

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

Artillery

Item number: 13/75/25

Title: 2nd Australian Divisional Ammunition
Column

April 1918



AWM4-13/75/25

CONFIDENTIAL.

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

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL AMMUNITION COLUMN.

FOR

APRIL, 1918.

Signature of Officer compiling

J. H. ...
2nd Aust. D.A.C.

Signature of Officer Commanding

J. Ray Major
Comdg 2nd Aust. D.A.C.

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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.

LA CRECHE - SPALDING CAMP - PONT d'ACHELLES.
STEENWERCK AREA.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	<u>1918.</u>		WEATHER-Mild, bright overhead, light ground mist. Wind light from S. veering to N.W. and freshening.	
	April		DAILY STRENGTH- <u>Personnel</u> -Officers 21, O/R. 683.	
	IST.		<u>Animals</u> - Riders 73, Mules 665.	
	Mon.		<u>Transport</u> -Maltese Cart 1, Water carts 3, G.S. Wagons 52, G.S. Lmb 15, Amtn Lmbd 48, Cycles 11, 15 Pdr. Anti-Tank Guns 4	
			<u>AMMUNITION-ROMARIN DUMP</u> - On hand I368 A, 2230 AX, I368 BX, I, 014,000 S.A.A., I448 AP, 2720 Tracer, 3200 PW, 5520 Grenades.	
			<u>Receipts</u> -I800 A, I800 AX, I368 BX.	
			<u>Issues</u> -I368 A, 2232 AX, I368 BX, 600 AP, I200 Tracer.	
			2 Other Ranks taken on strength from Hospital.	
			1 " " transferred to 4TH. A.F.A.B.	
			2 " " evacuated to Hospital.	
			3 G.S. wagons at DE KENNEBAK DUMP.	
			<u>AMMUNITION-S.A.A. SECTION</u> issued to IST. SECTION 98 AP, 198 Tracer; and to 2ND. SECTION 100 AP, 200 TRACER.	
			Wagons on loan to Batteries returned to Sections.	
			2 G.S. wagons with D.T.M.O. on transport duty.	
			1 " " " " 5TH DIV. on transport duty.	
			Band instruments of 2ND. DIV. ARTY. BRASS BAND stored at MERRIS. Sgt. BRAHAM appointed Storeman of DIV. Kit Store.	
			<u>Detachment</u> - S.A.A. SECTION detached for duty as follows: "A" Subsection to 5TH. INF. BDE; "B" Sub. to 6TH. INF. BDE; "C" Sub to 7TH. INF. BDE. 8 G.S. wagons, and 15 lmbd wagons retained by each Sub-section.	
			<u>Anti-Tank Gun Training</u> -8 separate Detachments formed with 2ND. AUST. D.A.C. personnel for 15 Pdr. Gundrill. Detachments to be retained specifically for that work, to be kept on strength of 2ND. AUST. D.A.C., and not to be used as Battery Reinforcements. On completion of training regular reliefs to be arranged with LEFT GROUP for manning of 15 Pdr. Anti-Tank Guns in Forward Area. 2 additional Detachments detailed by respective Sections, and consisting of 1 N.C.O., and 4 Gunners each, to report daily to Lieut. A. ROBERTS at 2ND. AUST. D.A.C. H.Q. for training. With 2 Detachments already at the gun-pits, and 2 in training this arrangement provided for 8 complete 15 Pdr. Gun Detachments.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>LA CRECHE - SPALDING CAMP - PONT d'ACHELLES. STEENWERCK AREA.</p>	<p>1918. April 1ST. Mon.</p>		<p>Section Commanders directed to keep a record of all n.c.os and men trained on the 15 Pdr. Anti-Tank Guns. <u>Ammunition Supply-2ND.AUST.DIV.ARTY Adm.Memo.,No.42 (25-3-18),set forth directions in connection with Ammunition Supply as follows:-</u> I. Dumping of ammunition in forward-position reinforcing positions will now be carried out: (a) <u>Forward Zone-100 rds per gun and how.</u> will be dumped in the unoccupied reinforcing positions already selected for each battery, as shown in RIGHT DIV.ARTY DEFENCE SCHEME, Appendix II A. (b) <u>Second Zone-150 rds per gun and how.</u> will be dumped in the positions of the Second Zone, both reinforcing and retired positions, as shown in RIGHT DIV.ARTY DEFENCE SCHEME, Apdx II A. 2. The 4.5 how. charges for the ammunition in the unoccupied reinforcing positions of the Forward Zone will be held at ROMARIN DUMP (Sheet 36 NW.-B.4.a.6.5.), and for the Second Zone in the selected dumps at PETIT POINT (Sheet 28 S.W.-T.23.c.7.9.), and OOSTHOVE DUMP (Sht. 3I N.W.-B.II.d.2.9.) 3. Boxed ammunition must remain boxed and arrangements must be made for a turnover. All ammunition must have adequate cover from weather. This is especially necessary in the case of 18 Pdr. ammunition, which will not be dumped before protection is provided. In arranging this protection ventilation must be secured to prevent sweating. / C.Os. Groups will at once have weather proof dumps for ammunition prepared in above positions. 4. Groups will make arrangements to have ammunition dumped in the reinforcing positions in Forward Zones, and obtain authority from Staff Captain to draw the required ammunition. / 2ND.AUST. D.A.C. will arrange to dump the ammunition required in positions in the Second Zone.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LA CRECHE - SPALDING CAMP - PONT d'ACHELLES. STEENWERCK AREA.	1918.			
	April		WEATHER- Unsettled, change in prospect, rain. Wind moderate from N.W. and N.	
	2ND.		DAILY STRENGTH- Personnel-Officers 21,0/R.678.	
	Tues.		Animals- Riders 73, Mules 665.	
			Transport-Unaltered.	
			Guns- 4 15 Pdr Anti-Tank Guns.	
			Lieut. SALMON, 4TH. A.F.A.B., ceased to be temporarily attached for duty with the 2ND. AUST. D.A.C. I N.C.O. also ceased temporary attachment and returned to Unit.	
			Current Col. R.O. directed Section Cdrs to ensure that both gunners and drivers have a thorough knowledge of the use of the rifle, and that every opportunity be taken to continue instruction in the use of same.	
			4 Other Ranks taken on strength from Hospital.	
			1 " " " " " " 2ND. D.T.M.B.	
		2 " " " " " " 5TH. A.F.A.B.		
		1 " " Transferred to 2ND. D.T.M.B.		
		2 " " evacuated to Hospital		
		4 " " transferred to 5TH. A.F.A.B.		
		2/Lieut. A.H. MOSS evacuated to Hospital.		
		Dripping Returns-Corps R.O., Q 90, republished in Col. R.O. as follows:-		
		Quantity of dripping returned to Railhead by AUST. CORPS:		
		1ST. AUST. DIV.....17,573 lbs.		
		2ND. AUST. DIV.....6,120 "		
		3RD. AUST. DIV.....21,416 "		
		4TH. AUST. DIV.....13,271 "		
		5TH. AUST. DIV.....30,692 "		
		AUST. CORPS TROOPS.....6,691 "		
		ARMY & Other Trps Ahd.....4,532 "		
		Total- 100,295 "		
		The foregoing figures represent highest amount of dripping returned in any one month by this CORPS.		
		Return of Fat- The ARMY CORPS Commander wishes to congratulate Units on the Fat Returns for January, 1918. The quantity collected in the Corps is in excess of the Army Total in several of the Armies, and represents 2/5 of the FOURTH ARMY total. The ARMY Commander hopes that the introduction		

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PONT d'ACHELLES. AREA.	1918.		of Cookery Instructors will lead to even better results, though care should be taken to ensure that fat required for cooking is not set aside for the purpose of presenting striking returns.																									
	April		Salvage-The following is the estimated value of salvage in the CORPS Area for the month of February, 1918:																									
	2ND.		<table border="0"> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">£</td> <td style="text-align: right;">S</td> <td style="text-align: right;">D.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1ST.AUST.DIV.....</td> <td style="text-align: right;">33,867</td> <td style="text-align: right;">15</td> <td style="text-align: right;">9.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3RD.AUST.DIV.....</td> <td style="text-align: right;">116,214</td> <td style="text-align: right;">15</td> <td style="text-align: right;">5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4TH.AUST.DIV.....</td> <td style="text-align: right;">340,581</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1</td> <td style="text-align: right;">6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5TH.AUST.DIV.....</td> <td style="text-align: right;">23,910</td> <td style="text-align: right;">19</td> <td style="text-align: right;">9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CORPS SECTION.....</td> <td style="text-align: right;">4,041</td> <td style="text-align: right;">15</td> <td style="text-align: right;">8</td> </tr> </table>		£	S	D.	1ST.AUST.DIV.....	33,867	15	9.	3RD.AUST.DIV.....	116,214	15	5	4TH.AUST.DIV.....	340,581	1	6	5TH.AUST.DIV.....	23,910	19	9	CORPS SECTION.....	4,041	15	8	
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Tues.		Total- £ 518,616 8 1																										
(ctd.)																												
SPALDING CAMP - STEENWERCK			<p>39 Rfts taken on strength from BASE.</p> <p><u>Aircraft Bombing Raids-Protection of Hutments-</u> Adm.Memo.referred to in preceding paras directed the use of turf sod revetments for protective splinter walls round hutments, in place of stakes and expanded metal as demands for those materials had become heavy. An alternative plan proposed was the construction of clay walls to a 2/I batter.</p> <p><u>Paper Salvage-</u>Quantity returned by Unit to Railhead for week-240 lbs paper, 40 lb cardboard.</p> <p><u>Rations-Personnel of IST., and 2ND.SECTIONS</u> detached for duty at ROMARIN DUMP taken on ration strength of their respective Sections.</p> <p><u>Anti-Tank Guns-Arrangements for handing over-</u> CENTRE GROUP (4) present 2ND. AUST.D.A.C.Detachments to be relieved by Detachments from the 6TH (ARMY) BDE. The D.A.C. personnel will, after relief, be attached to 4TH.A.F.A.B. until arrival in the MERRIS AREA when they will rejoin Units.</p> <p>1 Horse and saddlery on loan to ROMARIN DUMP.</p>																									
LA CRECHE →				<p style="text-align: right;">25/2</p>																								

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WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LA CRECHE - SPALDING CAMP - PONT d'ACHELLES. STEENWERCK AREA. OUTERSTEENE-MERRIS AREA.	1918. April		WEATHER-Dull, moist, light rain. Wind from N.W. light. DAILY STRENGTH-Personnel-Officers 21, O/R. 678. <u>Animals-</u> Riders 73, mules 665. <u>Transport-</u> Unaltered. <u>Guns-</u> 4 15 Pdr. Anti-Tank.	
	3RD. Wed.		MOVEMENT-In accordance with 2ND.AUST.D.Arty Order, No. 88, (31-3-18), and Adm. Memo No. 45, the 2ND.AUST.D.A.C. moved to the MERRIS AREA. <u>Route-Via Rail-</u> <u>-way Crossing at S 27 Central (Ref. Maps-B & F. 27 & 36)</u> F. 36A1/40,000) not to pass thro- <u>-ugh BAILLEUL. Starting Point</u> junction of BAILLEUL-ARMENTIERES ROAD and roadway leading to IST SECTION Lines. Head of Column to pass starting point at 11-40 a.m. <u>Order of March-</u> H.Q. IST. SECTION, 2ND. SECTION. Strict march discipline to be maintained. Lines and Billets left in satis- <u>-factory sanitary condition. Refilling Point-</u> MERRIS Church 11 a.m. <u>Water Tins-</u> All available water tins to be carried at the rate of 4 per vehicle. <u>Lewis Guns-</u> Section LEWIS Guns to be carried on rear vehicle of each Section. The Column halted at OUTERSTEENE and occupied lines and billets in that village and neighbourhood. <u>at mid-day.</u> S.A.A. SECTION-In accordance with 2ND.AUST.DIV.ARTY Order No. 89 (2-4-18) the S.A.A. SECTION of the 2ND.AUST.DIVL AMMTN COL. moved from the STEEN- <u>-WERCK AREA: (a) 1/3rd of the Section formed part of the 6TH.AUST.INF.</u> <u>BDE GROUP. 1/3rd of the Section</u> be entrained with the 5TH.AUST.INF.BDE GROUP for the AMIENS AREA. The remaining 3rd. formed part of the 7TH. AUST.INF.BDE GROUP. (b) The portion accompanying the 6TH.AUST. INF.BDE marched to Staging Area at GODE. The portion attached to the 7TH.AUST. INF.BDE marched to the Staging Area at METEREN. No restrictions were made regarding times and routes.	

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	<u>1918.</u>		<u>WEATHER</u> -Dull, moist, foggy, light rain. Wind light from N.E. <u>DAILY STRENGTH</u> - <u>Personnel</u> -Officers 16, O/R. 553.	
	April		<u>Animals</u> - Riders 55, mules 488.	
	4TH.		<u>Transport</u> -Maltese cart 1, Water carts 2, G.S. wagons 27, Amtn lmbd 48, Cycles 9.	
	Thur.		<u>Guns</u> - 2 15 Pdr. Anti-Tank, 2 LEWIS M.G.	
			<u>MOVEMENT</u> -1/3d of S.A.A. SECTION entrained with AUST. INF. BDE at CODE, and 1/3rd at CAESTRE at 12 noon, and detrained with respective INF BDES at HANGEST-sur-SOMME, and ST. ROCHE, AMIENS AREA. <u>Anti-Tank Guns, and Area Stores handed over to Relieving Formation.</u>	
	5TH.		<u>WEATHER</u> -Dull, threatening, moist, mist. Wind light from E.N.E. and N. <u>DAILY STRENGTH</u> - <u>Personnel</u> -Officers 16, O/R. 553.	
	Fri.		<u>Animals</u> - Riders 55, mules 488. <u>Transport</u> -Unaltered.	
			<u>AMMUNITION</u> -ROMARIN DUMP-Nil. Return. <u>WEEKLY STRENGTH</u> -Actually with Unit 10 OFF. 524 O/R; Sick in Divl Area-nil; Leave, etc. 2 Off., 28 O/R.; Total Strength-12 Off., 552 O/R.; War Establishment-(Less S.A.A. SECTION) 11 Off., 494 O/R.; Required to complete-nil; Excess of Est.- 1 Officer, 58 Other Ranks.	
	6TH.		<u>WEATHER</u> -Prospects of break, dull, damp, misty. Wind variable from E. to N. <u>DAILY STRENGTH</u> - <u>Personnel</u> -Officers 16, O/R. 552.	
	Sat.		<u>Animals</u> - Riders 55, mules 488. <u>Transport</u> -Unaltered. Spare dial sight issued to 15TH. BTY.	
	7TH.		<u>WEATHER</u> -Unsettled. Afternoon clear and fine. Wind light to moderate from S. and S.E. <u>DAILY STRENGTH</u> - <u>Personnel</u> -Officers 15, O/R. 481.	
	Sun.		<u>Animals</u> - Riders 55, mules 488. <u>Transport</u> -Unaltered.	

OUTTERSTEENE-MERRIS AREA.
EN ROUTE BY RAIL TO AMIENS AREA.

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D. D. & L., London, E.C.
(A7883) Wt W809/M1672 350,000 4/17 Sch. 82a Forms/C/2118/14

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
EN ROUTE BY RAIL TO AMIENS AREA.	1918.			
	April			
	7TH.			
	Sun.			
	(ctd.)			
MOLLIENS AU BOIS.				
MOLLIENS AU BOIS AREA.				
AMIENS				
- AMIENS				
AMIENS				
	8TH.			
	Mon.			

MOVEMENT-In accordance with 2ND.AUST.DIV.ARTY Adm. Memo.,No.46,(6-4-18),and instructions already issued,the 2ND.AUST.DIVL AMTN COLUMN,less S.A.A. SECTION (detached for duty with AUST.INFY BDES) moved from wagon lines at OUTERSTEENE and marched to STRAZEELE and CAESTRE. Wagon lines and billets left in clean and satisfactory sanitary condition. HEADQUARTERS entrained at STRAZEELE,and 2ND.and 3RD. SECTIONS entrained at CAESTRE. Entraining operations carried out punctually,with despatch,and excellent order. The time taken by H.Q.Unit to truck animals,impedimenta,(including A.M.C. and A.S.C. details baggage wagons and animals) and entrainment of personnel was 30 minutes. The operation was performed by the Sections in equally good time. Rations- 48 hours rations were carried. Route-Railway via HAZEBROUCK,ST.OMER,GUINES,CALAIS,BOULOGNE,ETAPLES, ABBEVILLE to AMIENS.

Enemy Ruses- 2ND.AUST.DIV.Circular G24/I/304,contained following advices:-
 "(1) It is reported that German Officers in British uniform are adopting ruses,and ordering the retirement and withdrawal of British Troops
 All Officers and Men will be cautioned to be on their guard against indiscriminate and irregularly passed orders and messages to retire or withdraw. / If an officer or n.c.o. receives such orders from any person unknown to him he will at once place such person under restraint until the authenticity of the order,or the bona fides of the messenger,are established.
 (2) Our troops do not retire in the face of German Infantry. British superiority has been too often established. Movements are,on occasion,necessary to a flank or to the front to avoid shelling,but this is not to be mistaken for withdrawal in the face of enemy attack."

WEATHER-Dull,moist,heavy rain. Wind fresh from N.E.
DAILY STRENGTH-Personnel-Officers 20,O/R.666.
Animals- Riders 73,mules 665.
Transport-Maltese cart 1;water carts 3;G.S.wgns 52;G.S.Lmbd. 15;Amtn lmbd 48;Cycles 11.
Guns- 3 LEWIS M.G.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BEHENCOURT.	1918.			
	April			
AREA.	8TH.			
	Mon.		MOVEMENT-The 2ND.AUST.DIVL AMTN COLUMN arrived by rail at AMIENS at daybreak and immediately detrained. Detrainment operation carried out expeditiously. One hour after arrival the COLUMN was on the march to appointed locations. HEADQUARTERS and SECTIONS marched independently by roads through ST.GRATIEN, and RAINNEVILLE respectively to temporary wagon lines in and near the Village of MOLLIENS-AU-BOIS (Map Ref.AMIENS/40,000 B.7.) roughly II kilometres N.E.of the Town of AMIENS. A site for wagon lines was chosen within the grounds of the Chateau. Personnel were billeted in the Village or in temporary shelters on the Lines.	
BOIS	9TH.			
	Tues.		WEATHER-Dull, unsettled, brief sunshine intervals. Light rain late afternoon. Wind light from N. MOVEMENT- The COLUMN moved from temporary lines at MOLLIENS-AU-BOIS at 1 P.M. punctually after brief notice, and marched via MONTIGNY to BEHENCOURT where temporary lines on the eastern outskirts of the Village were occupied. 1ST. and 2ND. SECTIONS established horse lines in cuttings and along the route of a dismantled railway. Where protection from splinters was not ensured by the cuttings protective banks on roughly a 4/2 batter were built. Personnel established themselves in temporary shelters and dug-outs, and in the huts of a War Prisoners' Compound.	
AMIENS				
			<u>Enemy Shelling</u> - Enemy H.E. and gas shells lodged near the Section lines without effect. Time about 7 p.m. <u>Enemy Use of British Pattern Steel Helmets</u> 2ND.AUST.D.A.H.Q. (A27/I/13) advised that " In the recent attack on the 4TH.AUST.DIV. the enemy used our steel helmets. This not only made it difficult to distinguish friend from foe, but the enemy also used the helmets to make signals for retirement. All troops should be warned accordingly." <u>Drinking Shell-Hole Water</u> - 2ND.AUST.DIV.Adm.Memo. 200 (9-4-18) advised as follows:- "A case has recently occurred in this Division of an officer and four men drinking water from a shell hole. Soon afterwards they became very seriously ill, and it transpired that the water had been poisoned by enemy gas...../ The G.O.C. directs that this may be circulated throughout Division as an illustration of the consequences of ignoring repeated warnings against that practice....."	

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	1918.		WEATHER -Dull, unsettled, light misty rain. Wind light from N.	
	April		DAILY STRENGTH - <u>Personnel</u> -Officers 15, O/R. 481.	
			<u>Animals</u> - Riders 55, mules 488.	
	10TH.		<u>Transport</u> -Maltese cart 1, water carts 2.	
			G.S. wagons 27, Amtn lmbd 48, Cycles II.	
	Wed.		<u>Guns</u> - LEWIS guns 3.	
			<u>Rate of Exchange</u> - Rate of exchange for April notified-Fr. 5 = 3/8d.	
			12 Drivers, 2 Signallers, and 21 Gunners transferred to 4TH. A.F.A. RE	
			21 " 2 " 10 Gunners and 1 Shoeing Smith, 1 Bombardier trfd to	
			5TH. A.F.A.B.	
			2 Other Ranks are evacuated to Hospital.	
			2 " " taken on strength from BASE.	
			1 " " transferred to 2ND. AUST. D.A.H.Q.	
CONTAY.			The Town of CORBIE placed out of bounds to all ranks not on duty.	
			<u>Location</u> - Mobile Veterinary Section located at BEAUCOURT.	
			<u>MOVEMENT</u> -HEADQUARTERS, 2ND. AUST. DIVL AMTN COLUMN moved from temporary wagon lines on eastern outskirts of BEHENCOURT to lines within the grounds of BEHENCOURT Chateau.	
			Lieut. C.G. ROBERTS attached to S.A.A. SECTION until further orders.	
			<u>Locations</u> - 2ND. AUST D.A.C. located as follows:-	
			Sheet 62A-HEADQUARTERS-BEHENCOURT Chateau.	
			1ST. SECTION- C.13.e. (Central)	
			2ND. SECTION- C.19.a.5.6.	
BEHENCOURT			<u>2ND. AUST. DIV. ARTY Band</u> -Members of 2ND. AUST. DIV. ARTY Band, attached 1ST. SECTION, retained for duty with that Section.	
			1ST. SECTION supplied ammunition on wheels in Echelon to IITH. BATTERY.	
			Baggage wagon S.A.A. SECTION returned to 20TH. COY A.S.C.	
	IITH.		WEATHER -Cleared, warm, sunshine tempered by light ground mist. Almost windless	
	Thur.		DAILY STRENGTH - <u>Personnel</u> -Officers-15, O/R. 481.	
			<u>Animals</u> - Riders 55, mules 488.	
			<u>Transport</u> -Unaltered.	
			<u>Guns</u> - LEWIS Guns 3.	

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CONTAY.	1918.		<p><u>Inquiry</u>- Board of Officers detailed in COL.R.O.,No. 651, to inquire into circumstances of the alleged dropping of a mule at REMILLY-WERQUIN reassembled at Headquarters.</p> <p>1 Other Rank taken on strength from BASE.</p> <p>1 " " " " " Hospital.</p> <p>2 " " evacuated to Hospital.</p> <p>1 " " transferred to 4TH.A.F.A.B.</p> <p>IST.SECTION refilled Echelon at AMMUNITION RESERVE PARK,CONTAY.</p> <p>2/Lieut.BEVAN,S.A.A.SECTION,reported for duty with 4TH.A.F.A.B.</p> <p>Lieut.C.L.VERON transferred from 4TH.A.F.A.B. to 2ND.AUST.D.A.C.</p> <p>10 tents collected from Camp Commandant,BEAUCOURT,and delivered to 10TH. BATTERY Wagon Lines near BAZIEUX.</p> <p>2 N.C.Os.,and 15TH Other Ranks detailed for daily duty at A.R.P.,CONTAY.</p> <p><u>Ammunition</u>- IST.SECTION delivered 200 A,and 200 AX to 12TH.BTY wagon lines</p> <p>2ND.SECTION delivered 300 A.,and 300 AX.to 14TH.BTY wagon lines, BEHENCOURT.</p> <p>1 G.S.wagon on fatigue.</p> <p><u>Ammunition</u>-Receipts-nil,Issued 152 A.,152 AX.</p>	
	11TH.			
	Thur.			
	(Contd.)			
BEHENCOURT	12TH.		<p>WEATHER-Mild,warm,light ground mist,clear overhead. Night very clear. Almost windless.</p> <p>DAILY STRENGTH-<u>Personnel</u>-Officers 20,Other Ranks 666.) S.A.A.SECTION</p> <p> <u>Animals</u>- Riders 73,mules 665.) inclusive.</p> <p> <u>Transport</u>-Maltese cart 1,water carts 3.</p> <p> G.S.wagons 52,G.S.lmbd.15,Amtn lmbd.48,Cycles 11.</p> <p> <u>Guns</u>- LEWIS Guns 3.</p> <p>1 G.S.wagon with 15TH.BTY.</p> <p><u>Ammunition</u>-2ND.SECTION delivered 200 A,200 AX, to 13TH.BTY.,and 300 BX, to 105TH.BTY.</p> <p>All available picks and shovels delivered to 3RD.and 4TH. MEDIUM TRENCH MORTARS at 4TH.A.F.A.BDE H.Q.</p> <p><u>Ammunition</u>- On hand 1648 A.;1648 AX. Received at A.R.P.CONTAY 1732 A., 528 AX,590 BX. Issued-1028 A;928 AX;576 BX; 288 BX.</p>	
	Fri.			

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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1918.			
	April		WEATHER-Dull, Unsettled, cold. Brief breaks of sunshine. Wind strong from N.E. to E.N.E.	
	13TH.		DAILY STRENGTH-Personnel-Officers 20, Other Rank 670.	
	Sat.		Animals- Riders 73, mules 665. Transport-Unaltered. Guns- LEWIS guns 3.	
CONTAY.			Ration State- HEADQUARTERS-Officers 3, O/R. 46, Horses 9, mules 26. IST. SECTION- " 5, " 219, " 24, " 230. 2ND. SECTION- " 4, " 215, " 23, " 230. S.A.A. SECTION " 4, " 140, " 78, H.D. Horses 2, mules 605.	
			Section Working Parties at AMMUNITION RESERVE PARK, CONTAY, increased by 5 Other Ranks. Parties attached to S.A.A. SECTION for accomodation but continued to be rationed by their respective Sections.	
			Dripping Return- Quantity forwarded to Railhead-50lbs.	
			WEEKLY STRENGTH RETURN-Actually with Unit-15 Off., 631 Other Ranks; Sick in Divisional Area-3 O/R.; Leave, etc.-1 Off., 31 O/R.; Total strength-16 Off., 665 O/R.; War Est.-15 Off., 656 O/R.; Required to complete-nil; Excess of Est. 1 Off., 9 O/R.	
BEHENCOURT			Ammunition-Amtn delivered to Batteries from 9-4-18 to 17-4-18:- 8681 A, 5162 AX, 3566 BX, 300 BNC, -Total-17,719 rounds. 13-4-18-On Hand-2352 A, 1248 AX, 1382 BX, 556 SA (AP) 1012 Tracer. Received-2832A, 1272 AX, 868 BX, 1,014,000 SAA, 284 SAA (AP) 508 tracer, 5520 grenades, 320 Web.P. Issued-2733 A, 1371 ax, 868 BX, 106 Tracer.	
	14TH.		WEATHER-Cold, dull, light rain. Wind strong from N.E.	
	Sun.		DAILY STRENGTH-Personnel-Officers 20, O/R. 669. Animals- Riders 73, mules 662. Transport-Unaltered. Guns- LEWIS guns 3.	
			Ammunition-On hand-2451A, 1149AX, 1382BX, 1014000SAA, 840SAA (AP), 1414T, 5520G. Received-1708A, 460AX, 578BX, Issued- 1516A, 652AX, 576BX, 82SAA (AP), 106 Tracer.	

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	<u>1918.</u>		Section Commanders directed to ensure the presence of an officer at all watering parades.	
	April		Alarm Posts-Current Col.R.O. directed attention to Col.R.O. 656 directing the frequent practice of "falling in" on the alarm being sounded.	
	<u>14TH.</u>		The same Order directed the keeping of every rifle thoroughly clean and ready for immediate use.	
	Sun.		Grazing of animals within the Area prohibited.	
	(ctd.)		The appointment of suitable men to the position of Section Tailor directed, appointees to devote the whole of their time, when service exigencies permitted, to altering and repairing clothes, also blocking of F.S.hats.	
			I Other Rank evacuated to Hospital.	
			I " " taken on strength from Hospital.	
			Members of the 2ND.DIV.ARTY Band transferred from IST.SECTION to 2ND.SECT- -ION for duty.	
			<hr/>	
	<u>15TH.</u>		WEATHER-Cold, light rain at intervals. Wind strong and gusty from N.E.	
	Mon.		DAILY STRENGTH- <u>Personnel</u> -Officers 20,0/R 669. <u>Animals</u> - Riders 73, mules 661. <u>Transport</u> -Unaltered. <u>Guns</u> - LEWIS guns 3.	
			2ND.AUST.D.A.H.Q. Memo prohibiting the practice of shooting game, published in current R.Os.	
			The Town of AMIENS declared out of bounds to all troops of the Unit unless on pass.	
			<u>Protection of Civilian Property</u> - Current Col.R.O. contained the following notification:- As a consequence of the present operations many French people have been forced to leave their homes and abandon the whole of their possessions. Many of these homes lie in the Area occupied by British troops who, therefore, become trustee for the French people for their abandoned property. The Corps Commander therefore exhorts every Officer, Warrant Officer, Non-Commissioned Officer, and Man in the Corps to do all in his power to protect the homes and property of our Allies, who are fighting our common enemy. The penalty for the crime of looting is known and the sternest disciplinary measures will be taken to prevent it.	

CONTAY.

(62D.B.24.c.6.2.)
Map Ref.

BEHENCOURT

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WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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CONTAY.	1918.		<p>Infected Stables- Section Cdrs warned against using stables and standings in MONTIGNY, ST. GRATIEN, and FRECHENCOURT bearing a warning notice respecting infection with the disease-EPIZOOTIC LYMPHANGITIS.</p> <p>2 O/R evacuated to Hospital.</p> <p>1 " transferred to 10TH A.F.A. BDE., 4TH. AUST. DIV.</p> <p>30 light signals collected from Divisional Bomb Officer and delivered to Right Group H.Q.</p> <p><u>Ammunition-</u> On hand- 2643A, 957 AX, 1384 BX, 1014000 SAA, 758 SAA(AP), 1308 Tra 5520 Grenades, 3200 Web.p.</p> <p><u>Received-</u> 576 BX. <u>Issued-</u> 576 BX.</p>	
	15TH.	Mon.		
BEHENCOURT	(ctd.)			
	16TH.	Tues.	<p><u>WEATHER-</u> Dull, warmer, prospects of break, brief periods of sunshine. Wind light to moderate from S.</p> <p><u>DAILY STRENGTH-</u> Personnel- Officers 20, O/R. 666.</p> <p><u>Animals-</u> 73 Riders, 660 mules.</p> <p><u>Transport-</u> Unaltered.</p> <p><u>Guns-</u> LEWIS guns 3.</p> <p><u>Horse Respirators-</u> Current Col.R.O. directed the practice by drivers at least two hours weekly of driving animals with special respirators adjusted.</p> <p><u>Commendatory-</u> An interchange of cablegrams, text of which follows, was notified in current Col.R.O.:-</p> <p><u>From DEFENCE MINISTER, AUSTRALIA to General BIRDWOOD.-</u></p> <p>" 3rd. April. Australia looks with confidence to her splendid sons to worthily uphold the glorious traditions they have created by their courage and constancy, and feels sure that they will fight manfully for the protection of their flag and country. The parents and relatives of our soldiers are sharing your anxiety but are confident of the result of the great struggle for human liberty and freedom in which they are engaged"</p> <p><u>From General BIRDWOOD to DEFENCE MINISTER:-</u></p> <p>"Thank you for your kind cable of 3rd. April. Troops very grateful for your kind message conveying Australia's confidence in her men which I can assure you is fully justified."</p>	

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WAR DIARY

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CONTAY.	1918. 16TH. Tues. (ctd.)		<p><u>Casualties</u>- As a result of the bursting of an enemy salvo in the advanced lines of the S.A.A.SECTION at the rear of HENINCOURT WOOD, near the Village of WARLOY, Corporal BELL, S.H. was severely wounded. In addition 1 horse, and 5 mules were killed, and 4 wounded; one of the latter had subsequently to be destroyed. As the enemy continued to shell the locality heavily it was decided to move the Mobile Echelon to a rearward position just back from the road connecting WARLOY with BAZIEUX.</p> <p><u>Cartridge Cases</u>- 2ND.AUST.DIV.ARTY H.Q.Memo, T.I/74, directed the immediate return to Ammunition Refilling Point of all cartridge cases. Battery positions to be cleared of accumulated empties by the 18th. inst.</p> <p>3 G.S.wagon-loads of empty cartridge cases collected at 15TH.BTY ganpits and returned to Dump at CONTAY.</p> <p>O/C.IST.SECTION collected Div.Bomb Officer 30 light signals for immediate delivery to RIGHT GROUP H.Q.</p> <p>S.A.A.SECTION collected 2 mules from IST.and 2ND.SECTIONS respectively.</p>	
	BEHENCOURT	17TH. Wed.		<p>WEATHER-Colder and showery, rain light. Wind light, later increasing to moderate force, from N.W.</p> <p>DAILY STRENGTH-Personnel-Officers 20, O/R. 662.</p> <p><u>Animals</u>- Riders 73, mules 669.</p> <p><u>Transport</u>-Unaltered.</p> <p><u>Guns</u>- 3 LEWIS guns.</p> <p><u>Ammunition</u>-16-4-18. Received-428 A, 183 AX, 290 Bx. Issued-352 A, 259AX, 290 BX. 17-4-18. Received-1810 A, 1106 Ax, 286 BX. Issued-1772 Ax, 1144 Ax, 290Bx.</p> <p>Capt.R.COLLINGS, M.C., evacuated to Hospital -Battle Casualty (gassed)</p> <p>2/Lt.A.H.MOSS evacuated to Hospital.</p> <p>3 Gunners transferred to 4TH.A.F.A.B.</p> <p>2 O/R.evacuated to Hospital.</p> <p><u>Casualty</u>-9546 Cpl.BELL, S.H., evacuated to Hospital, wounded.</p> <p>1 O/R.posted to S.A.A.SECTION from 2ND.SECTION.</p> <p>4 G.S.wagon loads of amtn cartridge cases collected at Bty postns and returned to A.R.P.CONTAY.</p>

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WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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	<u>1918.</u> April		3 mules evacuated for vet. reasons. <u>Ailments-</u> Arthritis I, Spavin I, Wound punctured I.	
	17TH. Wed. (ctd.)		1 G.S. Wagon carting R.E. material forward for 5TH. A.F.A.B. <u>Ammunition-</u> O/C 2ND. SECTION delivered to 105TH. HOW. BTY 300 rds of BNC collected at A.R.P. CONTAY. O/C. 2ND. SECTION notified that all issues of BX from CONTAY DUMP will consist of Mark IX driving bands as long as that class of BX is held on charge.	
	18TH. Thur.		WEATHER-Dull, cold, light showers. Wind moderate to strong from ENE. DAILY STRENGTH- <u>Personnel-</u> Officers 19, O/R 658. <u>Animals</u> 73, Riders 73, mules 652. <u>Transport-</u> Unaltered. <u>Guns-</u> LEWIS guns 3.	
CONTAY.			AMMUNITION- Received from ARP CONTAY-120 A, 376 AX, 400 BX, 300 BNC. <u>Issued-</u> 728 A, 756 AX, 400 BX, 300 BNC. 8976 A/Bdr. MCINTYRE, O.H. promoted Bombardier vice Bdr. STEEL transfd. Advice received from Northern Corps Area (STEENWERCK AREA) that Lieut. DALY, with three Other Ranks, who had been detailed for duty on CORPS Amtn Dump, were safe. Lieut. DALY detained in the Northern Corps Area for duty in connection with the formation of new dumps at retiring positions in that Area. <u>Paper Salvage-</u> 40 lbs.	
BEHENCOURT			10 G.S. wagon-loads of empty cartridge cases collected at Gunpits and returned to A.R.P. CONTAY.	
	19TH. Fri.		WEATHER-Variable, cold with snow, hail, and rain squalls. Brief sunshine periods. Wind fresh and gusty from N.E. Night still, frosty, moonlit and clear. DAILY STRENGTH- <u>Personnel-</u> Officers 19, O/R. 657. <u>Animals-</u> Riders 73, mules 651. <u>Transport-</u> Unaltered. <u>Guns-</u> LEWIS guns 3.	

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WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	<u>1918.</u>			
	April		AMMUNITION-A.R.P. CONTAY- <u>Received</u> 528 A, 432 AX, 890 BX. <u>Issued</u> - 1240 A, 656 AX, 890 BX.	
	19TH.		Quarantine restrictions placed upon 2ND.AUST.D.A.C., and 104th.HOW.BTY on account of the discovery of a case of EPIZOOTIC LYMPHANGITIS amongst the animals removed (D.A.D.V.S. 2ND.AUST.DIV.7/7,19-4-18)	
	Fri.		4 Other Ranks evacuated to Hospital. I450 T/Bdr.FOURA A. promoted to the rank of Bombardier vice FOX evactd. 1000 sandbags issued to 4TH.BDE., 1500 to 15TH.BTY., 2500 allotted to Right Group, and a similar no. to Left Group. O.C.IST.SECTION reported Echelons refilled. 5 G.S.wagons at disposal of Div.Salvage Officer for duty in the Forward Area. Wagons to be returned to D.A.C.Lines nightly, and in the event of any development in fighting drivers to be instructed to return to D.A.C Lines forthwith.	
CONTAY.			2ND.AUST.DIV.ARTY H.Q.Memo (31/1/25) directed the observance of strict-est brevity, consistent with lucidity, in telephonic conversations. 2ND.AUST.D.A.H.Q.Memo, A 20/96, covered letter from 2ND.AUST.DIV. on the subject of reports that our aeroplanes had machine-gunned and bombed our own troops, and calling for report, should necessity arise, on the following points:-(I) Whether 2-seater or single-seater machine. (II) No. of machine and distinctive marking. (III) The type or brief description of machine. (IV) Whether machine alone or accompanied.	
BEHENCOURT			2 G.S.wagons carting duck-boards from QUERRIEUX R.E.Dump to RIGHT GROUP HQ O.Cs.IST.and 2ND.SECTIONS notified of withdrawal of G.S.wagons from the work of carting empties from Bty postns. Batteries having made own arrangements regarding same. Section Cdrs directed to refill Echelons at CONTAY DUMP, and to remain full. Amtn not to be issued to batteries without first ascertaining that refills are available at CONTAY.	
			2 G.S.wagons transporting T.M.ammunition to T.M.Battery positions at close support trenches.	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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	1918.		WEATHER -Heavy frost, light ground mist, bright and clear overhead. Clouded later, heavy rain, late afternoon clear and bright. Wind cold and fresh from S.W. veering to W. Night frosty and clear overhead.	
	April		DAILY STRENGTH -Personnel-Officers 19, O/R. 651.	
	20TH.		Animals - Riders 73, mules 651.	
	Sat.		Transport -Unaltered.	
			Guns - LEWIS guns 3.	
			AMMUNITION -Ex CONTAY DUMP. Received- 1447 A, 477 AX, 590 BX. Issued-590 BX.	
			2 Gunners transferred to 4TH.A.D.A.B.	
			Dripping Return -Returned to Railhead-140 lb.	
			Ration Statement -16 Officers, 603 Other Ranks. 73 Rides, 597 mules.	
CONTAY.			WEEKLY STRENGTH RETURN -Actually with Unit-15 Officers, 622 O/R., Sick in Divl Area-4 O/R.; On Command, etc.-1 Officer, 30 O/R.; Total Strength-16 Off., 656 O/R.; Required to complete-Nil; Excess of Establishment-1 Officer.	
			5 G.S.wagons on salvage work in Advanced Area.	
			2 " " transporting ammunition and supplies to 2ND.DIV.T.M.B. positions in close support trenches.	
			Ammunition Establishment -Section Cdrs notified of the increase of ammunition establishment for 18-Pdr, and 4.5-How., of 4TH.AUST.F.A.B. to 570 rds per 18-Pdr, and 450 per 4.5 How. Additional ammunition to complete new establishment issued from Echelons.	
			2 mules evacuated for vet. reasons. Ailments - Arthritis 1, Wound 1.	
BEHENCOURT			Cooking of Food -2ND.AUST.DIV.Memo I23//372, covered instructions from the D.M.S., FOURTH ARMY, relative to the cooking of food for troops, and setting forth that " It has been found that, sometimes, food is subjected to prolonged cooking (in some cases 5 hours) at boiling point. This procedure must be avoided as it causes the bulk of the nourishment to be lost. The correct temperature for cooking meat as supplied to troops is below boiling point (180 F.). Food ceases to cook below 165 deg.F., therefore, the food can be kept hot without destroying its nutritive value."	
			7 G.S.wagon-loads of empties returned to CONTAY Dump.	
			2ND.AUST.DIV.R.O. enjoined the observance of the necessity of preventing damage, as far as the exigencies of the campaign allowed, to growing crops.	

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CONTAY.	1918.		WEATHER-Frosty, misty, bright and clear overhead. Later, cloud-flecked skies.	
	April		Wind moderate from S. and S.W.	
	21ST.		DAILY STRENGTH- <u>Personnel</u> Officers 19.0/R.650.	
			Animals- Riders 73, mules 650.	
			Transport-Unaltered.	
	Sun.		Guns- LEWIS guns 3.	
			AMMUNITION-ex CONTAY DUMP. Received-764 A, 236 AX, 460 BX, 300 BX (gas).	
			Issued 2560 A, 640 AX, 2116 BX (inc. 300 gas), 1014000 SAA, 758 AP, 1308 Tracer, 5520 grenades, 3200 pist. web.	
			LAVIEVILLE Aerodrome- Building material at dismantled aerodrome near LAVIEVILLE reserved for purpose of providing shelter for troops.	
			Appointments- 2/Lieuts C.F.K.EKENSTEEN, and A.D.PATTISON appointed to the rank of Lieutenant. Dated 9-3-18.	
BEHENCOURT			Increase in allotments and separation allowances notified in current R.Os.	
			I Other Rank taken on strength from 40TH BATTALION, A.I.F.	
			I " " transferred to 4TH.A.F.A.B.	
			I " " posted from 2ND.SECTION to 1ST.SECTION.	
			Locations-2ND.AUST.D.A.C.HEADQUARTERS-BEHENCOURT CHATEAU. 1ST.and 2ND.	
			SECTIONS-BEHENCOURT VILLAGE-Eastern outskirts. S.A.A.SECTION-Eastern outskirts of the Village of CONTAY. Every advantage was taken of local cover, and the customary precautions taken against the enemy action from the air. Horse lines, where other protection was insufficient, were protected by splinter-proof walls of earth each side.	
			2ND.AUST.DIV.MOBILE VET.SECTION located at BEAUCOURT. Refilling Point-D.A.D.O.BEAUCOURT.	
			Machine-gun-Aircraft Engagements- 2ND.AUST.D.A.H.Q.Memo, A 20/98, covered FOURTH ARMY letter on the subject of machine guns engaging aircraft bearing Allied markings; stating that stringent orders had been issued against that practice; and that "no single authenticated instance of the enemy flying captured British machines had come to light."	
			5 G.S.wagons on salvage work in the Advanced Area.	
			Echelons refilled at CONTAY DUMP to the extent necessary to compensate for the depletion in connection with the supply of additional ammunition to the 4TH.A.F.A.B.	

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	<u>1918.</u>		Church Parades for all Denominations held.	
	April		<u>Trench Mortar Transport-2ND.AUST.D.A.H.Q.</u> Memo., 28/26, directed that, in the event of DIVL T.M. Batteries requiring to move as a consequence of aggressive enemy action, the 2ND.AUST.D.A.C. would supply the D.T.M.O. with	
	21ST.		4 G.S. wagons, teams and drivers; and further stated that in such event, the	
	Sun.		Echelon ammunition establishment would be reduced by the quantity which these wagons would otherwise carry.	
	(ctd.)			
CONTAY.	22ND.		WEATHER-Unsettled. Wind light from S.W. DAILY STRENGTH- <u>Personnel-Officers</u> 19,0/R.65I. <u>Animals-</u> Riders 73, mules 650. <u>Transport-Unaltered.</u> <u>Guns-</u> LEWIS 3.	
	Mon.		AMMUNITION-Ex CONTAY DUMP- <u>Received</u> -2024 A, 876 AX, 2688 BX, <u>Issued-</u> 1988 A, 712 AX, 1344 BX. Section Dump Parties relieved by other Section personnel. Relief completed by 8 a.m. <u>Camouflage</u> -20 sets of camouflage nets collected from CORPS Camouflage Officer, FLESSELLES, for distribution to Brigades. <u>Salvage</u> -2ND.AUST.D.A.H.Q. Memo., T33/47, directed the return of empty biscuit boxes to BEHENCOURT Salvage Dump, for use of Sanitary Section as material for latrine construction.	
BEHENCOURT	23RD.		WEATHER-Damp, dull, misty. Wind moderate from N. DAILY STRENGTH- <u>Personnel-Officers</u> 19,0/R.65I. <u>Animals-</u> Rides 73, mules 650. <u>Transport-Unaltered.</u> <u>Guns-</u> LEWIS guns 3.	
	Tues.		AMMUNITION-Ex CONTAY DUMP. <u>Received</u> -1000 A, 500 AX, 660 BX (300 BNC). <u>Issued-</u> 1700 A, 400 AX, 660 BX, 204 AP, 56 T. 1 G.S. wagon supplying D.T.M. Btries in close supports; 4 salvaging in advance Area; 7 returned empty cartridge cases to dump. 1 mule evacuated for vet reasons. <u>Ailment</u> -Punctured sole.	

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	<u>1918.</u>		WEATHER-Unchanged. Wind light northerly. DAILY STRENGTH- <u>Personnel</u> -Officers 19,0/R.65I.	
	April		<u>Animals</u> - Rides 73, mules 649. <u>Transport</u> -Unaltered.	
	24TH.		<u>Guns</u> - LEWIS guns 3. AMMUNITION-Ex CONTAY DUMP- <u>Received</u> -1288 A, 172 AX, <u>Issued</u> -632 A, 168 AX, 40 AP, 310 Tracer.	
CONTAY.	Wed.		Town of AMIENS placed out of bounds to all troops. Town of ABBEVILLE placed out of bounds to all ranks below that of Lieut. Colonel.	
			<u>Dripping Return</u> -Current R.O. contained following table of dripping returns for AUSTRALIAN CORPS for month of March, 1918:-	
			Ist. AUST. DIV.....25,209 lbs.	
			2ND. AUST. DIV.....14,932 "	
			3RD. AUST. DIV.....14,207 "	
			4TH. AUST. DIV.....11,906 "	
			5TH. AUST. DIV.....36,694 "	
			AUST. CORPS TROOPS.....5,053 "	
			ARMY and Other Troops.....4,966 "	
			Total. <u>112,967 lbs.</u>	
BEHENCOURT			2 G.S. wagons on salvage work in advanced area. <u>Camouflage</u> -Nets and wire set apart for issue to Bdes on following scale: Right Group-9 sets; Left Group 10 sets; 2ND. AUST. D.T.M.O. 1 set. <u>Health Report</u> - R.M.O. reported that health of Unit continues good; that water supply and carts have received customary attention; That cooking and sanitary arrangements satisfactory; prevailing diseases nil; no. of rfts for the week-1. <u>Precautionary</u> - 2ND. AUST. DIV. Letter, A18/99, 24-4-18, received under covering memo. from 2ND. AUST. B.A.H.Q. <u>Purport</u> -Pointing out the importance of restricting movement over exposed ground forward of the line SENLIS-BEHENCOURT-BAZIEUX-ST. LAWRENCE FARM; directing the use of trenches and "dead ground" when movement within exposed area becomes necessary; movement near the several Unit Headquarters to be minimised; men in exposed trenches to be kept under cover.	

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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CONTAY.	1918. April 25TH.		<p>WEATHER-Cold, dull, damp, misty, afternoon clearer. Wind N. veering to N.E. DAILY STRENGTH-<u>Personnel</u>-Officers 19, O/R. 651. <u>Animals</u>- Riders 73, mules 647. <u>Transport</u>-Unaltered. <u>Guns</u>- LEWIS guns 3. AMMUNITION-Ex CONTAY DUMP-<u>Received</u>-500 A, 300 AX, <u>Issued</u>- 600 A, 200 AX, 600 BX, 130 AP, 10 Tracer. <u>Care of S.A.A. Ammunition</u>-2ND. AUST. DIV. Adm. Memo. No 203, 24-4-18, on "SALVAGE AND CARE OF S.A.A." circulated to Sections. Lieut. C.E. MICHELL, LIEUTS. P.J. MAHER, and H.J. DRISCOLL taken on strength ex A.G.B.D. and posted to 2ND. SEC, S.A.A. SEC., and 1ST. SEC. respectively. 1 O/R. rejoined Unit. 1 O/R. evacuated to Hospital. 4 Rides collected from 2ND. AUST. D.A.H.Q. <u>Paper Salvage</u>- Paper 120 Lbs, cardboard 40 Lbs. <u>Weekly strength Return</u>-Actually with Unit-19 Off., 679 O/R; Sick in Divl Area-3 O/R.; On Command, etc..-1 Off., 16 O/R.; Total Strength, 20 Off., 698 O/R.; War Estab.-15 Off., 656 O/R.; Required to complete-Nil; Excess of Estab.-5 Officers, 42 Other Ranks.</p>	
	26TH. Fri.		<p>WEATHER-Light sunshine breaks, cold, misty. Wind from N.W. to N. light. DAILY STRENGTH-<u>Personnel</u>-Officers 22, O/R. 699. <u>Animals</u>- Riders 76, mules 645. <u>Transport</u>-Unaltered. <u>Guns</u>- LEWIS guns 3. AMMUNITION-Ex CONTAY DUMP-<u>Received</u> -230 BX. <u>Issued</u>- Nil. <u>Gas Shelling</u>-Copies of FOURTH ARMY No. G.S. II/3 "Report on Gas Shell Bombardment on III CORPS Front, April 17/18th., 1918, distributed to Sections (included with appendices). <u>Location</u>-Divl Armourers' Workshop located VILLERS BOCAGE. Arrangements made for repair and overhaul of LEWIS Guns and Bicycles. <u>Promotion</u>-11880 A/Cpl NEWMAN, WTSI, 1ST. SEC., promoted to the rank of Corporal, vice BRADLEY with R.B.A.A. ENGLAND. 48 O/R taken on strength from BASE. 2 O/R evactd to Hospital. 4 G.S. wagons conveyed T.M. Amtn to Trench mortar positions in close sup- port trenches.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">A.S.H.</p>

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	1918.			
	26TH.		8 G.S.wagons salvaging in advanced area. Camouflage- 2 sets nets, and 8 rolls of wire delivered to 4TH.A.F.A.BDE, and 8 rolls wire, 2 sets nets, 2 sheets scrim to I4TH.BATTERY.	
	Fri.		Issue of linseed to animals prohibited until further notice.	
	(ctd.)		Camouflage-4 fish-nets, 12 rolls wire, and 2 sets scrim available at Q.M.S.Stop for distribution. Bathing Parade of personnel at AGNICOURT Baths. 8 additional G.S.wagons on salvage work in advanced area.	
CONTAY.	27TH.		WEATHER-Unsettled, prospects of finer weather. Wind light from N.W. DAILY STRENGTH-Personnel-Officers 22, O/R. 707. Animals- Riders 76, mules 644. Transport-Unaltered. Guns- LEWIS guns 3.	
BEHENCOURT	Sat.		AMMUNITION-Ex CONTAY DUMP-Received-500 A, 300 AX. Issued 500 A, 300 AX. I O/R. transferred to 4TH.Bde. I O/R. tfd to 5TH Bde. I " taken on strength from BASE. I from Hospital. All estaminets in the Town of WARLOY placed out of bounds to troops. 9 O/R. taken on strength from BASE. Camouflage-4 fish-nets, 12 rolls wire, and 2 sets scrim set apart for delivery on call to each CENTRE and RIGHT GROUP respectively . 8 G.S.wagons salvaging in the Forward Area. Dripping Return- 200 lbs. Ration Statement-Officers 21, O/R. 715. Rides 82, mules 636. 3 mules evacuated for vet. reasons. Ailment- Ophthalmia.	
	28TH.		WEATHER-Dull, misty, light rain. Wind moderate from N.E. DAILY STRENGTH-Personnel-Officers 22, O/R. 706. Animals- Riders 76, mules 644. Transport-Unaltered. Guns- LEWIS guns 3.	
	Sun.		AMMUNITION-Ex CONTAY DUMP-Received-500 A, 200 AX, 670 BX. Issued-600 A, 100 AX, 300 BX.	

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WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CONTAY.	1918. April		25 O/R. tfd. to 4TH.A.F.A.B. ; 27 O/R.tfd.to 5TH.A.F.A.B. ; II O/R tfd to 2ND.DIV.T.M.B.	
	28TH. Sun. (ctd.)		2 O/R.evac.to Hospital. Lieut.J.DALY ceased to be attached for duty with IST.SECTION on his taking over the duties of C.A.R.O. Grazing-Grazingrights secured respecting field near BEHENCOURT CHATEAU. 7 G.S.wagon-loads of empty shell cases returned to A.R.P.CONTAY.	
	29TH. Mon.		WEATHER-Fine generally. Sunshine and dulness alternating. Wind moderate from S.W. DAILY STRENGTH- <u>Personnel</u> -Officers 22,O/R.64I. <u>Animals</u> - Riders 76,mules 644. <u>Transport</u> -Unaltered. <u>Guns</u> - LEWIS guns 3.	
BEHENCOURT			AMMUNITION-Ex CONTAY- <u>Received</u> - 300 A,100 AX. <u>Issued</u> - 300 A,100 AX. I N.C.O. reported at CONTAY DUMP for duty. 600 rds salved BX and charges delivered to IO4TH.BATTERY. BAZIEUX WOOD DUMP-Dump for salved ammunition established by the C.O.,Major RAY,D.S.O.,near BAZIEUX WOOD near 4TH.A.F.A.B.Wagon lines. 1 G.S.wagon collecting camouflage material at FLESSELLES. 6 " " salvaging in the Forward Area. 2ND.AUST.D.A.H.Q.Memo.,T33/33,29-4-18,directed attention to the necessity of making the salving of jam cartons as complete as possible. 2ND.AUST.D.A.H.Q.Memo.T 14/12,28-4-18,covered copy of letter from G.H.Q. (5129,Q.C.I,22-4-18) on the subject of the use of chloride of lime as a dissipating agent for gas. <u>Precis</u> -Regarding reports of the value of Chloride of Lime as a dissipating agent for gas,and doubts as to its deleterious effect on guns and ammunition the following points should be noted; 1-Chloride of lime is considered ineffective on guns and metal components of ammunition provided it is not left in contact longer than from 2 to 3 hours in a moist atmosphere. Where metal is protected by paint or varnish little or no action would result. 2- <u>Cartridges</u> - If propellant has been in direct contact with solid Chloride of Lime,or has	

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WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	<u>1918.</u>		been exposed to gaseous fumes, the cartridges should be fired off or destroyed, as the Chloride of Lime will affect the stability of the explosive.	
	April 29TH. (etd.)			
CONTAY.	30TH.		WEATHER-Cold, dull, foggy, showery. Wind moderate from N. DAILY STRENGTH- <u>Personnel-Officers</u> 22, O/R. 640. <u>Animals- Riders</u> 76, mules 644. <u>Transport-Unaltered.</u> <u>Guns-</u> LEWIS guns 3.	
	Tues.		AMMUNITION-EX CONTAY DUMP- <u>Received-600 BX</u> (salved). <u>Issued- 600 BX.</u> Congratulatory The following message from AUSTRALIAN CORPS, 29-4-18, received through 2ND. AUST. DIV. ARTY published in current R.O.: "Following from Military Secretary begins:- Please ask General BIRDWOOD to inform all ranks of the AUSTRALIAN CORPS that the Field Marshal is fully aware of the gallant conduct and magnificent achievement of the AUSTRALIANS and wishes to thank them. The splendid services of the 1ST. DIVISION in the North has not escaped his notice and the Field Marshal desires to include them in this expression of his appreciation. Ends."	
BEHENCOURT			From Minister for Defence, MELBOURNE to G.O.C.A.I.F.- " Will be glad if following message to troops can be promulgated, begins:- AUSTRALIAN People proud of what Field Marshal HAIG says of you. Well done AUSTRALIANS! "-Senator PEARCE. Protection against Enemy Aircraft-D.R.O. I676 directed the rigid observance of orders respecting adequate protection of hutments, etc., against enemy aerial bombs I O/R. tfd to 4TH. A.F.A.B. 2 O/R. evac to Hospital. Lieut. W.B. McDONALD took over duties from an Officer of the 4TH. AUST. DIV. ARTY at CONTAY DUMP. Ammunition-Section Commanders advised that all 18-Pdr and 4.5-How. amtn would, until further orders, be drawn by Batteries from Salved Amtn Dump at BAZIEUX.	

E.K.U.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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	1918.			
	April			
	30TH.			
	Tues.			
	(ctd.)			
CONTAY.			<p>I mule collected from 2ND.AUST.DIV.MOBILE VET.SECTION.</p> <p>I G.S.wagon conveying T.M.material and amtn to T.M.Battery positions at close support trenches in the front line.</p> <p>500 rds of 18-Pdr.amtn salved near WARLOY and returned to CONTAY DUMP.</p> <p>6 G.S.wagons salvaging in the advanced area.</p> <p>AMMUNITION RESERVE PARK,CONTAY.-Amtn taken over from 4TH.AUST.DIV.ARTY:-</p> <p>1392 A,1998 A Smoke,1784 AX,2780 BX,2880 Charges,900 B Smoke,4702 BNC., 900 BC/BR, 719 TMJ,716 CPS,24 S.O.S. Reduced charges-223 A.Defective 193 AX.</p> <p><u>Remounts</u>- I Officer and 12 O/R. reported to 20TH.A.A.S.C.,BEHENCOURT,at 2 p.m.,and proceeded from there by lorry to PICQUINY to collect on morning of the 1ST.May, 25 light draught horses.</p> <p>8 G.S.wagons salvaging in advanced area.</p>	
BEHENCOURT				

E.H.

WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p>2ND. AUST. DIVL AMMN COLUMN- <u>OFFICERS' NOMINAL ROLL.</u></p> <p><u>HEADQUARTERS</u>-Major J. RAY, D.S.O. C.O. Major V.F. CROWE, A.A.M.C. R.M.O. Lieut. G.H. MUNN ADJT.</p> <p><u>1ST. SECTION</u>- Capt. S.C. LEWIS O.C. Lieut. A.C. SHERRINGTON Lieut. J. DALY (Temp detached) 2/Lt. C.F. EKENSTEEN Lieut. C.G.F. CAMPBELL (Anti-Tank G.) Chap. The Rev. D.P. MACDONALD (Pres.)</p> <p><u>2ND. SECTION</u>- Capt. E.R. JUSTELIUS O.C. Lieut. W.B. MACDONALD (Romarin Dump) Lieut. C.L. HEATH 2/Lt. A.D. PATTISON Lieut. A. ROBERTS (Anti-Tank Guns) 2/Lt. G.H. MOSS Chap. The Rev. A.W. TONGE (C.E.)</p> <p><u>S?AA. SECTION</u>- Capt. J.M. MITCHELL O.C. Capt. R. COLLINGS (Hosptl gassed) Lieut. E.T. HEARNE Lieut. C.G. ROBERTS (Anti-Tank Guns) 2/Lt. J.M. BEVAN.</p>	
	1st. April, 1918.			

E.H.

WAR DIARY

OF

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL AMMUNITION COLUMN.

FOR

APRIL, 1918.

LIST OF APPENDICES.

- | No. | Subject. |
|------|--|
| ✓ 1. | MONTHLY SUMMARY. |
| ✓ 2. | R.M.O's MONTHLY REVIEW. |
| ✓ 3. | POINTS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF FIGHTING EFFICIENCY. |
| ✓ 5. | * SALVAGE AND CARE OF S.A.A. |

* Contained in original file only.

*E. H. Lawrence
2nd Aust. D.A.C.
Lieut. Adj.*

WAR 0 DIARY.

appendix (1)

APPENDIX NO. I.APRIL, 1918.MONTHLY SUMMARY.

PERSONNEL-Officers-Three Officers, Lieuts. C.F. MICHELL, P.J. MAHER, and H.J. DRISCOLL, were added to strength from A.G.B.D. 2/Lieut. A.H. MOSS was evacuated to Hospital sick, and Capt. R. COLLINGS, M.C., evacuated gassed.

Lt. J. DALY ceased attachment to IST. SECTION on his taking over the duties of C.A.R.O.

Lt. W.B. McDONALD took over duties connected with the AMMUNITION RESERVE PARK, CONTAY, from an Officer of the 4TH. DIV. ARTY. (AUST.)

Other Ranks-62 Other Ranks were taken on strength from BASE, 4 from other Units, and 9 rejoined from Hospital. Off strength were 70 transferred to the 4TH A.F.A.B., 67 to the 5TH A.F.A.B. 12 to the 2ND. DIVL TRENCH MORTAR BATTERIES, and 1 to 2ND. AUST. D.A.H.Q. 22 were evacuated to Hospital, sick.

HEALTH OF UNIT- Medical reports continued satisfactory, the Unit keeping free from disease. The R.M.O's Monthly Review is attached.

TRAINING- The 2ND. AUST. D.A.C. was directed to provide personnel for Anti-Tank Gun Detachments, and, accordingly, classes of instruction were instituted at HEADQUARTERS at the beginning of the month under Lieut. A. ROBERTS. 15-Pdr. guns were used. On completion of the course regular reliefs were arranged with LEFT GROUP for manning the Anti-Tank Guns forward. Eight complete 15-Pdr. Gun Detachments were thus provided for. On receiving instructions to move to another Area these Detachments were relieved by Detachments from the 6TH (ARMY) BDE. The 15-Pdr. Guns were also taken over by the relieving Unit.

MOVEMENT- On the 3rd. inst. the 2ND. AUST. DIVL AMTN COLUMN, in compliance with instructions, moved from positions in the STEENWERCK AREA to the MERRIS AREA. All surplus stores had been dumped earlier at temporary stores in the Village of MERRIS for subsequent removal to the Town of ARQUES near ST. OMER, and the Column travelled completely mobile.

Keeness, efficiency, and readiness for any military demand marked the demeanour of the men as they marched out; the animals were at the top of condition, and gear and equipment in first-class order. The Column halted for a time at and near OUTERSTEENE, and awaited entrainment for the AMIENS AREA.

The S.A.A. SECTION was divided into three sub-sections which were in turn attached to the 5TH, 6TH, and 7TH AUST. INFY BRIGADES, respectively.

On Sunday, 7th of April, the Column marched from their temporary locations in the MERRIS AREA to STRAZEELE and CAESTRE respectively, for entrainment to the Southern fighting zone. The entrainment operation was carried out with energy, in excellent order, and in quick time. The HEADQUARTERS UNIT occupied half an hour from the time that railway rolling stock became available until every animal, vehicle, and all impedimenta (including outfits of attached A.M.C. and A.A.S.C. details) were entrucked. Rations for 48 hours were carried. The rail route followed was via HAZEBROUCK, ST. OMER, GUINES, CALAIS, BOULOGNE, ETAPLES, ABBEVILLE to AMIENS. The Column reached AMIENS RAILWAY STATION about 5-30 a.m. on Monday, 8th. A thick fog veiled the arrival of the trains, and, as an aerial raid was in progress, this, probably, proved a favorable factor in the subsequent successful detrainment. An hour later the Column was on the march to appointed lineward locations, the route being through the City of AMIENS northeasterly through the Villages of RAINNEVILLE and ST. GRATIEN respectively. Heavy rain, driven by a cold northeasterly, prevailed during the march. A halt was made at the Village of MOLLIENS AU BOIS (Map Ref.-AMIENS 40,000, B.2.), roughly 11 kilometres from

AMIENS. Wagon lines were fixed in the grounds of the local Chateau, and as favorably sited as possible in a field of hoof-churned mud. Owing to the overcrowded state of the Village, refugees and other troops taxing accommodation to the utmost, considerable difficulty was encountered in billeting personnel. Temporary shelters were, however, soon erected within the lines, dilapidated outhouses made as weather-proof as possible, and in other ways a reasonable degree of comfort for all hands was assured. The cooking arrangements and commissariat proved excellent despite changed field conditions.

Punctually at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, 9th April, the Formation, on very brief notice, moved forward via MONTIGNY to the Village of BEHENCOURT where temporary wagon lines were established on the eastern outskirts of the Village. 1ST. and 2ND. SECTIONS established horse lines in cuttings and along the road bed of a dismantled railway, advantage being taken of the excellent cover afforded. Where protection from bomb and shell splinters was not given by the abandoned railway works protective banks on a 4/2 batter were later built. At about 7 p.m. enemy H.E. and gas shells lodged ineffectively near the Section lines. On the following day HEADQUARTERS moved to the grounds of the BEHENCOURT Chateau where lines were established well under wooded cover. Shelters for personnel were erected, and some were billeted in the Chateau buildings.. Section personnel constructed dug-outs where necessary, and, otherwise, occupied billets in the Village or splinter-protected huts within a near-by War Prisoners' Compound.

OPERATIONS- The 2ND. AUST. D.A.C., after arrival in the battle area, entered upon its regular work as soon as the Artillery Brigades went into action.

The S.A.A. SECTION remained with the DIVISIONAL INFANTRY BRIGADES, and supplemented the Brigades' Small Arms Ammunition transport. One Sub-section was located at BLANGY-TRONVILLE, one on the eastern outskirts of CONTAY, and the remainder formed mobile echelons at BAZIEUX, and at the rear of HENENCOURT WOOD, S.E. from WARLOY. Later the Sub-Section stationed at BLANGY-TRONVILLE moved to the Headquarter's lines of the Section at CONTAY. A small S.A.A. dump was formed by one of the mobile echelons at the DIVL INFANTRY Transport Lines on the southern edge of BAZIEUX, and tree-screened from aerial observation. The other Echelon carried on wheels 400,000 rounds of S.A.A., 3000 STOKES', and 3000 MILLS' grenades 1ST. and 2ND. SECTIONS **CARRIED** on their normal work of keeping batteries supplied, carting to the gun-pits where necessary, otherwise delivering to Battery wagon lines.

Enemy activity was well marked during the period, and ammunition had to be conveyed forward under the usual risks and difficulties of the battle zone. The road connecting LAVIEVILLE and BRESLE, and thence leading on to the ALBERT-AMIENS Route Nationale was subjected to almost continual enemy attention, and drivers, at their discretion, used the higher ridgeside road east of ST. LAURENCE FARM with success.

The HEADQUARTERS Unit which had hitherto been employed solely on work of a routine character, began to be now employed more actively, sharing with the Sections the work of ammunition transport, and, in the circumstances, the no less important work of salvaging in the advanced area. Necessary transport was placed at the disposal of the DIVISIONAL TRENCH MORTAR OFFICER, and, in addition to the Field Artillery Brigades, the Divl Trench Mortar Batteries were kept supplied with stores and ammunition. The latter were located in close support trenches within, approximately, 300 yards of the enemy's front line. The transport of supplies therefore involved considerably greater hazard as, in addition to shell-fire, drivers necessarily came under machine-gun and sniper fire. From the abandoned LAVIEVILLE Aerodrome to the Trench Mortar position, a distance of from 2 to 3 kilometres the road was in many places, and for considerable distances, entirely exposed to enemy view, and, consequently, could only be used at dusk or after dark. Though often sniped at by field and machine gunners the drivers were fortunate in getting through nightly without a casualty, probably as a result of experience, gained under similar conditions, in other sectors, being intelligently applied. Included amongst the duties of the T.M. transport was the conveyance of the remains of Trench Mortar personnel

who had been killed in action, to the rear for interment.

In addition to increased ammunition transport duties due to the altered campaign conditions the 2ND. AUST. D.A.C. conveyed R.E. material forward, and, when possible, performed much valuable and important salvage work, particularly in respect of the recovery of previously abandoned Field Gun ammunition.

DUMPS- Echelons refilled when necessary, and drew all other essential ammunition supplies from the AMMUNITION RESERVE PARK, CONTAY. Small subsidiary dumps were established ^{at convenient} points forward, the usual precautions respecting camouflage and distribution of stacks being taken. In no instance was loss of ammunition by enemy action reported.

On the 28th inst. a dump of salvaged ammunition was formed near the 4TH. A.F.A.B. wagon lines at BAZIEUX WOOD by the C.O., Major J. RAY, D.S.O. Facilities for speedy distribution, proximity to Brigade wagon lines, and satisfactory cover were points considered in the choice, and advantages ensured on the site chosen.

SALVAGE- Important salvage work, valuable monetarily and militarily, was performed by the Column both under the direction of the DIVISIONAL SALVAGE OFFICER, and independently. The main effort was directed towards the recovery of abandoned ammunition, and this was effected to a highly satisfactory degree. Advantage was taken of foggy, therefore favorable, weather to gather in derelict shells from practically under the nose of enemy artillery, and from one comparatively restricted area, forward of SENLIS, as many as 13,500 rounds of 18-Pdr, and 4.5-How. ammunition were collected and brought in. The intrinsic value of this save alone approximated £76,000. In addition much other valuable war material was recovered from the advanced area, including empty shell cases and ammunition boxes which were collected with care, and returned to Dump.

The usual economic rules regarding waste paper, fat by-products, etc., were observed, and economy generally rigidly practised, though not to an extent affecting the general efficiency of the Column.

CASUALTIES- In the course of the month Capt. R. COLLINGS, M.C., while temporarily commanding the 13TH. BATTERY, was gassed, and had, subsequently to be evacuated.

On the 16th inst. the lines of the an S.A.A. SECTION mobile echelon at the rear of HENINCOURT WOOD (V.26.a.7.5.) near WARLOY were heavily shelled. As a result of one burst 9546 Corporal BELL was severely wounded. In addition one horse and 5 mules were killed outright, and four were wounded; one of the latter having later to be destroyed. Enemy attention was, evidently, not directed particularly to these lines, which were well under cover, but, as a number of batteries were within the vicinity, it was probably due to counter battery effort. It was decided to move the lines to a less marked position to the rear of the WARLOY-BAZIEUX Road, about midway between those villages, and this movement was not delayed. The wisdom of this plan became plain when, later, the vacated position was hotly strafed, and many casualties caused to personnel and animals of other Formations within the vicinity.

ANIMALS- All animals were constantly under veterinary observation, and their good health and condition generally maintained. For a short period quarantine restrictions were imposed upon the Column on account of a case of epizootic lymphangitis being reported. Stringent precautions were immediately taken, and on proof that the case was an isolated one, the restrictions were later lifted. A small number of mules had to be evacuated for veterinary reasons, the ailments being ophthalmia, arthritis, and wounds.

CAMOUFLAGE AND OTHER STORES- In the course of the month the 2ND. AUST. D.A.C. became the distributing agency for camouflage, tents, and a limited quantity of other ordnance stores. These were collected at Divisional Depots, and issued on call from Brigades from the H.Q. Q.M. Store.

DEFENCE FROM AERIAL ATTACK- Machine-guns proved a useful measure of protection against aerial bombardment, and some of the gunners attained considerable proficiency with the LEWIS weapon.

RECREATIONAL- Sports, and other active forms of recreation, were held during hours of relaxation, and were under the patronage of, and

directly encouraged by the C.O., Section Commanders, and other Officers.

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NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS WITH THE 2ND. AUST.

DIVL AMMUNITION COLUMN.

HEADQUARTERS-	Major J. RAY, D.S.O.	C.O.
	Major V. F. CROWE (A.A.M.C.)	M.O.
	Lieut. G. H. NUNN	ADJT.
IST. SECTION-	Capt. S. C. LEWIS	O.C.
	Lieut. A. C. SHERRINGTON	
	Lieut. C. E. EKENSTEEN	
	Lieut. C. G. F. CAMPBELL	
	Lieut. H. J. DRISCOLL	
	Chap. The Rev. D. P. MACDONALD (Pres)	
2ND. SECTION-	Capt. E. R. JUSTELIUS	O.C.
	Lieut. J. DALY (Athd. C.A.R.O.)	
	Lieut. W. B. McDONALD	
	Lieut. C. L. HEATH	
	Lieut. A. ROBERTS	
	Lieut. A. D. PATTISON (Atchd S.A.A. SECTION)	
	Lieut. C. E. MICHELL	
	Chap. The Rev. A. W. TONGE (C.E.)	
S.A.A. SECTION→	Capt. J. E. MITCHELL	O.C.
	Lieut. E. T. HEARNE	
	Lieut. C. G. ROBERTS	
	Lieut. C. L. VERON	
	2/Lieut. P. J. MAHER.	

28th. April, 1918.

Summary War Diary
Regimental Aid Post - 2nd. Aust. D.A.C.

April, 1918.

During the month the S.A.A. Section has been detached from the rest of the Column, and has therefore not been under the supervision of the R.M.O. All Statistics etc., regarding sickness in the Column must be taken to mean Headquarters, and the 1st. and 2nd. Sections.

On the 2nd April, the Column moved from the STEENWERCK AREA and spent three days billetedⁿ and around OUTERSTEENE prior to - - entraining for the SOMME. While en route 4 cases were evacuated., 1 of Diarrhoea, 1 Rheumatism, 1 Dermatitis, and 1 Parotitis (a - recent arrival from Base).

On arrival in the new Area, the Column was billeted in BEHENCOURT. The health of the men in their new positions has been excellent, and for the whole month there were only 12 evacuations. Of these 3 were Rheumatism, 1 Scabies (a recurrence) and the cases of - - Parotitis and Dermatitis above mentioned.

At various times and for varying periods, this Aid Post has dealt with 3rd. and 4th. A.T.M.B. 189th. R.F.A. Brigade Wagon Lines, 21st Battalion, A.I.F. and 5th. A.F.A. Bde. Wagon Lines.

In spite of the difficulty of obtaining stores at Field Ambulances the shortage of Drugs has not been acutely felt, and the greatest economy is being practiced.

No Civilian Cases have been treated in the present Area.

(570) V. F. CROWE,

..... Major. A.A.M.C.
R.M.O. 2nd. Aust. D.A.C.

WAR ---c--- DIARY.

APPENDIX NO. 3APRIL, 1918.POINTS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF
FIGHTING EFFICIENCY.

Following is a precis of 2ND.AUST.DIV.ARTY Memo., A.II/62 of 16th. April, containing points for the improvement of fighting efficiency:-

1.- The working of wireless stations and communications with the air has not reached the state of efficiency which moving warfare demands. At present air calls are frequent and its operative maintenance depends on alertness of operators.

Special attention to the means of repeating messages to batteries from GROUP-H.Q. received by GROUP H.Q. is necessary. Lack of this has been the main cause of delay hitherto. An alternative system is necessary to provide for interruption of telephonic communication.

Inter-communication between batteries and brigades have sometimes proved unsatisfactory. In a state of war such as lately existed difficulties become great owing to wire shortage and lack of opportunity of providing any but open routes. Utilisation of visual signalling did not receive sufficient attention. In some cases also brigade headquarters were not situated so as to simplify communication with batteries.

2.- Communication of right and left brigades with flank brigades of adjoining corps is necessary, as a precautionary provision for ascertaining the situation on our flanks. Wire shortage and the difficulties of moving or semi moving warfare probably accounts for a tendency to neglect this means of inter-communication. Artillery units should be in touch during movement.

3.- 18 Pdr. Battery personnel should include a sufficient number of men having a working knowledge of the air recuperator. FOURTH ARMY arrangements for the instruction of a limited number are in progress, but present facilities are necessarily small. Instruction should not be limited to those 18-Pdr batteries only at present equipped with the air recuperator.

4.- It has become essential to have battery personnel trained in the use of open sights, in addition all officers should be able to take on targets of opportunity. The personnel of some batteries have been insufficiently trained in the use of open sights. This disability should be removed, and officers and other ranks accustomed to altered conditions from trench warfare.

5. Some batteries are apparently still unequipped with full complement of machine guns. This condition should be immediately removed. Besides the value of this weapon for anti-aircraft defence it is very useful for close defence against hostile infantry in attack.

6. Apparently in some cases liaison between artillery and infantry is not as satisfactory as it should be. The general principle is that the artillery liaison officer should keep his artillery informed of the situation in so far as the infantry is concerned. In this respect it again becomes necessary to provide easy means of communication. Otherwise the presence of the liaison officer becomes neutralised. If wire is not available visual means or the employment of orderlies must be resorted to.

(Sgd.) C.A. CLOWES, Major,
Brigade-Major.
2ND.AUST.DIV.ARTY.

Headquarters,
16th. April, 1918.

Second Australian Division.Divisional Headquarters,
24th, April, 1918.Administrative Memorandum No. 203.Salvage and Care of S.A.A.

appendix 5.

1. Attention is again directed to the waste of S.A.A. which takes - - place in the Divisional Area.
2. Efforts are to be made to interest the men in the saving of S.A.A. instead of relying on salvaging parties for the latter method is not nearly as satisfactory as the former.
3. It should be pointed out to all ranks from time to time that the cost of production of S.A.A. is increasing and what is more - - - important, it is becoming increasingly difficult to get the metal and explosive material, so that every round saved is a great help to our cause.
4. Each round of Ammunition should be looked upon as a precious - - production that will kill a German. Many ladies of the Empire are encouraged to work hard at the manufacture of S.A.A. by the - belief that each Bullet will find a German Billet, and they would be greatly discouraged if they got to know of the wastage that - occurs from carelessness at the front.
5. Shipping, railway, motor and horse transport are of the greatest - importance at this time, and it is to be regretted that space - power, haulage, wear and tear, and labour should be wasted by the lack of care of ammunition which is too often shown.
6. Boxes and Bags, marked salvaged S.A.A. are to be placed in Billets, on tracks and communication trenches, etc., so that all rounds picked up may be collected. All ranks are to be taught that ammunition - which is discoloured is not necessarily unserviceable., even if it had been under water, and that rusted or muddy ammunition should be cleaned and used.
7. At frequent intervals a portion of parades is to be devoted to - ammunition cleaning and Platoon Commanders will frequently check the number of rounds each man is carrying. The pockets on the equipment will also be cleaned and inspected at frequent intervals. special attention being paid to the catches, which must open - - - freely, yet must be firm enough to keep closed when a man is - - - running. Very stiff catches should be oiled if necessary, so that the equipment will not be damaged by fierce tugging to open the pockets for damaged pockets lead to the loss of far too many charges of S.A.A.
8. The necessity for buttoning up pockets after ~~xxx~~ loading and - - before movement is to be impressed on the men at all parades. Men are often seen going about with pockets open. officers and N.C.O's will take special care to prevent this.

Signed. J.M.A. Durrant. Lieut. Colonel.
A.A. and Q.M.G. 2nd. Aust. Division.2nd. D.A.C. H.Q.
25.4.1918.