

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

Artillery

**Item number:** 13/89/1

**Title:** HQ, 1st and 2nd Australian Siege  
Battery Ammunition Columns

March - April 1918



AWM4-13/89/1



1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> A. Bae. Amm Column

March 18 — May 1918



**CONFIDENTIAL.**

ORIGINAL.

~~DUPLICATE.~~

~~TRIPLICATE.~~

*1918*

**Australian Imperial Force.**

**WAR DIARY**

OF

*1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Aust Siege Bde Beersheba*

FOR

*Mar 14<sup>th</sup> to April 19<sup>th</sup> 1918*

**ACKNOWLEDGED.**  
**25 APR 1918**

Signature of Officer compiling

*Charles J. Rossard*

Signature of Officer Commanding

*Charles J. Rossard*  
*Comd*



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

1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Aust Army Siege  
Bde Col

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
FLETRE	17		By order D.M.T.S. A.I.F. I took over M.T. REINFORCEMENTS	
	3/18		at 1 <sup>st</sup> Australian Corps reinforcement camp with instruct	
FRANCE	18		ions to form up 2 sections Heavy & Siege Ammunition columns.	
	10		Lt Maplestone M.C. to command 1 <sup>st</sup> Aust A.S. Bde Col	
SHEET 28	28		Lt Anderson to command 2 <sup>nd</sup> Aust A.S. Bde Col	
W.4.A.2.4.	3/10		96 other ranks at reinforcement camp taken over from O.C. camp. The commanding officer of each Col selected the personnel for his section & arranged training & testing of drivers, selecting suitable men for various parts sect; a portion of reinforcement camp was allotted for the sec- tion's quarters. rifles belts & bayonets obtained from salvage dump. These were issued and men trained in rifle & bayonet work. Blankets were obtained from Camp O.M. & issued, the men having no equipment a little hard- ship was experienced for awhile. Training was carried on each day. particular care	Charles [unclear]



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WAR DIARY

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1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> Aust Amm Siege Bde Col.

1918

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			continued	
FLETRE	17		Care & instruction given to imparting the duties of M.T. Drivers as laid down in orders to Drivers who had not had service on the field. Lectures were arranged each day dealing with supplies, ammunition & transport. keen interest shown by all ranks. Route marches with full kit & equipment, hardened the men, & the results noticed being highly satisfactory. Starting with a five mile march the distance gradually increased to 15 miles at 3 miles per hour. The personnel increased as reinforcements arrived from A.I.F. M.T. Coy surplus personnel. The own commissioned Officers with field service experience stiffening the new arrivals in France with the benefit of their knowledge. The reinforcements are a fine body well set up strong & good drivers & give promise of good results.	Detailed Journal of my
FRANCE	18			
	To			
SHEET 28	28			
W.F.A.2.A	2	18	The afternoon of the 28 <sup>th</sup> at 3pm order was received to form a Royal guard as His Majesty the King was expected through. 3 Officers 100 OR. formed up & presented arms at 5pm.	



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 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Aust Arm Siege Babel

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FLETRE	29		Received orders to strike camp & proceed to position Sheet 28	
	3/19		M.24.C.92. at 8 am 29 <sup>th</sup> . orders issued & transport of kit arranged. main body to march Lt Anderson in command	
FRANCE			move cancelled. 3pm. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Down & Prichard came on strength	
Sheet 28	30		strike camp & march out 10 am wet & miserable weather.	
W.4.A.2.4	3/19		arrive site 2.30 pm all rants made comfortable in huts heavy rain at night. Aust mail arrives	
Sheet 28			Camp shelled overhead high, shrapnel. Bailleul shelled at night, shells passing over camp.	
M.24.C.92	31		Five, enemy aeroplanes active over camp, visit F. Chasin	
	3/19		Draw 4.500 lbs pay. Heavy arty fire during early morn	
	1/18		Light rain, few shells over camp. Training continued	
	2/19			

Charles J. Conaway  
 May



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or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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19<sup>th</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> Aust Army Sig Bde  
Bde

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SHEET 28 M.24.C.9.2	3/4 18		Enemy shelling rear area. very misty. guard mounting instruction carried out, driving tests on lorries for drivers	
	4/4 18		Enemy shell our area. Shrapnel & H.E. raining heavy. lecture held. subject M.T. duties, economy petrol & oils etc	
	5		obtain cooking utensils, dishes, sawyer stone etc. from dump. having no camp equipment & unable to obtain same through proper channel under so many number of days after indenting for same. other means had to be adapted to obtain necessary articles as the men had been for three days making shift. a salvage dump was found & articles obtained. also one water tank which was urgently needed.	Shady's command
	5/4 18		Wet & misty, very quiet along front. Report to 9 <sup>th</sup> Corps S.M.T.O. for duty & administration. Authority S.M.T.S. a.i.f.	



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~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~  
(Erase heading not required.)

1st & 2nd Aust Armm Siege Bde

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FIELD FRANCE SHEET 28 M24.C.9.2	6 4/18		Fine day aeroplanes active enemy shell back area overnight	Charles J. Downes Maj
	7 4/18		Heavy shelling overnight by enemy Fine day clear planes very active over our lines bright clear night	
	8 4/18		Wind strong N.W. rain threatening heavy arty fire on our immediate front. H.E. & shrapnel burst over our camp. wind veering round to danger for gas from enemy misty night	
	9 4/18		Lt Anderson 2nd Lt Downs detailed to assist capitulation park 1st AS Bde Amn Col to remove the H.S. guns & m of the 1st Aust Siege Arty from Ploegstrick owing to heavy machine gun fire only the cradle of one gun could be saved & guns abandoned for a favorable time. 2 casualties to Aust personnel No 13051 Sgt Charles Burton Bochin No 11656 Corp Charles Henry P Blanchard	



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10th & 2nd Aust Armm Siege Bde Col

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			Continued 9/4/18	
Sheet 25 M24.C.9.2	9/4 /18		Both badly wounded, evacuated to C.C.S. which unfortunately was shortly afterwards blown up by direct hit, & both non Coms reported killed.	
	10/4 /18		Very misty terrific art'y fire all night 9 <sup>th</sup> 10 <sup>th</sup> machine gun fire close at 3.30 am, drew 16,000 rounds of SA& issued same to all routes. Report enemy had broken line at Armentiers and advancing in strong forces to Steenwercke aeroplanes observing but very misty, enemy shell villages in our rear. Order evacuation of camp at 10 am, 10.30 am move camp to St Jans Cappel arrive 5 pm, Lt Anderson & main body move out 2.30 pm & march with kit & equipment no transport available report S.M.T.O my action & he gave orders for the personnel to be attached to various Div Supply Cos, which I did not agree to, eventually attached to 3 <sup>rd</sup> Bde Siege Bde A.S.C. enemy bomb, overnight roads & billets near St Jans Cappel	Handwritten signature/initials



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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Aust Armm Siege Bde Col.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			Continued 10/4/15	
Field France	10		Lt Maplestone M.C. left behind to clear up old camp concourse	
St Jans	4/18		same 10pm & with party arrive Berthen 5 am 11 <sup>th</sup> .	
Cappel.			Artij fire increases troops rushed up. enemy fire heavy all day	
France				
	11/4/18		Heavy artij fire all day, bombs dropped by enemy aeroplanes. received orders to take over temp command of the 36 <sup>th</sup> Bde a. S.C. saw Capt Longrose a. S.C of 36 Bde & informed him I required to inspect all records & books. column in a very inefficient condition many vehicles immobile & lined up on the Berthen St Jans Cappel road. blocking important traffic, ambulances etc. interviewed Capt Flemming Workshop Officer E. Siege Park. & arranged to loan him personnel to assist to get vehicles mobile	Chas. J. Bourne Maj
			Order no V.A. S.2. E Siege Park. authority for my taking temp command.	
			Visited old camp site to inspect & destroy any stores of	

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WAR DIARY

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192<sup>nd</sup> Aust Army Siege Bde Col

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.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
St Jans Cappel France NORD	11/4/18		<p>Continued</p> <p>valued to enemy. saved all serviceable stores &amp; destroyed a few gals of oil heavy shelling by enemy of roads to Dranoutre &amp; Locre.</p> <p>Report forwarded to D.M.T.S. A.I. 7. stating position. &amp; orders of S.M.T.O. 9<sup>th</sup> Corps APPENDICES. IX</p> <p>Lt Downs &amp; OR.s volunteer to remove abandoned guns. at night, wire received 4pm from E Siege Park cancelling attempt as impossible</p>	IX
	12/4/18		<p>issued orders to evacuate St Jans Cappel as enemy were approaching &amp; shell fire was heavy roads were becoming congested as column took up standing on one side, Arty going into action, Ambulance vehicles &amp; troops returning caused a serious congestion, refugees carts, cattle etc, blocked road to Berthem, posted road traffic controls &amp; cleared the block, ordered column to move to Boecheppe &amp; await</p>	IX

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Charles J. Howard May

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1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> Aust Army Siege Beebol

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Field France	12 4 18		<p>Continued</p> <p>orders untill I could get into touch with E Siege Park. as telephones were all out of action, communication was obtained by me from 25<sup>th</sup> Div base H.Q. advanced, as rear area phones were useless. E. Siege Park advised me to select my park for the night. So decided to stand by on the Abelle. Boecheppe<sup>ra</sup> billets obtained at 9<sup>th</sup> Corps school for Aust personnel</p> <p>Park moved out from St Jans Cappel 5pm arrived new site Boecheppe 7pm. All Australian personnel told off to assist British personnel to oil, grease &amp; fill vehicles w/tyres as the lorries mobile were used continuously &amp; the men knocking up with the extra demand of ammunition required. &amp; so many vehicles being immobile in Park.</p> <p>one <sup>Aust</sup> driver told off to each lorry of the 1-2- Aust Army Bde Co's lorries to become acquainted with ammunition detail, bombs dropped by enemy 11pm near camp no casualties</p>	<p>Charles J. Saunders May</p>



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~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Aust Arm Bde Bols

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<i>Continued</i>	
Tield	12/		Lt Inaplesone detailed with party of artificers to assist	
Trance	4/		Capt Fleming in workshops breakdown gang formed	
Boccheppe	18		to save ditched lorries & ambulances on roadside	
			considerably interfering with traffic. soon work was	
			down by this section, and ambulances that had	
			been out of action for some hours awaiting break	
			down lorries were lifted bodily out & put in use.	
			All available lorries detailed to K. 10. A. dump for amm	
			ition urgently needed, again the result of immobile	
			sections was felt as out of 53 vehicles on charge to	
			36 <sup>th</sup> Bde asc. only 22 were mobile, for which I demanded	
			a report from Capt Longprone which was far from	
			satisfactory, I also found he was quite unfit to be	
			doing duty, being in a bad nervous condition.	
			Civil population evacuating St Jans Cappel Berthen, Boccheppe	
			& other villages on approach of artij fire, a pitiful sight	

Charles J. Goodland Maj



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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

19<sup>th</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Aust Army Siege Bde  
Col

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Boeschep France Sheet 24 R. 9. B. 8. 4.	12 4 18		Continued Received orders from E. SIEGE PARK. midnight to park. lorries on the St Sylvastie Cappel - Cassel rd orders issued to move at 10 am on the 13 <sup>th</sup> .	
	13 4 18		Moved for park. new site Sheet 24, P. 22. C. 8. 8. arrived 3 pm. all available lorries of loaded & sent to Cambridge dump for ammunition Sheets. N. 2. C. 4. 5 Heavy artij fire roads congested with traffic Capt. Hemming workshop officer E. Siege Park. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. Downe a.s. Bde Col rescue the archives from the Marie St Jans Cappel under heavy shell fire all records saved & conveyed to Cassel & placed in keeping with the mayor. 2 gangs of 1 non com 6 OR. each sold off as first aid gang Corp Scott. 6OR. sent to M <sup>r</sup> Noir with first aid lorry to stand by. W.O. Murray & 2 lineamen detailed to E. Siege Park for duty. Lorry at St Jans Cappel on charge 41 <sup>st</sup> Bde asc saved.	Stanley J. Downard Maj



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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

1<sup>st</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup> Aust Amun Sige Bde  
bal

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
St Sylvestrie Cappel Street 27 <del>H. 20/4-5</del> P. 22.C. 2.4	13 4 18		<p>Continued</p> <p>midnight received orders to supervise the detail of lorries #1 from all Bdes parked on St Sylvestrie Cappel. Cappel <sup>nd</sup> with power attached to call for necessary explanation as to shortage of lorries in any particular Bde. APPENDICES 1 *</p> <p>An advanced lorry park was established for ammunition at E. SIEGE. PARK MT NOIR St Broughton ic. Lt Anderson detailed for instruction. Windy stormy day arty fire heavy. French &amp; Aust troops arrive Aust mail received very small bag.</p>	
	14 4 18		<p>Lt Baplesione M.C. detailed to supervise overhaul cleaning oiling &amp; greasing of lorries 36<sup>B</sup> Bde all available men from Aust personnel assisting.</p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Dorne detailed to supervise Aust personnel in workshops E Siege Park, marked improvement in vehicles available noticed under new system</p>	<p>Shady J. Howard may</p>



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1st 2nd Aust Arm Bde Base

WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
St Sylvestre Cappel Sheet 27 P.22.C.2.4.	15 4 18		Limpic artij fire overnight, morning quiet, fires burning many places. 6 am French armoured cars drive through village, adv. lorry parked slipped to Boescheppe MT NOIR shelled heavy, 12 <sup>00</sup> Bde asc move out to 2nd Bde asc. great difficulty with telephone communication.	
	16 4 18		Wet misty morning, WO Murray 9.50 AM return from duty at Mt Noir Lt Anderson returns from adv part. Ordnance Officer Aust Corps required assistance to take stores from Flebri abandoned by 9th Corps, Lt MAPLESTONE Lt ANDERSON detailed to assist, 2 lorries & 3 O.R. Clear £4,000 value of goods. Flebri shelled. Receive orders for all battery columns report to their batteries immediately Bde Capt to return to their Bdes H.Q.s. 6 lorries for each battery sold off. ARTY fire very heavy.	Charles J. Leonard may



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
St Sylvestre Cappel Sheet 27 P.22.C.2.4	16 4 18		<p>Continued</p> <p>2 lorries from pool of vehicles in Park told off to remove wounded from 29<sup>th</sup> Div clearing station to relieve congestion, civilian people assisted to remove their belonging from St Sylvestre Cappel to a place of safety nearer Cassel</p> <p>3 lorries available used for short journeys, as they had to be ready to deliver ammunition &amp; could not be spared for long journey. Heavy firing all night, misty light rain.</p> <p>No 12996 Champion A.B. driver M.T. reprimanded for G.C. Cm on charge stealing an Officers Field glasses, application for Cm forwarded to D.M.T.S. A.I.7.</p>	<p>Confidential Dudley J. Bowman May</p>
	17 4 18		<p>No 1638 Corp. A. Scott reports into camp after saving lorries (3) all under heavy arty fire, one in advanced shell area. When he raised his party of first aid gang to go back into safety. he himself rescued very.</p>	



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WAR DIARY  
OR  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

1<sup>st</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup> Aust Army Siege Base

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			Continued	
St Sylvester	17		lorry. He then evacuated a large party of infantry that	# 2.
Cappel	4		were laying wounded on the roadside.	
Sheet 27	18.		Received orders from E. Siege Park to control & supervise a lorry pool	
P. 22. C. 2. 4			side selected St Sylvester Cappel 2 <sup>nd</sup> Cappel 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sheet 27 P. 22. C. 8. 8.	
			Lt Anderson placed in charge for all details	
			Ammunition dump selected site F. 21. B. 8. 5 Sheet 27. for	
			small quantities of ammunition to be dumped.	
			25 lorries from 2 <sup>nd</sup> Army reserve pool received to be	
			operated from pool.	
			E. Siege Park move into St Sylvester Cappel H. Q. office Sheet 27	
			P. 30. A. 3. 3. 2 lorries ordered to report to each battery in	
			excess of 6 detailed in E. Siege Parks order. NO 1630. # 2	
			aeroplanes active misty any enemy planes low over column	
			chilled by our anti-aircraft guns. Wet windy night	
"	18		10 lorries detailed to clear Amun dump K. 10. a. all loads.	
	4			
	17			

Stanley J. Gordon  
may



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or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

1-2<sup>nd</sup> Aust Army S. Pde Col

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			Continued.	
A Sylvester	15		loads to be dumped at site P21.B.8.5 Sheet 27	Charles Howard may
Bappel	4		received workshop casualty return of 36 <sup>th</sup> Pde Col.	
Sheet 27. P.	18		for the 15 <sup>th</sup> number of vehicles immobile was 18.	
22. C.2.4.			for the 16 <sup>th</sup> do do do 18.	
			Lt. Downs assisting of workshops materially helped in getting repairs effected & vehicles on road.	
			2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. S. E. Downe 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. L. Prichard appointed 1 <sup>st</sup> Lieut authority A.I.F. order 319. 17.3.18	
			Received wire from DMTS, A.I.F. Aust Corps reads as follows write me report of your taking over and instructions, AAA. I wired S.M.T.O 9 <sup>th</sup> Corps wire asking report on Caterpillar drivers no reply please can you expediate. reply sent to DMTS by me reads have not taken over await your instructions AAA Report follows AAA unfavorable conditions for taking over AAA out of touch with Caterpillar Drivers AAA appointed Temp Ofc by S.M.T.O 9 <sup>th</sup> Corps advised you via my A/B AAA MAP LOCATION Sheet 27, P.23. C.2.4. AAA Ofc 36 Pde Col	



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1-<sup>st</sup> 2.<sup>nd</sup> Aust Army Siege Bde Bell

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
St Sylvester Cappel Sheet 27 P.22.C.2.4	15 4 15		<p>Report in writing to D.M.T.S. Aust Corps Copy appendices III</p> <p>APPENDICES IV V VI VII VIII <sup>copy</sup> Wires received &amp; dispatched</p> <p>In detailing Australian personnel to assist 12<sup>th</sup> Bde 41<sup>st</sup> Bde 36<sup>th</sup> Bde          The drivers received field experience as one driver accompanied each lorry on some detail runs, so got acquainted with the battery &amp; dump positions, also the line gang relieved the Imperial drivers who needed rest &amp; sleep, by oiling, greasing &amp; filling tanks with petrol. I thought it inadvisable to take over complete transfer at this critical time &amp; advised S.M.T.O. 9<sup>th</sup> Corps &amp; O/c E Siege Park accordingly. Batteries were continually moving their positions &amp; strange drivers on lorries. Delivery &amp; picking up ammunition would have been fatal. So I used personnel to best advantage under conditions existing. advising D.M.T.S. a.i.7. Aust Corps of my action &amp; notifying him by wire appendices VI. After discussing position with S.M.T.O. 1<sup>st</sup> Corps. Diary dispatched as great difficulty is experienced in transport -</p> <p><small>D. D. &amp; L., London, E.C. (A8004) Wt. W1771/M2 31 750,000 5/17 Sch. 52 Forms/C2118/11</small></p> <p>Aust personnel, Rank &amp; file marching from Park to Park.</p>	<p>III IV V VI VII VIII Copies of wires &amp; reports</p>

Henry Howard may



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1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Aust Army Siege Bde Col

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			Continued	
St Sylvestre	18		Corp Scott recommended for immediate award for bravery & devotion to duty in saving lorries & evacuating wounded. Wet cold night	X
Cappel	4			
Sheet 27	18			
P22.C.24				
	19		1 <sup>st</sup> Aust Division H.Q. stationed in village arrive 10 am	
	4		cold sleet & little snow. light arty fire	
	18		Provisional Nominal roll of the 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Aust Siege Bde Army Col forwarded with Diary attached	
			APP X	
			afternoon little sunshine aeroplanes observing enemy plane shelled over camp.	
			E. SIEGE Park orders 1635 Temporary appointment Capt Dougrove resumed command of 26 <sup>th</sup> Bde asc Col Maj' Goumand temp appointed O.C. E. Siege Park Reserve Vehicle Pool as from 9 on the 18/4/18.	

Charles J. Goumand Maj



352

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APPENDIX

# WAR DIARY

OF

1<sup>st</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup> Aust Siege Bde Amm Bats

FOR

Month Mar 17<sup>th</sup> to April 19<sup>th</sup> 1918

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

- | No.  | Subject.  |
|------|---|
| I    | Temp. Adms of A.S.C. Bdes.                                      |
|      | E Siege Park orders 1619  |
| 2    | E Siege Park orders 1630  |
|      | Organization of Transport                                       |
| III  | Copy of Report to D.M.T.S. a.i.f. Aust corps from Maj G. Howard |
| IV   | Copies of wires received &                                      |
| V    | issued  |
| VIII | copy of report to Col Lambbridge                                |
| IX   | D.M.T.S. a.i.f. Aust corps.                                     |
| X    | nominal roll of units to date.                                  |

Charles Howard  
maj



## APPENDICES I

Siege Park Order No 1619.

Copy No. 2.

Temporary Administration of A.S.C. Brigades, and Traffic Control.

1. Major Goddard D.S.O. (temporarily appointed O.C. 36 Brigade A.S.C.) will supervise the detailing of lorries from all Brigades parked on the ST SILVESTRE CAPPEL - CASSEL Road. Details for Lorries will be telephoned or sent him by D.R. (Specifying for which batteries ammunition etc. is required) irrespective of what A.S.C. Brigade is concerned. He will then issue instructions to the A.S.C. Brigade concerned accordingly, and he will ensure by personal inspection that every lorry, not reported to Workshops as unfit, is detailed if required. He will call for any necessary explanation as to shortage of lorries in any particular Brigade. No lorries will be kept loaded on Park unless specifically ordered by H.Q. Siege Park.

2. It must be impressed on all ranks the vital importance of keeping the roads behind our Front from being blocked by traffic. The question of respecting private property is not to be considered. Hedges and roadside ditches will be levelled to allow of transport being parked off the road. If there is any danger of causing blocks in the traffic by endeavouring to pull out ditched or broken down lorries, the latter will be left lying in ditches for the present.

The EECHE - GODERSVELDE - MONT DES CATS - BERTHEN Road is to be considered one of the main traffic routes. O's C Brigades will review the provisions of Siege Park Standing Orders - Appendix C. (page 31 - 35) and point these out to Column Officers and N.C.O's.

3. O.C. 36th Brigade A.S.C. or his representative will ring up H.Q. Siege Park frequently throughout the day in order to facilitate communication.

4. O.C. 36th Brigade A.S.C. ~~will detail an officer to be in charge of an advanced lorry park which is being formed for ammunition supply. This officer will report to H.Q. Siege Park noon 14th inst.~~

Midnight  
13/14th April '18.

(Signed) G.W. GRASSET Capt & Adjt.  
"E" Siege Park.

Copies to No 1 O.C. 12th Bde A.S.C.  
2 " 36th "  
3 " 41 "  
4 Transport.  
5 & 6 War Diary.  
7 File.



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Organization of Transport during Present Operations.

1. Until further orders Brigade A.S.C. Captains will live with their R.G.A. Brigades headquarters and Column Officers with or near their Batteries.
2. Each Battery is to have lorries permanently at its disposal for ammunition supplies as follows:-
 

For each 6" How. Battery	6 Lorries.
For each 60 pdr Gun Battery	3 Lorries
For each 8" How. Battery	12 Lorries.
For each 9" How. Battery	12 Lorries.

The above lorries will invariably supply their own batteries except when specially detailed by the R.G.A. Brigade H.Q. to assist another battery. In addition each Battery has a supply lorry which will ration the A.S.C. Personnel and Vehicles attached to it, as well as supplying the R.G.A. Personnel.

3. The balance of Column Lorries will park at ST SILVESTRE CAPPEL, and form a reserve pool to be used as details from Siege Park Headquarters, for any emergency supply of ammunition. The pool will be under the charge of Major Goddard, D.S.O., who will detail another Officer of 36th Brigade A.S.C. to act for him at Brigade R.G.A. H.Q.
4. The Brigade A.S.C. Captains (acting under instructions of H.Q. Brigade R.G.A.) will be responsible for transporting ammunition to the Batteries of his brigade, and will park his lorries and tractors in the most suitable positions near the batteries. Information as to amount of ammunition to be drawn, and where it can be drawn from, will be supplied on application to H.A., H.Q.
5. All defective vehicles will be sent to Workshops at ST SILVESTRE CAPPEL. Workshops on completing repairs will order vehicles to report to Major Goddard D.S.O., who will then first complete column to the required number of lorries, or in the event of columns the requisite number, (i.e., as instructed in para 2- of this order) including them in his pool.
6. Telephone communication with Siege Park H.Q. can be obtained through H.A.

(Signed) G.W.GRASSETT, Capt & Adjutant,  
E Siege Park.

17/4/18.

- Copies to
- |          |                      |
|----------|----------------------|
| No 1     | O.C. 2nd Bde A.S.C.  |
| No 2     | " 12th " "           |
| No 3     | " 36th " "           |
| No 4     | " 41st " "           |
| No 5     | " Workshops.         |
| No 6     | " Transport.         |
| No 7     | " Staff Captain H.A. |
| No 8 & 9 | War Diary.           |
| No 10    | File.                |

17/4 Dho T.S.



## APPENDICES.

III

APPENDIX 3

4

357  
 Col. W. H. Tunbridge, C.B., C.M.G., V.D.,  
 D.M.F.S., Aust. Corps.,  
 A. I. F.

Sir,

Herewith please report as requested by your  
 S/85 of 17/4/18.

In accordance with your orders, I reported to Lt. Col. Blamey, S.M.F.O., IX Corps on the 1st instant at 4 p.m. He had no particulars to discuss and ordered me to carry on until he was advised by his Corps. I got in touch with E Siege Park on the 7th - they were moving into site on the Lochre-Balieul road near white chateau, H.A. H.qrs. I discussed the position with Major Cunningham, O.C., E Siege Park. Meanwhile training was continued and Caterpillar Parks visited by Officers and men for instruction.

On the night 9th - 10th, heavy and continued artillery, machine gun and rifle fire kept up on our front, and as it got nearer and shelling became general at 3 a.m., I ordered all ranks to be ready to move off at a moment's notice. At 8 a.m. on the 10th I went to E Siege Park, and they had no definite information what we were to do, so I endeavoured to get in touch with S.M.F.O., Fletre, and after considerable delay managed to do so. I reported our position and requested to know where we were to go if the position got too hot. He replied over the phone that he would advise me later and to stand by. I returned to Camp, and as the enemy were shelling Lochre and

Dranoutre heavily I gave orders to move out, and directed that the party should proceed to St Jan Cappel via Lochre - Mont Noir. The men marched and kits were conveyed in the two lorries attached from the Siege Park. I returned to phone, having to walk, a considerable time elapsed before I could get in touch with S.M.F.O., IX Corps. At 3 p.m. I managed to raise him and he directed me to split personnel up into three groups, and despatch them to 9th Corps M.F.Coy, 16th Div M.F.Coy., and 28th Div M.F.Coy respectively. I did not agree to this and then discussed the matter with Major Cunningham. I then proceeded to Fletre, and not having means of transport and very few lorries on the road, one conveyed me as far as Balieul, after which I had to walk the rest of the way arriving at 5 p.m. I saw Col. Blamey and he had made arrangements for me to be attached to 36th Brigade A.S.C., and to proceed to location Fletre-Gassel Road. I returned to St Jans Cappel and arranged camp for the men in three Nissan huts, obtained billets for the officers. I made out movement orders for moving to Fletre via Meteren. On the morning of the 11th 10 a.m., the party moved off under Lt Anderson. At 10.30 a.m. Major Cunningham got in touch with me and informed me that the 36th Brigade was situated on the St Jans Cappel - Berthen Road. I went along with him and interviewed Captain Lovegrove, O.C. 36th Brigade A.S.C. Col. and made arrangements for the return of the party under Lt Anderson as the 36th Brigade were not moving.

I inspected the Column at 3 p.m. and found the vehicles in a very unsatisfactory condition - many immobile. The C.O. explained that they had just evacuated the Nieppe-Balieul Road, and just escaped being captured - leaving most of their equipment behind also some of their lorries. I was not satisfied with the locality of the park on the St Jans Cappel-Berthen Road as the Column blocked the road, and artillery going into action, ambulances returning with wounded, refugee carts etc, made an impossible position.

On the 11th Col. Blamey ordered me to take over temporary command of the 36th Brigade Column and this was confirmed by wire from E Siege Park :- V.A.S.S. - Copy attached - At 5 p.m. on the 12th I ordered St Jans Cappel to be evacuated as shelling got serious and I could not get in touch with S.M.F.O., or E Siege Park. After getting Column away with instructions to await me at Boeschepe, when I would give movement orders for location of Park for the night, I detailed Lt Maplestone and Lt Anderson to march the Australian Personnel to Boeschepe and await instructions as I had not been able to get into telephone communication with S.M.F.O. or E Siege Park. I tried a Signal Station but they were cut off - packed up and moving out. They suggested that I should try the 25th Div. Bde H.q. forward area. This entailed a half hours walk towards Balieul from St Jans Cappel. I eventually got in touch with E Siege Park and notified them of my position. They agreed it was the best under the circumstances. and ordered me to



to find park for the night, off load, and send every available lorry to K.10.A. dump for urgent delivery of ammunition. I managed to obtain a lift on a lorry to Boeschepe, and arranged park for night 7 p.m. Billets for men in 1X Corps School. Lorries weren off loaded and despatched for ammunition. I detailed the Australian Personnel to lorries of the Brigade to assist, grease, clean, and oil, and fill with petrol, and one man per lorry to the 1st and 2nd Siege Battery Lorries to accompany lorries on details. On 13th instant, I received orders to remove the Brigade to St Silvestre Gappel - Cassel Road, off load, and detail every available lorry to deliver ammunition,

By this time, the men were feeling the strain, and as so many vehicles were immobile, considerable difficulty was experienced in carrying on. I informed the O.C., E Siege Park, I could not take over the Brigade until I received instructions from you. I wired you on the 18th instant - my wire 18/30, in accordance with your instructions as far as lorry drivers were concerned. Caterpillar drivers would be qualified by Officer Caterpillar Park direct to you through S.M.F.O., 1X Corps, and did not concern me.

I wish to draw your attention to the attached availability casualty returns which shews a very unsatisfactory condition. The vehicles are in a bad and neglected state and I would not feel justified in taking the same over.

I detailed Lt Downe to assist Workshop Officer to get vehicles running, and the casualty return of the 16th shews with what result. Still, more lorries have gone into workshops yesterday and today.

I have not been able to get into touch with Colonel Blamey re Caterpillar Drivers; but O.C., E Siege Park received a wire from him asking for report. Reply unknown to me but I understand from the Officer in Charge of the Park that the men are shaping very favourably.

Attached please find :-

- (1) Casualty and Availability Returns for 36th Bde A.S.C. (14th, 15th and 16th instant)-
- (2) E Siege Park Orders 1619 - 1630.
- (3) Copies of wires despatched and received. (5. V.A.S.2- A/3- 16/30- A/83- B/053-1)

Awaiting your instructions,

I am,

Sir,

Your Obedient Servant,

*Charles J. Leonard*

Major.

Map Location.  
Sheet 27 P23.c.4.4.  
18th April 1918.







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APPENDIX

5

"C" Form  
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS. No. of Message.....

Army Form C. 2123.  
(In books of 100.)

Prefix.....	Code.....	Words.....	Received	Sent, or sent out	Office Stamp.
£ s. d.			From.....	At.....m.	
Charges to collect			By.....	To.....	
Service Instructions.				By.....	
APPENDIX			5		
Handed in at.....		Office.....		m. Received.....m.	

TO  
38th Brigade A.S.C.

*Sender's Number	Day of Month	In reply to Number	AAA
A/83	17th		

Your	wires	rec,		
Write	me	report	of	your
taking	over	and	instructions.	I
wired	to	S.M.T.O.	of	9th
Corps	twice.	asking	report	on
Caterpillar	Drivers	No	Reply	Can
you	expedite.			

FROM	D.M.P.S.	A.I.F.
PLACE & TIME		

\* This line should be erased if not required.  
(B 8188) Wt. w. 7496-M557 250,000 Pads. 1/17 H & S (E489.) Forms/C.2123/3.



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APPENDIX

6<sup>8</sup>

"A" Form.  
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form C. 2121.  
(In pads of 100.)

No. of Message.....

Prefix.....	Code.....	m.	Words.	Charge.	This message is on a/c of:	Recd. at.....	m.
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.				Sent		Service.	Date.....
				At.....	m.	From.....	
				To.....	APPENDIX V1.	By.....	
				By.....	(Signature of "Franking Officer.")	By.....	

TO { D.M.T.S.  
A.I.F.  
AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

Sender's Number. * A/C 63	Day of Month. 17	In reply to Number. AAA
------------------------------	---------------------	----------------------------

Have	not	taken	over
Await	your	instructions	AAA
Report	follows	AAA	Unfavourable
conditions	for	taking	over
AAA	Out	of	touch
with	caterpillar	drivers	AAA
Appointed	Temp	O/C	by
S.M.T.O.	9th	Corps	Advised
you	via	my	A/3
AAA	Map	location	Sheet
27 P 23	c 2.4.	AAA	

From O/C 36th Brigade A.S.G. Col.  
Place  
Time

The above may be forwarded as now corrected.

(Z)  
Charles J. Goddard  
Censor. Signature of Addresser or person authorised to telegraph in his name.

\* This line should be erased if not required.

(3796.) Wt. W 492/M1647. 650,000 Pads. 5/17. H.W. & V., Ltd. (E. 1187.)



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APPENDIX

49

"A" Form.  
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form C. 2121.  
(In pads of 100.)

Prefix..... Code..... m	Words.	Charge.	No. of Message.....
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.	Sent		This message is on a/c of:
	At..... m.		Recd. at..... m.
	To		Service.
	By		Date.....
			From.....
			By.....

TO Major Goddard, D.S.O., c/o 36th Bde A.S.C.			
Sender's Number. * VASZ	Day of Month. 11	In reply to Number.	AAA

Please take over command of 36th Bde A.S.C.  
 AS A temporary measure AAA will arrange  
 with S.M.T.O. to confirm, and your officers  
 will assist column officers and Captain  
 Lovegrove will assist you AAA Men to work  
 as arranged this morning AAA Get in touch  
 with Workshop's Officer Captain Fleming c/o  
 Area Commandant as to your workshop personnel.

From	
Place	E Siege Park.
Time	

The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z)  
 Censor. Signature of Addresser or person authorised to telegraph in his name.  
 \* This line should be erased if not required. MJR A.S.C.

(3796.) Wt. W 492/M1647. 650,000 Pads. 5/17. H.W. & V., Ld. (E. 1187.)







352.

APPENDIX

9

Copy.

APPENDIX 9.

Confidential.

Col W.H. Tunbridge, C.B., C.M.G., V.D.,  
D.M.T.S. A.I.F.

C.C. 18/29.

Sir,

I have to report that the Australian Personnel under my command have been detailed to work with the 30th Brigade Ammunition Column on and from 12th instant under arrangements made with S.M.F.O., IX Corps.

Camp occupied when you left had to be evacuated on approach of enemy, moved camp to Sheet 27 R 36 a 4.2.

The Sections will work under orders C.O. 30th Brigade. I hope to be able to report I can take over complete in three days' time. Major Cunningham, O.C., Siege Park is quite satisfied with the work of the men, especially the caterpillar drivers.

I regret to report that No 13051 Sgt. Bochin C.B., and No 11656 Corporal Blanchard C.H., have been reported killed, - both were badly wounded while assisting to remove guns by night - they were evacuated to a C.C.S., unfortunately same was blown in, and both Non Coms. reported missing. I shall forward particulars as soon as same are available.

You will be pleased to know that all ranks are behaving ~~exceedingly~~ excellently, and have been commended for their zeal and willingness to assist. Lt Downe and other ranks have volunteered to endeavour to remove some abandoned guns this night.

Enemy being held - Artillery fire heavy.

I am,  
Sir,  
Yours obediently,

*Charles J. Goodard*  
Major.

In the Field.  
11.4.18.





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X

APPENDIX

10<sup>12</sup>

PROVISIONAL NOMINAL ROLL OF 1st & 2nd, AUSTRALIAN  
SIEGE BRIGADE AMMUNITION COLUMNS, AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

OFFICERS. Major Goddard C.J., D.S.O., Officer Commanding  
Lieut. Mapleston L.T., M.C., O/C. 1st A.S.B.A.C.  
2nd/Lt. Prichard L. 1st A.S.B.A.C.  
Lieut. Anderson W.S., C.D.G. O/C. 2nd A.S.B.A.C.  
2nd/Lt. Downe, S.E., 2nd A.S.B.A.C.

N.C.O's. No 1 A.S.B.A.Col.  
No 1835 C.Q.M.S. Meehan M.J., No 1368 Sgt. Mills H.  
No 1644 Cpl Walton G.D. No 1447 Corp Morgan W.  
No 1631 Cpl Scott A.P. No 45 Corp Sibley H.E.,  
No 15127 Cpl Davies W.G.

Other Ranks.

No. 6287	Pte	Ambrose	E.H.	No 2033	Pte	Botting	P.T.,
No. 15153	Dvr	Boulton	J.F.	No 13964	Dvr	Brown	H.,
No. 15378	"	Bull	L.N.	No 15367	"	Bradbury	A.,
No. 14982	"	Barrett	A.G.	No 15335	Pte	Carter	C.B.
No. 15380	"	Coffee	J.R.	No 15360	Dvr	Cowley	R.A.,
No. 14637	"	Campbell	D-	No 14983	"	Carter	A.M.
No. 14807	"	Crowther	L.A.	No 14984	"	Cobley	J.,
No. 12996	"	Champion	A.B.	<del>No 15160</del>	<del>"</del>	<del>Campbell</del>	<del>A.R.,</del>
No. 1673E	Pte	Driscoll	D.A.	No 14813	"	Davies	M.D.,
14462	Dvr	Dunstan	S.	No 15377	"	Elvy	R.H.,
No. 2807	Pte	Evans	R.H.	No 13983	"	Foulds	C.H.
No. 15165	Dvr	Fawkner	M.G.	No 14642	"	Fowler J.E.	
No. 15029	"	Gilchrist	A.E.,	No 15373	"	Grimes	S.U.
No. 14643	"	Gow	S.N.	No 14466	"	Gurner	A.E.
No. 14644	"	Graham	R.G.	No 285	"	Green	R.M.
No 15169	"	Hall	D.O.	No 14253	"	Holker	W.H.
No 14989	"	Irwin	T.W.	No 14480	"	Erwin	R.C.
No 15154	Pte	Johnson	B.G.	<del>No 12250</del>	<del>"</del>	<del>Jenes</del>	<del>H.B.</del>
No 14646	Dvr	Kent	E.F.	No 6638	"	Keep	A.A.
No 15374	"	Law	W.J.	No 15356	"	Longworth	C.F.J
No 15177	"	McWilliam	J.P.	No 15359	"	Murdoch	R.,
No 14819	"	McKenzie	D.	No 14467	"	Miller	F.T.
No 14993	"	Mitchell	H.G.W.	No 14271	"	Montefiore	G.B.
14256	"	Murray	J.V.	No 14468	"	Mungomery	J.H.
No 1712	"	Morrow	W.J.	No 14257	"	Nash	G.
No 15182	"	Oelricks	H.B.	No 14647	"	O'Shea	J.J.
No 15184	"	Packer	A.R.	No 15183	"	Philip	C.W.
No 14650	"	Porter	S.	No 14996	"	Proctor	G.
No 14266	"	Rodda	L.R.	No 14821	"	Robinson	R.D.
No 14998	"	Sachs	H.E.	No 14461	"	Spargo	P.H.
No 14655	"	Saunders	J.E.	No 14822	"	Shields	B.V.D
No 6669	"	Smith	E.M.	No 15651	"	Taylor	W.C.
<del>No 14653</del>	<del>"</del>	<del>Trail</del>	<del>E.</del>	No 15376	"	Vaughan	R.C.
No 15553	"	Wray	G.T.	No 14484	"	Woodlands	W.R.
No 15354	"	Yates	C.G.				
No 5479	"	Hodge A.V.					

N.C.O's No 2 A.S.B.A.Col.

No 13269	C.Q.M.S.	Larke	P.J.	No 1368	Sgt	Mills	H.
No 13150	Cpl	Mills	W.E.	No 1705	Cpl	Lupton	W.H.
No 13385	Cpl	Butcher	A.	No 1633	Cpl	Hay	J.
No 13339	Cpl	Wilkinson	E.A.	<del>No 15127</del>	<del>Cpl</del>	<del>Davies</del>	<del>W.G.</del>

Other Ranks.

No. 14474	Annis	A.E.	No 14808	Dvr	Ashley	H.
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