

AWM4

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

Artillery

Item number: 13/74/16

**Title: 1st Australian Divisional Ammunition
Column**

July 1917



AWM4-13/74/16

Original

WAR DIARY

VOL X

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.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BEUGNY	1-7-17		Ammunition supplied to 1 st F.A.B. 200 A 75 AX. To 2 nd F.A.B. 82 A. 2 S.S. Waggons to T.M.B. for fatigue. 6 S.S. Waggons to 258 th Tunneling Coy.	<i>AMR</i>
	2-7-17		Ammunition supplied to 1 st F.A.B. 300 A. To 2 nd F.A.B. 357 A. 275 AX. 6 S.S. Waggons to 258 th Tunneling Coy.	<i>AMR</i>
	3-7-17		Ammunition supplied 1 st F.A.B. 5 A 628 AX. To 2 nd Bde 814 A 400 AX. 6 S.S. Waggons to 258 th Tunneling Coy.	<i>AMR</i>
	4-7-17		Ammunition supplied to 1 st F.A.B. 37A 116 AX. 2 nd ^{FA} Bde 627 A 224 AX. 6 S.S. Waggons 258 th Tunneling Coy. 8 S.S. Waggons to T.M.B.	<i>AMR</i>
	5-7-17		Ammunition supplied to 1 st F.A.B. 184 A. 380 AX. To 2 nd Bde 588 A. 1064 AX. 6 S.S. Waggons to 258 th Tunneling Coy. 2 S.S. Waggons to T.M.B.	<i>AMR</i>
	6-7-17		Ammunition supplied to 1 st F.A.B. 683 A, 777 AX. To 2 nd Bde 358 A 687 AX and 96 BX	<i>AMR</i>
BELCOURT AREA	7-7-17		The Column moved from BEUGNY via BAPAUME-ALBERT with echelons full	<i>AMR</i>

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BECOURT	8.7.17		Major D.R. Harris D.S.O. assumed command (temporarily) of 1st D.B.C.	SH
"	9.7.17		Resting at BECOURT	SH
"	10.7.17		"	SH
THIEVRES	11.7.17		Marched from BECOURT area to THIEVRES en route to Fifth Army area	SH
HOUVIN	12.7.17		Marched to HOUVIN	SH
EPANCHIN	13.7.17		Marched to EPANCHIN	SH
"	14.7.17		Rested for one day at +	SH
NEDONCHELLE	15.7.17		Marched to NEDONCHELLE	SH
THIENNES	16.7.17		Marched to THIENNES	SH
OXELAERE	17.7.17		Marched to OXELAERE	SH
ECKE	18.7.17		Marched to ECKE. Two officers joined from R.A. cadet school. Three left from details	2nd Lt S. Smith } Brewer } SH
OUDEDOM	19.7.17		Marched to OUDEDOM. Three G.S. Waggon and teams to 102nd Bty for fatigues	SH
"	20.7.17		Supplied 1st Bde with 144 A, 210 B.P.S. and 90 B.C.B. To 2nd Bde 512 A, 33 AX, 210 B.P.S. & 90 B.C.B. No 4697 Drive Robson. P.H. Shrapnel wounds	SH

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OUDERDOM	21-7-17		Ammunition issued to 1st FABde 144 A. 420 B.P.S. 180 B.C.B. 2nd FABde 512 A 33 AX 7.9.5. Waggon to R.E. to convey gun pit material to position ready for use when guns moved forward on "Z" day. Within 300 yds of destination, road became blocked by motor lorry wrecked by shell fire. The whole 7 waggon came under heavy barrage. The road being too narrow to enable waggon to turn. 4 waggon were destroyed by shell fire and three others were subsequently salvaged. Casualties, Wounded. 4697. Dr ROBSON.RH, 16153 Dr BRADLEYA, 28443 Dr LUTH.H.C, 10522 Dr HANLEY.T, 22964 BOMB STRONACH.H.L, 5 mules killed. Sgt RUMP and Bde STRONACH recommended for Military Medal	J.H. King
"	22-7-17		Ammunition issued to 1st FAB. 362 B.P.S. 178 B.C.B. to 2nd FABde 608 A 367 AX Casualties. K.I.A. 2631 Cpl BRACKEN.J. 1 mule killed.	J.H. King
"	23-7-17		Ammunition issued to 1st FABde 528 A, 468 B.P.S. 180 B.C.B. Casualties 709 Dr DIXON Wounded, 9625 Dr M'LEOD Wounded, 29066. Bdr DENT Gained, 3445 Dr SADDLER Wounded Gained. Conference of Bty Captains to arrange for packing ammunition to forward position on "Z" day. Instructions issued for rendering return of Bty horses available for the work. 2 riding horses and 1 mule killed	J.H. King
"	24-7-17		Ammunition issued to 1st FABde 636 A. Casualties, wounded, 5831 Dr HEALD.P. 2366 Dr CAMPBELL.P. 1 mule killed	J.H. King
"	25-7-17		Ammunition issued to 1st FABde NIL. to 2nd Bde 576 B.X. Casualties 25661 Dr GUTHRIE Gained and 1 mule killed	J.H. King

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
OUDEROM	26.7.17		Ammunition issued to 1 st FA Bde 1219 A, 529 AX 648 BX. To 2 nd FA Bde 288 BX. 23 horses from Army remounts. 4 unable to work.	J.H. King
	27.7.17		Ammunition issued to 1 st FA Bde 912 A 200 A smoke. To 2 nd FA Bde 228 A 22 AX 288 BX. LT HEPPINGSTONE joined from 1 st Bde. 2 nd LT BREWER, 2 nd LT SMITH transferred to 6 th Army Bde. LT J.P. AUSTIN to 1 st Bde.	J.H. King
	28.7.17		Ammunition issued to 1 st FA Bde 569 A 79 AX 642 BX. To 2 nd Bde 646 A 228 AX 656 BX.	J.H. King
	29.7.17		Ammunition 1 st FA Bde 833 A 79 AX. To 2 nd Bde 540 BX. Guide supplied by 101 st Bty did not know route to Bty.	J.H. King

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
OUDE RDOM	30-7-17		<p>Ammunition issued 1st FA Bde 1257A 921AX 36A smoke 642 BX. To 2nd Bde 576 BX. 8.30 A.M. 16 waggons per Bde supplied to move Btys to new wagon lines. No incidents received for Drivers, animals and saddles to assist Batteries in supply of ammunition to new positions. Orans issued to sections on previous figures supplied by Btys. 3rd Bty incident direct on 1st section contrary to "C" Group's artillery order No 6. Supplied to 1st and 2nd Bde 8 Drivers 16 animals and 193 saddles to assist in packing ammunition to Btys on "Z" day. See appendix I. Memo I issued to sections in reference to preparations for "Z" day.</p>	<p><i>[Signature]</i></p>
	31-7-17		<p>Ammunition issued to 1st FA Bde 2416A, 1212AX 72A smoke 576 BX. 36 B smoke To 2nd Bde 288 BX. 192 Pack animals supplied to Btys to move ammunition from old position to new. These were returned without being used owing to positions being untenable. "Z" day</p>	<p><i>[Signature]</i></p>

SECRET.

Copy No. 20...

"C" GROUP FIELD ARTILLERY.OPERATION ORDER No. 6.By Lieut.-Colonel S. M. ANDERSON, D.S.O., Commanding.HEADQUARTERS,
23rd. July, 1917.

Operation Order No. 2, para. 5, states that ---

"After the capture of the BLACK LINE 'C' GROUP will move forward to I.24.a."

This move will be made in accordance with the following orders :-

1. (a) Head of column to pass CAFE BELGE at Zero minus 1 hour;
(b) Limber up at Zero plus 2 hours 10 minutes;
(c) Arrive at Forward Positions at Zero plus 3 hours 35 minutes;
(d) Teams to be clear of I.22.d.9.7 at Zero plus 4 hours 5 minutes.
2. (a) The route from CAFE BELGE to Battery positions is to be reconnoitred by Major R. H. Byrne, who will receive detailed instructions separately.
(b) The rendezvous of the column at CAFE BELGE and its organisation into correct sequences (see para. 4) of limbers and ammunition packs and horses will be carried out by Major R. H. Byrne.
(c) This officer will also lead the column as far as the point of divergence for Battery positions, where units of the column will come under command of Battery Captains.
3. (a) The route from Battery positions to the new position has been reconnoitred by Captain A. J. GLENDENNING and he will assist the leading of the leading battery.
(b) The C. R. E. is detailing a party of R. E. to keep the tracks to I.24.a. in repair after Zero hour. The R. E. party will rendezvous at I.21.b.1.3 at Zero hour and will proceed forward under two Subalterns, to be detailed one each by -
O.C. 2nd. Battery and O.C. 5th. Battery.

These two officers will have previously reconnoitred the road under Captain GLENDENNING (this reconnaissance to be completed by noon 25/7/17).

4. The sequence of batteries for the advance will be :-
4th., 5th., 6th., 3rd., 1st.,
2nd., 102nd. and 101st.
5. Lieut.-Colonel G. I. STEVENSON, C.M.G., will command the 2nd. F. A. Brigade during the advance and until he takes up his LIAISON DUTIES with 53rd. Infantry Brigade at after the capture of the GREEN LINE.
6. The approximate position to be occupied will be reconnoitred previously under arrangements which will be notified separately.
7. (a) Gun limbers will go up from wagon lines filled with "A".
(b) The balance of ammunition (A) will be packed up on pairs of

10 "C" Group O.O. No. 6.

(2-)

of horses. For 18 pdr. ammunition --
Ride 1 horse and carry 4 rounds;
Lead 1 horse carrying 8 rounds.

For 4.5" How. ammunition --
Ride 1 horse and carry 2 rounds;
Lead 1 horse carrying 4 rounds.

- (c) The pack horse ammunition will be loaded up at Battery positions being vacated.
- (d) The pack horses will follow immediately in rear of their own battery limbers.
- (e) There will be seven pairs of pack horses per sub-section which, with the limbers, will give 100 rounds per gun on going into action.
8. (a) There is to be 1 mounted n.c.o. in charge of each limber and in charge of the pack horses of each sub-section, and two gunners with each limber on the way up to the old Battery positions.
- (b) From the old position to the new, detachments will march with their guns.
9. Captain A. J. GLENDENNING will lead the limbers and pack horses back from the new position to neighbourhood of old positions, where the limbers will come under charge of Major R. H. Byrne and return to their wagon lines, and pack horses will re-load at old battery positions and make a second journey to the guns as soon as possible - under direction of Battery Captains.
10. Senior officers now at battery wagon lines will each arrange direct with O.C. D.A.C. for the extra supply of horses, saddles and pack saddles necessary for compliance with para. 7 of this order. The O.C. D.A.C. has been instructed to comply.

K. H. W.
..... Captain.

Adjutant "C" Group Field Arty.

Distribution.

Copy No. 1	-	File.
2 & 3	-	1st. Battery.
4, 5 & 6	-	2nd. "
7 & 8	-	3rd. "
9 & 10	-	101st. "
11 & 12	-	4th. "
13, 14 & 15	-	5th. "
16 & 17	-	6th. "
18 & 19	-	102nd. "
20 & 21	-	1st. D. A. C.
		22 - Major R. H. Byrne.
		23 - Captain A. J. Glendenning.
24 & 25	-	2nd. F. A. Bde. H. Q.
26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 & 32	-	Spare.

OPERATION MEMO 1.

Reference Map 1/30,000 - Sheet 38 N.W.

No.1 Section. 1. You will be prepared to issue to ... Brigade 100 saddles
 No.2 Section. (less stirrup irons and leathers) at short notice. In
 "B" Echelon. addition you will have ready detailed 48 mules and 24 drivers
 to join Batteries when ordered (8 Drivers and 12 mules per
 Battery), these mules will be saddled as follows:-

- 24 Saddles complete
- 24 Saddles, less stirrup irons and leathers.

2. Saddles to complete to quantity required as above will be drawn from "B" Echelon.

Section Commanders are to exercise the greatest care in accounting for issue and receipt of these articles. It is expected that no shortages will occur.

3. Battery Wagon Lines are moving to vicinity of H.28.b.on 30th instant.

30th July 1917.

R Handley Lieut.
 Adj. Lt. Asst. Div. Ammn. Col.

DISTRIBUTION.

Copy No.1	File
3	No.1 Section.
3	No.2 Section.
4.	"B" Echelon.

OPERATION MEMO

No 2.

The detail shown in attached table will be held in readiness to proceed to Battery wagon lines H.28.b. at a moments notice.

44 Saddles have been delivered to you by "B" Echelon.

30th July 1917

DISTRIBUTION

- Copy No 1 File
- 2 No 1 Section
- 3 No 2 Section

TABLE SHOWING DETAIL TO BE SENT TO BATTERIES.

BATTERY	DRIVERS	ANIMALS	SADDLES COMPLETE	SADDLES LESS IRONS AND LEATHERS	REMARKS.
1 st Bty				26	
2 nd Bty				66	
3 rd Bty				36	
101 st Bty	6	12	6	30	
4 th Bty				17	
5 th Bty				16	
6 th Bty	2	4	2	12	
102 nd Bty				30	

The figures in above table show exactly the number each of Drivers etc. required by Batteries.

Section Commanders will arrange for return to their own lines of any surplus Drivers.

E.G. Suppose 5th Battery require 2 Drivers 18 animals and 30 Saddles, it will require 9 Drivers and a wagon to deliver same ; therefore Section Commanders would have to arrange for return journey of 7 Drivers and 6 S. Wagon.

30th July 1917