

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

Artillery

Item number: 13/50/3

Title: 2nd Australian Siege Battery

April 1917



AWM4-13/50/3

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

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Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

2nd (Aust) Siege Battery.

FOR

April 1917.

Signature of Officer compiling *J. Britnell Lieut*

Signature of Officer Commanding *Major M. D. Wilbourn RAO*

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

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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
Arras (moat)	April 8 th 1917		Lieut Lennox, F.W. detached to 3 rd Army Artillery course. B.Q.M.S. transferred from 54 th Siege Battery to 55 th Siege Bty. (Aust)	
"	14 th		Lieut Lennox recommended for 1/4 Capt.	
Arras (Railway Arch)	18 th		Gunner Crowe, F.J. transferred from 36 (Aust) H.A.S. to 55 (Aust) S. Bty.	
"	21 st		Lieut Lennox, F.W. rejoins from detached 3 rd Army Artillery course.	
"	23 rd		1 ORK wounded.	
"	27 th		13 ORKs wounded. 5 ORKs died of wounds. (Total wounded 18).	

Arras
(Moat)

All four guns together about 15' interval dug in in pits in bank of Moat, near Porte Baudimont, behind Deadmen's Corner.

Position occupied during hard frost with frozen snow everywhere. Good holding ground on solid chalk.

Ammunition supply comparatively easy. Six lorries at a time were able to back in off St. Pol road, a short length of Decauville (about 80') conveyed ammunition to top of bank in front of the battery where it was transferred to wooden chutes and rolled on planks at the bottom to the guns. 1500

rounds were received at once on one occasion. 70 lorries drawn up on St. Pol - Arras road caused a considerable block in the traffic but with the aid of 70 Pool Gunners of the R.G.A. the Battery personnel off loaded the lot in 3 hours (nearly 200 tons of shell).

The minimum number of rounds kept in the battery was 3000.

Cartridges were stored in dugouts constructed in the bank alongside each gun.

B.C. Post. in old French dugout enlarged.

Living Quarters. Relief on duty in Kissen Huts in gully 50' in front of the Battery.

Relief off duty. billeted in Rue-de-Ameins in Arras.

General. Casualties, 1 killed, 1 wounded by explosion of "Dud" A.A. shell in billet yard. 1 Man hit in foot by shrapnel bullet A.A. 1 man grazed by Boscche bullet from aerial combat. A few odd rounds.

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fell near the position at different times probably meant for the road.

S^t Nicholas
Arras.

14-4-17.

Four guns at intervals of 15⁺ in the open just in rear of front system prior to 9th April. This position was occupied as a temporary measure only owing to the impossibility of crossing the old front system.

N^o 4 Gun, the last to be put in, was just mounted when the S.I.O.M. condemned ~~them~~ all the guns and they were taken back and parked near the Moat position. The C.I.O.M. then inspected them and passed them all as serviceable.

This position was not occupied long enough for living quarters to be established.

Railway

Arch.

Arras.

21-4-17.

This was originally intended as a position for one gun only for an attack on Roeux. The attack was postponed however and eventually the four guns had to be jammed up at 10⁺ interval. The position was behind a railway bank about 60 feet high, just off the Arras - Dover road.

B.C. Post. in old Boche dugout (tunnel) also used by the detachment on duty.

Rest billets at old position at the Moat. Ammunition supply by lorry direct to L.H. Gun Casualties. One chance 8" How shell caused a lot of casualties about 7 killed, and 12 wounded. The same shell also destroyed a lot of ammunition and several portions of the transporting vehicles. One rear axle was thrown about 500⁺ over the bank. A timber transporting bed was thrown 150⁺ to the rear.

13th W.O. Devereaux was awarded the M.M. for his work on this occasion.