

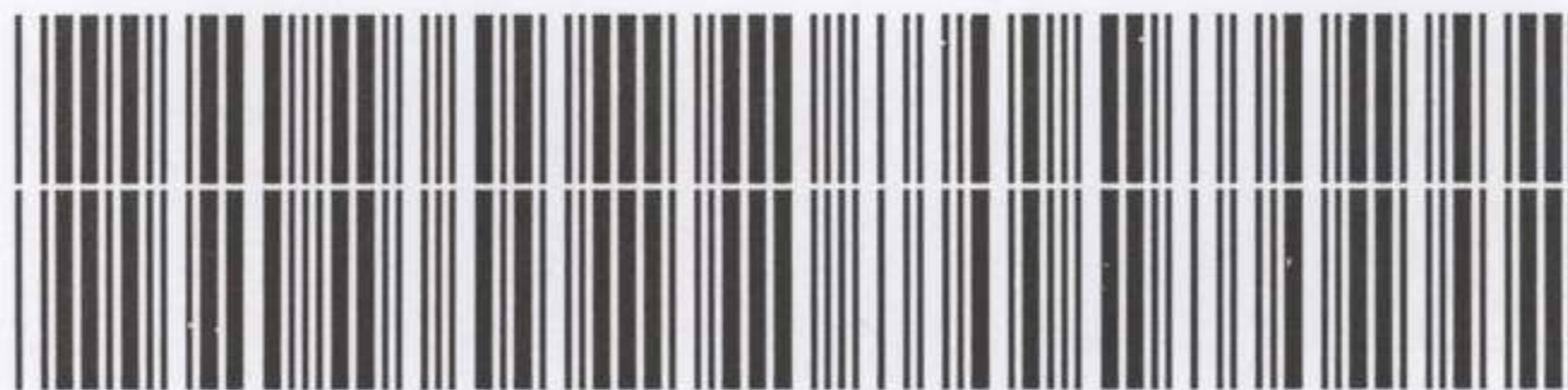
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Artillery

Item number: 13/90/21

Title: 1st Australian Divisional Trench
Mortar Officer

December 1917



AWM4-13/90/21

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.

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Trench Mortar Batteries

December 1917

(Erase heading not required.)

Volume 21 Page 1

31/12/17

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<i>DOULIEU</i>	<i>Dec 1 to 4</i>		<i>Strength at beginning of month 5 Off 59 O.R. a continuation of the rest period. Routine - a course of training to maintain physical fitness - comprising route marches, physical exercises, gun drill and signalling in the mornings and Recreational exercises in the form of football and other sports in the afternoons. This Period ended on 19/12/17</i>	
	<i>5</i>		<i>Lieut A.E. Hallis. M.C. detached to 1st FAB for Instruction in Artillery work. " H.H. Morris at also received similar instruction from 2nd FAB</i>	
	<i>to</i>		<i>1 Off & 4 N.C.O.s received instruction on a 7 days course at 1st Amoye Corps Gas School.</i>	
	<i>13</i>		<i>1 OR detached to YMCA for duty - a YMCA Tent being now attached to 1st Aus Div Artly. 1 OR transferred to 1st FAB and 1 OR transferred from 1st FAB to 1st FAB</i>	
	<i>16</i>		<i>3 Off & 10 OR returned from instruction at 2nd Army Corps T.M. School</i>	
	<i>14</i>		<i>1 Off & 15 proceeded for</i>	
			<i>Capt R.A. Nowland M.C. (The D.T.M.O.) proceeded on special leave to United Kingdom</i>	
			<i>Leave to Paris was granted to 1 Off & 11 O.R. up to 19/12/17. Capt. S.B. Darling M.C. Acting D.T.M.O. ^{during} absence.</i>	
			<i>1 Off & 7 O.R. proceeded to La Polka ^{SAA} Dump near Kimmel to take over from 5th Aus Div Artly. (Sheet 28 N 21. D. 50. 30).</i>	
	<i>19.</i>		<i>On this date the 1st Aus Div T.M. Blys took over from 5th Aus Div T.M. Blys both Left and</i>	
			<i>Right sectors of Divisional Front as shown on map (Appendix A)</i>	
			<i>Disposition of 1st Aus Div T.M. Blys ^{is} as under:</i>	
			<i>D.T.M.O. Headquarters with V.I.A. H.T.M. Bly & V.I.A. M.T.M. Bly at PARMA DUMP (Sheet 28 N.18.B.2.7) LEFT SECTOR.</i>	
			<i>X.I.A. M.T.M. Bly at WULVERGHEM & T.S.A. B.O. (Sheet 28) RIGHT SECTOR. and</i>	
			<i>Z.I.A. M.T.M. Bly at REST BILLETS at S.S.d. 7.7. (Sheet 28).</i>	

CAPTAIN

W. J. ...
D.T.M.O. 1st AUS. DIV.

Appendix A
(map) attached to original.

*Sheet 28
N.18.B.2.7
Belgium*

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Trench Mortar Batteries

December 1917

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
PARMA DUMP. Sheet 28 N18. B. 2.7 Belgium	Dec 19	1400	<p>The following were taken over from 5th Aus Div T. M. Bks.</p> <p>9.45" Guns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. (MK I) in position at O. 16. D. 60. 40. (Left Sector) 5. (MK I. MK II) at Rest Bldgs S. 5. d. 85. 70. 2. (MK I) near do at DVI. DUMP at T. I. C. 3. 3. 1 (MK II) at I. O. M. 8th Corps for repairs. <p>Ammunition T. M. F. 55 complete and 23 incomplete rounds (Left Sector)</p> <p>6" Newton. 4 in position as under:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 at O. 11. C. 05. 55. } Left Sector 1 at U. 5. B. 4. 5. } Right Sector 1 at O. 22. D. 30. 95. } <p>Ammunition T. M. G. 74 complete 215 incomplete rounds at Left Sector + 346 rounds complete at Right Sector.</p> <p>Total do do 420 . 215 do taken over</p>	
		22	<p>180 complete component parts were obtained from La Polka Dump (N. 21. D. 50. 80) making T.M.G. ammunition 600 complete rounds + 35 incomplete rounds.</p> <p>With the exception of 6" Newton at O 22 D. 30. 95. all guns in position were in a bad condition and not able to be fired. The necessary work of either constructing new emplacements or rebuilding present ones is being carried on.</p> <p>To date the 6" gun at U. 5. B. 4. 5 has been moved to U. 5. A. 85. 70. and an alternative emplacement made at U. 5. A. 25. 70 in Right Sector. In the Left Sector a 9.45" gun MK II is being put in at O. 10. D. 65. 35 which has a nominal range of 2,400 yards.</p>	
		23	<p>1400</p> <p>The gun (6" Newton) at O 22. D. 30. 95 was fired at target Rifle Farm (O. 23. D. 10. 95) for 1st time by this Unit. 17 rounds in all T.M.G. (Ammunition on hand complete 588). Good bursts and several direct hits. Gun bed sand badly it will be 3 days before new emplacement is fixed up. This was the only gun taken over from 5th Div that could be fired. Before putting in further guns those already in, will be put into good working order.</p>	<p><i>277 Pauline Capt</i></p> <p>D.T.M.O. 1st AUS. DIV.</p>

Confidential Original

WAR DIARY

1st Aus. Div Medium

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Trench Mortar Batteries December 1917

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Volume 21. Page 3.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
PARMA DUMP Sheet 28 N. 18. B. 2. 7 Belgium.	Dec 24	1600	XIA M.T.M. Bly fired 4 rounds ^{TMG} from gun (6" Newton) at 0.35. 8.15.10 to target - "Minne" positions south of Puni Farm. - All rounds effective. This enemy T.M. position is not shown on Target map but has now been active for some time. I.O.R. of YIA a casualty. Wounded (accidentally) while carrying ammunition to gun.	(Total Amm 584 TMG)
	25	1600	XIA M.T.M. Bly fired 7 rounds on 036.c. 50.55 (Kiwi Farm) - Satisfactory registrations.	
	26	1300	XIA M.T.M. Bly fired 16 rounds (TMG) on Rifle Farm (0.23. D. 10. 90) also 14 rounds (TMG) on Bee Farm (0.23 B. 10 50) and Rasp Farm (0.23. B. 50. 65) - Satisfactory registrations - a good percentage were direct hits. (Total complete rounds Ammunition 111 55. TMG 547 TM B 200)	
	27		Received following ammunition from La Polka Dump (N 21. B. 70 80) TMG 250 rounds I.O.R. to Hospital in Div Area (Sick), XIA Bly - 6 O.R. held at Rest Camp from LA Polka Dump Total 797 - on hand I O.R. rejoined ZIA Bly from Base made complete TMG 807	
		0400	XIA M.T.M. Bly fired 16 rounds (TMG) on Enemy wire & trenches, vicinity of 036.c. 40.50 and track & trench system at 036.c. 40.10. Report - Satisfactory registrations - Direct hits obtained on enemy front line trenches & wire	
		1230	YIA M.T.M. Bly fired 13 rounds on The Twins at 0.11. D. 95. 20. - Excellent shooting on to this target, 40% direct hits. After the fifth round a man ran from this target into Pole House & after the 13th another man followed.	
		1300	do do 10 do on The Giant 0.12. B 25. 60. Satisfactory registration 30% direct hits	
		1330	do do 5 do on 0.18. A. 30. 90 Registration of enemy tracks for 50.5 target	Totals on hand (763 TMG 200. TM B)
		28	3 O.R. to Hospital sick in Div Area	
		0100	XIA M.T.M. Bly fired 10 shots at target 036.c. 40.50 against enemy Minnenwerfer which was firing over our lines. This was silenced & did not fire again for the night	
		0600	do do do 7 do - Registration	
	29	0100	do do do 10 do on Enemy trenches at 036.c. 45. 40. Harassing fire effective I O.R. to hospital Wounded (Gas) I O.R. to hospital sick in Div Area (Total rounds on hand 741. TMG 200 TM B)	

Capt

A.P. Paulman

D.T.M.O. 1st AUS. DIV

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WAR DIARY

1st Aus Div Medium

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Trench Mortar Batteries

December 1917

Volume 21. Page 4

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
PARMA DUMP Sheet 28 N.18. B.2.7 Belgium	Dec 29	30 0730 0800	<p>One 6" Newton in position at O.I.C. 05.55 hit by enemy shell this afternoon and placed permanently out of action - Ammunition in gun position was destroyed (No of gun 726) result of consistent bombardment by enemy of gun position last two hours. - No casualties. Gun detachments stood 16" all night in anticipation of enemy raid. No raid essential. Special precautions all night 3rd Jan 1918. all effective.</p> <p>VIA M.T.M. Bty fired 14 rounds at Rifle Farm (O.23.D.10.90) - 40% direct hits do do 12 do Bab Damm (O.23.D.50.90) - 30% do do</p> <p>20 complete Components Parts + charges were destroyed by enemy action thus reducing No of complete rounds of T.M.G. by that No.</p> <p>100 T.M.B with Silencer Tails were salvaged by a salvage Coy stolen away before being observed (Total rounds on hand T.M.G. 695 T.M.B. 100)</p>	<p>Actg D.T.M.O. 1st AUS. DIV.</p> <p>CAPTAIN</p>
	31 0300 0600	<p>Lieut G.A. Day returned to T.M. Rest Camp from duty at La Poeka Dump</p> <p>XIA M.T.M. Bty fired 10 rounds on 1 target at 036.C. 40.80 (Enemy trenches & tracks). Harassing fire effective - 38 rounds (T.M.G.) destroyed by shell fire at MIETTE SIDING (U.7.B. 70.60.)</p> <p>(Total Amm complete on hand T.M.G. 647 T.M.B. 100)</p> <p>Lieut Mulrooney with 21A Batteries proceeded to Right Sector at T.5.A.3.0 (150.R) with 6-2" guns. two of these are to be put in the line</p> <p>Guns in action 6 Newtons. 3 at following positions</p>		
			<p>1st position U.5.A. 85.80 " " O.35.C. 15.10 " " O.22.D. 30.95</p> <p>50.5 Target U.6.A. 35.10 " " O.36.C. 50.50 " " O.23.B. 45.65</p> <p>Enemy trenches Kwiri Farm Junction Enemy trench tracks Enemy tracks + strong point</p>	
			<p>Strength at beginning of month 5 off 59 OR</p> <p>From Schools 2 off 11 OR Rejoined 4 OR 2 15</p> <p>Less 162nd F.A.B. 10 off Evacuated 2 OR 7 74</p> <p>Transfers 2 OR YMCA. 1 OR for 10:1 6</p> <p>6 off 68 OR</p>	

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APPENDIX A
WAR DIARY - MONTH DECEMBER '17
Aus: DIVⁿ MEDIUM TRENCH MORTAR BATT

TAKEN FROM FRANCE
SHEET 24 S.W
1:2000

APPENDIX A

