good registration results. A/S.M. Pryce transferred from XI A Bty to VI A Bty. 1 O.R. was wounded	
	27 <sup>th</sup>		Working on right & left gun position Lieut Johnstone handed over to Lieut Newlands & proceeded on leave to Paris	
	28 <sup>th</sup>		Detachments working on gun positions. Cpl. Martyn & party relieved Cpl. Pretty & his men	
	29 <sup>th</sup>		Detachments working on gun position Camp fatigues Dranoutie	
	30 <sup>th</sup>		Detachments working on gun positions	
	31 <sup>st</sup>		Detachments working on gun positions Camp fatigues Dranoutie	
			Strength 4 Officers 49 O.R.	