

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

Artillery

**Item number:** 13/114/14

**Title:** 1st Australian Light Trench Mortar  
Battery

October 1918



AWM4-13/114/14

**CONFIDENTIAL.**

ORIGINAL.  
~~DUPLICATE.~~  
~~TRIPLICATE.~~

Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

OF

*1<sup>st</sup> Aust L.T.M. BATTERY*

FOR

*The month of October* **1918**

Signature of Officer compiling.....

Signature of Officer Commanding.....

*W. Butcher* **Lieut**  
O.C. 1<sup>st</sup> Aust. L. T. M. BATTERY.

WAR DIARY  
or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.  
(Erase heading not required.)

Original

Remarks and references to Appendices

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.

Summary of Events and Information

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1918			
	Oct			
BELLANCOURT	1 <sup>st</sup>	T	Weather fine (Drill) 10/1 from leave.	
	2	W	Weather wet. (cleaning up parade) 10/1 from UK leave	
	3	TH	showery (Gun Drill "dud" firing)	
	4 <sup>th</sup>	F	" fine (Drill strength 3 OFF 59 0/1)	
	5	SAT	" fine (Battery moved off by route march to Villers sous Ailly)	
VILLERS SOUS AILLEY	6 <sup>th</sup>	S.	(to complete in Rifle practice) Location VILLERS SOUS AILLEY 10/1 to Paris	Appendix Attached
	7 <sup>th</sup>	M	Weather fine (Rifle firing) Bouchon range, 10/1 from UK leave	
	8 <sup>th</sup>	T	Weather fine	
	9	W	Weather showery (Moved by Route march to Epagne)	
Epagne	10 <sup>th</sup>	TH	Weather fine	
"	11	F	Weather fine (Drill) 10/1 to UK leave 3 OFF 59 0/1	
"	12	Sat	" " (Drill) Church parade	
"	13	S	Weather showery (Drill) 10/1 from Paris leave	
"	14	M	Weather fine (Review and inspection by Brig-Genl)	
"	15	Tue	(10 <sup>th</sup> MARCH) D.S.O. Commanding 1 <sup>st</sup> Aust Inf Bde 10/1 to Hospital	
"	16 <sup>th</sup>	W.	Weather fine (Gun Drill dud firing) played 3rd Aust Bu	
			Football, were beaten by 20 pts to 10	
	17	Thur	Weather fine (Drill) Full marching (over 8 miles)	
	18	Fri	" " (Route march) 90's inspection of 1 <sup>st</sup> Aust Bde Strength 3 OFF 62%	Appendix attached
	19	SAT	" " (Baths and inoculation)	
	20	Sun	" " (Drill) 20/1 from Hospital	
	21	M	" " (Drill)	
	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Tues	" " (Drill) played 11 <sup>th</sup> Aust Bu Football	
	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Wed	" and were beaten by 5 pts to 3.	

WAR DIARY

Original Army Form C. 2118.

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OR  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
EPAGNE	24 <sup>th</sup>	Th	Weather fine, (Drill 7 <sup>0</sup> to Bouchon Range Rifle Practice)	
"	25	F	" " (Full marching order Route March 8 miles)	
"	26	Sat	" " (Drill) played 1 <sup>st</sup> Machine Gun Coy football Battery won by 6 pts to 3. 1 <sup>0</sup> to UK leave	
"	27	Sun	" " (Baths & Inoculation 7 <sup>0</sup> from Bouchon Range) Strength 3 OFF 65 0 <sup>1</sup> .	
"	28	M	" " (Drill) 1 <sup>0</sup> from Hospital	
"	29	Tue	" " (Route march) 2 <sup>0</sup> from Hospital played 3 <sup>rd</sup> Aust Bn football won beaten by 18 pts to 3	
"	30	Wed.	" Showery (Gun Drill & road firing) Intersection football match 1 <sup>0</sup> from UK leave	
	31		" Fine (Drill) 1 <sup>0</sup> to Australia 1914 Funfair	

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# WAR DIARY

OF

*1<sup>st</sup> Australian Light Trench Machine Battery*

FOR

*The Month of October 1918*

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.

Subject.

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| <i>1.</i> | <i>Move for Rifle Practices</i>         |
| <i>2</i>  | <i>Review</i>                           |
| <i>3</i>  | <i>Review &amp; G.O.C.'s Inspection</i> |

*W. Butcher Lieut*

O.C. 1<sup>st</sup> Aust. L. T. M. BATTERY.

1ST. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Brigade Headquarters,  
2nd. October, 1918.

1st. Aust. Battalion.  
2nd. Aust. Battalion.  
3rd. Aust. Battalion.  
4th. Aust. Battalion.  
1st. Aust. L.T.H. Bty.  
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Divisional Rifle Meeting.

The attached programme for a Divisional Rifle Meeting is forwarded for your information.

You will have an opportunity of preparing your team under the following arrangements :-

Battalions will visit the Rifle Ranges in the BOUCHON Area in turn and will carry out programmes of elementary range practices at the discretion of Commanding Officers.

Billets are available at VILLERS-sous-AILLY where Battalions will reside during the Musketry period.

Prior to moving from the present area advance parties will be sent to make all arrangements for billets and ranges.

Table of moves is :-

6th. October. - 3rd. Battalion moves to VILLERS-sous-AILLY: shooting 7th., 8th., 9th. and 10th.; marches home evening of 10th. inst.

Afternoon 10th. October. - 2nd. Battalion moves to VILLERS-sous-AILLY and takes over billets; shooting 11th., 12th., 13th. and 14th. inst.; marches home evening of 14th. inst.

Afternoon 14th. October. - 4th. Battalion moves to VILLERS-sous-AILLY and takes over billets; shooting 15th., 16th., 17th. and 18th. inst.; marches home evening of 18th. inst.

Afternoon 18th. October. - 1st. Battalion moves to VILLERS-sous-AILLY and takes over billets; shooting 19th., 20th., 21st. and 22nd. inst.; marches home evening 22nd. inst.

Units provide their own ammunition.

1st. L.T.H. Battery will accompany the 3rd. Battalion and will be exercised with them.

*Arthur Lawrence*

Major,

Brigade Major, 1st. Australian Infantry Brigade.

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APPENDIX  
1/17

1ST AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Brigade Headquarters,  
18th. October, 1918.

(2)

HEADQUARTERS, 1ST AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.
No. 18/4464
Date.....

1st. Aust. Battalion.  
2nd. Aust. Battalion.  
3rd. Aust. Battalion.  
4th. Aust. Battalion.  
1st. Aust. L.T.M. Bty.  
Bde. Camp Commandant.  
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A Review under precisely similar conditions as those laid down for to-day will be held on Saturday next, 19th. inst. at the same hour and place.

The following points with reference to to-day's parade are promulgated for information and guidance.

Markers. - Brigade Headquarters marker brought no State.  
2nd. Battalion marker was 25 minutes late.  
L.T.M. Bty. marker had to be sent for.  
Only Bde. Hdqrs. and 3rd. Battalion brought flags with unit colors.

Steadiness. - Good throughout.

Arms Drill. - The position of the slope was bad in places in each unit. Needs careful correction by Junior Officers. A little more pause between movements is desirable.

Marching. - Step a little slow. Time of music for marching needs quickening a little.  
Transport men and Cooks need some barrack square work. They do not carry themselves well.

Transport. - Wheel drivers allowed wheelers to overrun leaders. Dressing and intervals not up to standard. Saluting of drivers requires much practice to obtain unison.  
3rd. Battalion Transport made the best show.

States. - Pro-forma required for G.O.C's parade was not put in by 1st. Battalion nor L.T.M. Battery.

*Andrews*  
Major,

Brigade Major, 1st. Aust. Infantry Brigade.

APPENDIX

12/19

1st. Aust. Battalion.  
 2nd. Aust. Battalion.  
 3rd. Aust. Battalion.  
 4th. Aust. Battalion.  
 1st. Aust. L.T.M. Bty.  
 Brigade Camp Comdt.

HEADQUARTERS,  
 1ST AUSTRALIAN  
 INFANTRY BRIGADE.

No. 18/4464  
 Date.....

Brigade Headquarters,  
 19th. October, 1918.

(3)

Notes on To-day's Parade.

General appearance and steadiness again good throughout.

Following points noticed during inspection and march past :-

Personnel.

1. Hair. - In all units several instances of long hair.
2. Puttees. - Heat on the whole but in several cases incorrectly put on. Noticeable in L.T.M.B.
3. Puggaries. - Still variegated in color and pattern. This will be remedied at once.
4. W.P. Sheets. - Very carelessly put on in the 4th. Battalion. No uniformity in size or roll.
5. N.C.Os. - Many instances of N.C.Os being without arms. All ranks Under R.S.M. (less No. 1's L.G.) will be armed and equipped in the same manner as the men.
6. Rifle Exercises. - Position of the slope bad in "A" and "C" Coys., 2nd. Battalion and in Brigade Headquarters Details.
7. Dressing, Interval & Distance. - Dressing usually good. Officers and Supernumerary Rank were not as good as the men. Rear ranks do not maintain their 2 paces distance but are inclined to crowd on front rank.

Transport.

1. Drivers do not yet understand position of attention nor is the salute smart. Brakesmen still "walk" rather than march behind wagons. Several instances of brakesmen having one hand on rear of limber when marching past.
2. Nosebags in 2nd, <sup>and 4th.</sup> Battalions very dirty, also steel work poor.
3. Marching and manoeuvre of transport was better than last time.

Mounted Officers.

There is a tendency amongst the mounted Officers to sit very loosely in the saddle and to ride at the full length of the rein. This means lack of control and is not correct. Officers must sit up and must keep their horses collected both at the halt and on the march.

A set of instructions for Brigade Ceremonial Parades and Reviews is being prepared and will shortly be issued down to Companies for the guidance of all concerned.

Major,

Brigade Major, 1st. Australian Infantry Brigade.