

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

Artillery

Item number: 13/90/31

Title: 1st Australian Divisional Trench
Mortar Officer

October 1918



AWM4-13/90/31

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CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
DUPLICATE.
TRIPLICATE.

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

1st AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL MEDIUM TRENCH MORTAR BATTERIES.

FOR

OCTOBER

1918

Signature of Officer compiling

R. A. Howland Capt.

Signature of Officer Commanding

R. A. Howland CAPTAIN
D.T.M.O. 1st AUS. DIV.

ORIGINAL -

CONFIDENTIAL -

TRENCH MORTAR,
BATTERIES,
1ST AUSTRALIAN DIV.

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

1st Aust Divl Medium Trench Army Form C. 2118.

Mortar Batteries;-

OCTOBER 1918.

15

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.

No.
Date.. Octr 1918 (Erase heading not required.)

VOLUME 31- PAGE I.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Initials	Remarks and references to Appendices
ROISEL Hib. E. 6. 4. (Sheet 62 & France)	Oct 1		D.T.M.O. Lieut (T/Capt) H.H. Morris M.C. during absence of Capt R.A. Nowland M.C. O.C. 1st Battery - Lieut (T/Capt) H.H. Morris M.C. " 2nd " Lieut W.H. Bryan M.C. Strength at beginning of month - 7 Offs 102 O/Rs. Ammunition - Nil - GUNS IN ACTION - Nil		
	2		Lieut E.P. Titchener; rejoined from Base (wounded) - posted to 2nd Bty and HEM assumed Charge of that Bty by virtue of his seniority. In view of impending relief of 1st Aust Divl Arty, the mobile Trench Mortars were no longer required to "stand by" the following were therefore returned to their Unit (1st Aust D.A.C.) - 4 O/Rs & 8 Mules. All guns withdrawn from line D.T.M.O. - Capt R.A. Nowland M.C. rejoined from Base (sick) & resumed Duty. Report on 6" T.M. Bed with Spade "Mobile Fittings" following their use in action on 29th Sept was submitted; - vide .x..... APPENDIX N°1	Rah	
	3		Opinion called for on suggestion of a "PACK SADDLE CARRIER FOR 6" NEWTON MORT ARS BOMBS" - Forwarded - vide APPENDIX N°2 1 Officer (Lieut G.H. Todd M.M.) & 15 O/Rs proceeded on Leave to AUSTRALIA. 1 O/R to Hosp sick.	Rah	Appendix 1.
	4		Routine camp work.	Rah	
	5		Batteries moved out to Rest area - Transport provided by 1st Aust D.A.C. and 1st Aust Divl Train. - Route as follows:- 5/10/18 FROM ROISEL to HEM (West of PERENNE) 6/10/18 Rested at HEM. 2 O/Rs rejd from Base. 7/10/18 From HEM to VILLERS BRETONNEUX 8/10/18 " VILLERS BRETONNEUX to ARGOEUVES 9/10/18 " ARGOEUVES to Destination at CONDE-FOLIE where the troops were billeted.	Rah	
Conde-Folie. W. of ABBEVILLE FRANCE.	10		Transport returned to Units. Routine camp duties, cleaning up and settling troops. Lieut G.A. Clay transferred from 2nd Bty to 1st Bty who took over Charge of that Bty during absence of Lieut (T/Capt) H.H. Morris M.C. on leave to U.K. from 8/10/18.	Rah	
	11		1 O/R transfd from 1st Aust Divl Arty H.Q. to 2nd Bty.	Rah	
	13/14		1 O/R to hosp sick. Lieut T.H. Brunn rejd from Base (wounded-Gas) to 2nd Bty 1 O/R transfd from 1st Bty to 1st Aust Div Signal Coy. 14/10/18.	Rah	
	15				

ORIGINAL 6

CONFIDENTIAL.-

TRENCH MORTAR
BATTERIES,
1st AUSTRALIAN DIV.
No.
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WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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1st Aust Divl Medium Trench

Mortar Batteries. -

VOLUME 31. PAGE 1.

Army Form C. 2118.

OCTOBER 1918.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Initials	Remarks and references to Appendices
CONDE-FOUE W of ABBEVILLE	15 16/31.		<p>Under instructions from 1st Aust Divl Arty and AUDIT BOARD was appointed consisting of Lieut C.S. Johnston & 2.0/Rs for the purpose of auditing the books of the Canteen Funds. Books found correct and a balance sheet submitted to D.A.H.Q. Copy of Balance sheet, vide..... APPENDIX N°3</p> <p>Orders received that all T.M. Personnel, less a guard for stores etc & all men eligible for return on leave to AUSTRALIA, - proceed to FOURTH ARMY TRENCH MORTAR SCHOOL for a course of Instruction. D.T.M.O. and H.Q. to move to the school during course which is to last 14 days. SCHOOL situated at SAILLY- FLIBEAUCOURT, near ABBEVILLE on the SOMME. Personnel attending School including D.T.M.O. & H.Q. 5.offs 76.0/Rs. SYLLABUS OF TRAINING during Rest Period prepared and issued - APPENDIX N°4.</p> <p>During this period (16/10/18 to 31/10/18) time spent at FOURTH ARMY TRENCH MORTAR SCHOOL; - a programme of training is appended - vide APPENDIX N° 4.5</p> <p>A sports programme was carried out including Football, Hockey, Foot Running, Tug O' War, and Boxing. The following belonging to this Unit obtained medals</p> <p>3 miles Cross Country Race - Enr F.L. GUIDER 1st Boxing- Welter Weight- Cpl W.J.T. WATKINS 1st</p> <p>Entertainments were provided nightly in the form of Concerts, cinema & whist drives.</p> <p>1.0/R rejoined from Base, 1.0/R N°5842 Bdr(T/Cpl) G.B. WOOD. M.M. to Officers Training College, ENGLAND (26/10/18). - 1.0/R to hosp: sick (28/10/18). - 1.0/R rejd from Base (29/10/18). 1.0/R to Australia on Leave 30/10/18. Lieut(T/Capt) H.H. MORRIS M.C. rejd from Leave to U.K. and re-assumed charge of 1st Bty. 25/10/18.</p> <p>WEATHER.- Throughout the month for this time of year exceptionally good.</p> <p>DISPOSITION OF BATTERIES.- In Rest Area since 5/10/18 - ABBEVILLE AREA.</p> <p>GUNS IN ACTION.- Nil. AMMUNITION.- Nil.</p> <p>CRIMES.- Nil. SALVAGE - Nil, owing chiefly to being at a T.M. School.</p> <p>REGIMENTAL CANTEEN- Balance Sheet not available at time of despatch owing to being at School.</p> <p>COMFORTS FUNDS - Returns not yet available.</p>	P.G.H. P.G.H.	APPENDIX 3 APPENDIX 4 " 5 ENTON
	31			P.G.H.	CAPTAIN D.T.M.O. 1st AUS. DIV.

WAR DIARY

OF

1st AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL MEDIUM TRENCH MORTAR BATTERIES.

FOR

OCTOBER 1918

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1	REPORT ON 6" NEWTON TRENCH MORTAR BED WITH SPADE , "MOBILE FITTINGS".
2	PACK SADDLE CARRIER FOR 6" NEWTON TRENCH MORTAR BOMBS.
3	BALANCE SHEET &- REGIMENTAL DANTEEN FUNDS to 14/10/18.
4	SYLLABUS OF TRAINING while in REST AREA.
5	PROGRAMME OF TRAINING WHILE AT FOURTH ARMY TRENCH MORTAR SCHOOL - SAILLY-FLIBEAUCOURT.
6	CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE. (9 only)

E. A. Howland CAPTAIN
D.T.M.O. 1st AUS. DIV.

APPENDIX N°I--- WAR DIARY - OCTOBER 1918.-

Copy of Letter N°T.M.R.10 dated 2/10/18 from D.T.M.O. 1st Aust Div to
1st Aust Divl Arty.

R E P O R T

MOBILE FITTINGS FOR 6" NEWTON TRENCH MORTAR

Reference ~~your~~ my N°581/216 dated 12th ulto (vide War Diary for Sept 1918-Appendix N°1) :-

After an extensive use of this bed in the Line during recent operations on this Front, it was found that, in normal ground, the bed kicked down in rear; the front plate then rose on shock of discharge and caused the earth to bank up under front portion of bed thus making surface uneven. Owing to this unevenness the continued firing broke one bed in two.

From this bed only 20 rounds were fired.

The front plate keeps the bed from settling evenly and is certainly a disadvantage.

The raez spade on all beds was found to be strained and apparently was not strong enough to bear shock of discharge of the Mortar.

APPENDIX N°2 - WAR DIARY -OCTOBER, 1918.PACK SADDLE CARRIER FOR 6" NEWTON TRENCH MORTAR BOMBS.FOURTH ARMY N°Q 8/235
Aust Corps N°26/166R.A.AUST CORPS
N°Q/40

Aust Corps.

1. It has been suggested that some sort of pack saddle carrier for 6" Newton Trench Mortar bombs is necessary.
2. Will you please say whether any experiments have been carried out in ~~your~~ your Corps, so that these experiments, if any, may be standardised.?

(sgd) Cecil Thompson Major
for Major-General
D.A. & Q.M.G. 4th Army

27/9/18.

Will you kindly say as early as possible.

(sgd) Guy Raymond Lieut
for S.O.R.A. AUSTRALIAN CORPS

1/10/18.

D.T.M.O.
1st Aust Div

85/12

Please say

2/10/18.

(sgd) ? Stodart
Staff Captain 1st Aust Divl Arty.

From D.T.M.O. to 1st Aust Div/1 Arty N° 642/250 dated 2/10/18.

Reference your N°85/12 dated 2/10/18.

Mules with ordinary Pack Saddles were used in the HOLLEBEKE - MESSINES Area for carrying 6" bombs. π

Each mule carried 4 bombs

The bombs were placed in sandbags; 2 bags then tied together & slung across saddle.

This proved useful where carriage by rail was not available and, where the country proved suitable for taking mules as far forward as gun positions.

APPENDIX N°3 - WAR DIARY - OCTOBER 1918.

B A L A N C E S H E E T

CANTEEN FUNDS- 1ST AUST DIVL MEDIUM TRENCH MORTAR BATTERIES TO 14th OCTR'18

LIABILITIES	Fres Cts		Fres Cts		ASSETS	Fres Cts		Fres Cts	
Subscribed by Officers			1400	-	Stock			969	70
					Unpaid A/cs			50	10
Profits	765				Cash on Hand	1145	20		
Cash with C.P.M.	200	10	965	10	" with C.P.M.	200	10	1345	30
			2365	10				2365	10

cc

SYLLABUS OF TRAINING.

1st AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL MEDIUM TRENCH MORTAR BATTERIES.- 12th Octr 1918
WHILE IN REST AREA.

REVEILLE 7.am BREAKFAST 8.am

PARADES 9.am and 2.pm

DISMISS 12 noon " 3.pm

DETAILED INSPECTION ON PARADE , by Orderly Officer. 9.am

TATTOO ROLL CALL 9.45 PM

HUT ORDERLIES.- 3 men to be detailed(per Bty) daily, who will be responsible that all billets are tidied and ready for inspection, by Orderly Officer at 10.am

SANITATION.- 1.O/R to be detailed as permanent Sanitary Orderly, -He will be responsible that Latrines are kept clean and fly-proof boxes are to be obtained.

CAMP WARDEN.- 1.N.C.O. to be detailed to act as permanent Camp Warden. This N.C.O. will see that men behave in an orderly manner in camp and billets.

FATIGUES. - Usual daily fatigues to be detailed by Bty Sgts.

INSPECTION.- Orderly Officer will inspect men on parade at 9.am. He will also inspect all billets, stables etc each morning and ~~submit~~ submit a report to D.T.M.O.

BATHS.- Baths will be arranged so that every man will have at least one bath per week.

SPORTS.- Cpl M.Young is detailed to arrange all matters in connecti with SPORTS for the Unit.

TATTOO.- 9.45 pm -Orderly Sergt to be held responsible that this Roll Call is correctly made and submit a report to D.T.M.O's Office by 10.pm

TRAINING.

SALUTING.- Too much attention cannot be paid to this matter. Reference is required to instructions issued from time to time.

ROUTINE. 4 9.15 am to 10.am Physical exercises under ~~supervision~~ supervision of Orderly Officer.

10. " " 10.30 " Gun Drill.

10.30 " " 11 " "Smoko"

11 " " 12noon Route March and Marching Drill.

2.pm to 3.pm Lectures to N.C.O's and Meh on Discipline, Map Reading, Sanitation, Artillery Training etc

BOUNDS. - Camp - Grounds of Chateau.

No man is permitted to leave camp bounds unless properly dressed.

No man is to go out of this village(CONDE-FOLIE) without a Pass

All men ~~proceeding~~ proceeding beyond their billeting areas on leave to neighbouring towns will be inspected by an Officer before leaving their billeting areas.

LEAVEN. to be granted will be notified from time to time and depends upon the behaviour of all ranks and their prompt return.

CANTEENS.- An Audit Board has been established to/ investigate all Canteen accounts etc.

HARNESS.4 When not in use must be kept in Harness Room and kept thoroughly clean.

FOURTH ARMY TRENCH MORTAR SCHOOL.

SIXTH COURSE.

16th OCTOBER. 1918.Officer Instructors.

Major W;N. Culverwell.
 Capt W.J. Gilchrist.
 Capt. C. S. Youngs
 Capt. E. J. Shott
 Capt. J. V. Carter
 Capt. F. E. HODGE
 Capt. L.A. Woods

Nº 1 Battery.
 Nº 2 Battery.
 Nº 2 Battery.
 Nº 3 Battery.
 Camouflage.
 Signalling.

N.C.O. Instructors are posted as follows:-

Officers Squad.

Sgt. Brooks G.W.

Nº 1 Battery.

(Sgt. Pock W.
 (Sgt. McKenzie J.A.

Nº 2 Battery.

(Sgt. Heskegh R.
 (Cpl. Walton F.

Nº 3 Battery.

(Sgt. Street J.
 (Cpl. Gibson W.G.

Camouflage.

Sgt. Sprules H.

Range Signalling.

Sgt. Gent.

Range.

(Sgt. Lally T.
 (Cpl. Raynor F.G.
 (Cpl. Warmington.

APPENDIX Nº 5 - WARX DIARY OCTOBER 1918.

FOURTH ARMY TRENCH MORTAR SCHOOL.

PROGRAMME OF TRAINING.

SIXTH COURSE.

I. Thursday, Oct. 17th, 1918.

8.45 - 9	Practice of "G" Parade.	
9. - II.	Rolls and Kit Inspection	N° 1 P.T. 9 - 9.30. N° 2 P.T. 9.30 - 10. N° 3 P.T. 10 - 10.30.
II - 12.30	Lecture on Mortar and Ammunition	
5.15 - 7.	Examination	Officers.
5.15 - 6.15	Preparation of Ammunition.	
6.15 - 7	Lecture on Interior Economy. Laying.	N.C.O.'s. Remainder.

2. Friday 18th.

8.45 - 9.15.	Marching and Saluting Drill.		
9.15 - 10.	Lecture - INTERIOR ECONOMY.		Officers.
		N° 1 Bty.	N° 2 Bty.
9.15 - 10.	P.T.	Drill	Drill
10 - 11.	Drill	P.T.	Drill
11 - 12	Lecture- by Commandant.		
12 - 12.30	Laying.	Laying	Laying P.T.
2 - 2.40	P.T.	Drill	Drill
2.40 - 3.15	Drill	P.T.	Laying
3.15 - 4.30	Laying	Laying	P.T.

3. Saturday 19th.

8.45 - 9.15	Marching and Saluting Drill	
9.15 - 10	Lecture on Libse of Fire	Officers and N.C.O.'s
	Preparation for Digging In Light Sub-beds	- Remainder.
10 - 12.30	Digging in Light Sub-beds.	

4. Sunday 20th.

10 a m	Church Parade	Officers will Dress Regimentally without Gloves or Sticks.
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5. Monday 21st.

8.45 - 9.15	Marching and Saluting Drill.		
	Battery		
9/15 - 10	N° 1 Battery	N° 2 Battery	N° 3 Battery
10 - 11	P.T.	Digging In	Digging In.
11 - 11.45	Digging In	"	"
11.45 - 12.30	Drill	XXXXXX P.T.	Drill.
2 - 2.40	P.T.	Drill	P.T.
2.40 - 3.15	Shouting Drill & Laying	Shouting Drill & Laying	Shouting Drill & Laying.
3.15 - 4.30	Preparation of Ammunition	Preparation of Ammunition	Preparation of Ammunition.

FOURTH ARMY TRENCH MORTAR SCHOOL.N° 2.PROGRAMME OF TRAINING.SIXTH COURSE.6. Tuesday 22nd.

8.45 - 9.15.	P.T.	
9.15 - 12.30	Practical Map Reading & Laying out Lines of fire.	Officers & N.C.O's;
	Drill, Laying & P.T. Remainder.	
5.15 - 6.15.	Lecture - RANGING	Officers & N.C.O's.
	Boxing & Bayonet Fighting	Remainder.
6.15 - 7.	Miniature Range	Officers & N.C.O's.
	<i>Boxing & Bayonet Fighting</i>	

7. Wednesday 23rd.

8.45 & 9.15.	Marching Drill.	
9.15 - 11.	Lecture - AEROPLANE PHOTOS	Officers.
9.15 - 11.	Shouting Drill	N.C.O's.
	Laying	Remainder.
11 - 12.30.	Minenwerfer.	Battery Drill.
2 - 3.15.	Practice with	Drill Firing.
3.15 - 4.30.	Minenwerfer.	
3.15 - 4.30.	Drill Firing	Practical Camouflage, Lecturettes

The Officers & N.C.O's must be able to give the Drill Detail by this time.

During the remainder of the Course they will take charge of & train their own Batteries. This includes details of Gun & Ammunition, Drill and Physical Training.

8. Thursday 24th.

8.45 & 9.15.	Marching Drill.	Practice for Battery Officers.
9.15 - 11.	Camouflage	Marching Drill for N.C.O's.
11 - 12.30.	Practical Camouflage	Minenwerfer Practice with Minenwerfer.
5.15 - 7	-	N i g h t W o r k

9. Friday 25th.

8.45 - 9.15.	P.T.	
9.15 - 11.	Lecture by Commandant.	
11 - 12.30.	Practice with Minenwerfer	Range Firing. Battery Drill by Bty N.C.O
2 - 4.30.		Preparation for Scheme. Officers.
2 - 3.15.	Lecturettes.	Practice with Minenwerfer & P.T.
3.15 - 4.30.	Range Firing	Range Firing. Lecturettes.

PROGRAMME OF TRAINING.SIXTH COURSE.10. Saturday 26th.

7 am. - 12.30. Tactical Scheme.

11. Sunday 27th.

11 a.m Church Parade.

12. Monday 28th.

8.45 - 9.15.	P.T.	P.T.	P.T.
9.15 - 11	Battery Drill	Range Firing	Camouflage.
11 - 12.50	Range Firing	Practice with Minenwerfer	Practical Camouflage.
2. - 3.15	Revision	Revision	Range Firing
3.15 - 4.30	As required by Instructor I/C Class.	As required by Instructor I/C Class	As required by Instructor I/C Class
	Lecture on Emplacements	- Officers & N.C.O's.	

13. Tuesday 29th

8.45 - 9.30.	P.T.	Revision	Revision
9.30 - 11	Revision	P.T.	Revision
11 - 12.30	do	Revision	P.T.
	(Preparation for Tactical Scheme)		
5.15 - 7	- Night Work -		

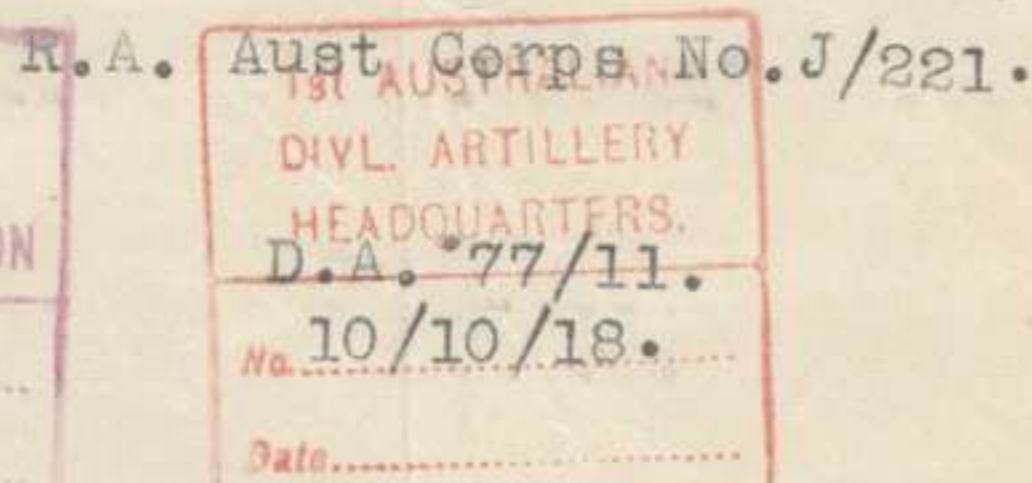
14. Wednesday 30th

8 - 12.30	- Tactical Scheme. -
2 - 2.30	Remarks on Scheme. Cleaning Stores.
2.30 - 4.30	Written Examination - Officers & N.C.O's.
	Laying Examination)
	P.T. & Revision) Remainder.

15. Thursday 31st

8.45 - 10	Detailing Examination.
	(and Laying Competition concluded)
10 - 12	Battery Digging in Competition.
12 - 12.30	Address by Commandant.
2 - 4.30	Revision

Brig. Genl. S.M. ANDERSON. D.S.O.



I wish to convey to you and those under your command my thanks and appreciation of the excellent work carried out by your Brigades during the recent operations.

The manner in which the Batteries were pushed forward from time to time and supplied with ammunition speaks volumes for the excellent spirit and untiring energy displayed by those under your command. The success of the operations of this Corps is, in a very great measure, due to the excellent work of the Field Artillery.

I wish you every success in all your future operations.

(Sgd) WALTER A. COXEN.

Brigadier. General.

G.O.C.R.A. Australian Corps.

5/10/18.

- 2 -

1st F.A. Bde.
2nd F.A. Bde.
1st D.A.C.
D.T.M.O.

The C.R.A. has pleasure in forwarding the above for your information.

10/10/18.

Major.
Brigade Major. 1st Aust Div. Art.

APPENDIX N° 6- WAR DIARY -OCTOBER 1918.

1st Bde
2nd Bde
Parade