

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

Artillery

**Item number:** 13/90/34

**Title:** 1st Australian Divisional Trench  
Mortar Officer

January 1919



AWM4-13/90/34

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TRENCH MORTAR  
BATTERIES,  
1st AUSTRALIAN DIV.  
No. **VOLUME .34.**  
Date. **JANRY 1919.**

15

**CONFIDENTIAL.**

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

Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

OF

1st AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL MEDIUM TRENCH MORTAR BATTERIES.

FOR

JANUARY 1918.

Signature of Officer compiling

Lieut

Signature of Officer Commanding

Lt

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

CONFIDENTIAL- ORIGINAL.

TRENCH MORTAR  
BATTERIES,  
1ST AUSTRALIAN DIV.

1ST AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL MEDIUM TRENCH MORTAR  
BATTERIES.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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 Janry 1919

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

JANUARY 1919.

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VOLUME 34 -PAGE.I.

15

BIESME  
BELGIUM  
S.E. of CHARLEROI.

1919  
Janry

Summary of Events and Information

Initials

Remarks and  
references to  
Appendices

**D.T.M.O., Lieut (T/Capt) T.H. Brunn -during absence on 75 days "1914 Leave" to U.K  
of Capt R.A. Newland M.C.**

**STRENGTH - At beginning of month.-5. Offs 82.0/Ranks distributed as under:-**

- 1. Off 29.0/Rs Attd to 1st Aust F.A. Bde
- 2. " 28. " " " 2nd " F.A. Bde
- 12. " " " " 1st " D.A.C.

**2 " 13 " Actually doing duty with Unit.**

**Total ... 5 " 82.**

**AMMUNITION -NIL- GUNS on Hand - 6- Six 6" Newton Mortars.**

**LOCATION OF UNIT.- BIESME, South of CHARLEROI.**

**GENERAL.-** These remaining with the Unit are merely employed guarding and  
keeping in order the Guns, Stores etc and ~~the ordinary clerical~~  
~~work~~ and in carrying out the ordinary clerical work of the Unit.  
For rations etc they are attached to the 1st Aust D.A.C.

**DEMOBILIZATION - is proceeding and up to the present men who embarked from  
AUSTRALIA up to the end of 1915 have been despatched to the Base.**

**ENTERTAINMENT OF TROOPS.-** is being well provided for by the Y.M.C.A.  
Representatives, in the form of Cinemas, Concerts, Euchre, Bridge,  
Draught and Chess Tournaments, Band Recitals; Reading, writing  
and recreation Rooms, and Dances also have been arranged and  
successfully carried out. \* Canteens and free cocoa Buffets have  
been established in all villages occupied by the Troops.

**EDUCATION.** - A very thorough system of education is in progress for the benefit  
of those desiring to participate and every endeavour made by the  
Military to afford facilities for A.I.F. Personnel to attend any  
course whatever that will assist them in fitting and/or improving  
them in their occupations in life after Repatriation. Facilities  
are also granted to visits Towns of interest and the Works and  
Mines of this Country.

(A9475) Wt W2358/P360 6000000000 1.1.1919 & 1.1.1919

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TRENCH MORTAR BATTERIES, 1ST AUSTRALIAN DIV.  
No. **JANRY 1919.**  
Date.....

1ST AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL MEDIUM TRENCH MORTAR BATTERIES.

Army Form C. 2118.

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

VOLUME 34 -PAGE 2.

JANUARY 1919

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Initials	Remarks and references to Appendices
BIESME BELGIUM. S.E. of CHARLEROI	1919	Janry 1	<b>HONOURS AND AWARDS.</b> - N°11761 Cpl(A/Sgt) Frederick William <u>HELMORE</u> , awarded D.C.M. (Authority 1st Aust Divk Arty R.O.I2. 15/1/19.) Member of 1st Aust Medium Trench Mortar Battery.		
			<b>ACTION.</b> - For New Year's Honours Despatch 1919.- Period from 25th Febr 1918 to 16/17th Sept 1918.		
			"This N.C.O. has been with the Medium Trench Mortar Batteries since their inception in April 1916. He has taken part in every Operation of the Unit, has at all times shown a magnificent courage under fire, has been conspicuous for his devotion to duty and his cheerfulness in the performance of all tasks allotted to him; and has set an example of a very high standard to his men."		
			"During the period 25/2/18 to 17/9/18 he has twice been recommended for "immediate reward" for gallantry under fire in the operations of the Unit at STRAZERLE, where he showed a courage and promptness in extreme danger that is deserving of the highest commendation."		
			"His continuous devotion to duty, his consistent gallantry and fearlessness in danger and the example set by him at all times are worthy of the highest praise."		
			Lieut(T/Capt) T.H. Brunn preceded on 75 days "1914 Leave" to HK U.K. and Lieut F.E.C. Bugby took over duties of D.T.M.O. pending return of Capt R.A. Newland M.C.		
			Brig-General H.W. Lloyd .C.M.G., D.S.O. and Lieut-Colonel F.J. Hardie . A.A. & Q.M.C. inspected Guns and Stores.		
			<b>GENERAL.-</b> <b>COMFORTS AND CHRISTMAS BOXES.</b> - A distribution of groceries and socks was made to each man during month. At Christmas each man also received a CHRISTMAS BOX.		
			<b>LEAVE.</b> - Leave to BRUSSELS was granted to a proportion of the Unit.		
			<b>CANTEEN FUNDS.</b> - Owing to the Unit being practically disbanded, the Canteen has been closed and all funds placed in Trust with Chief Paymaster. The sum of 10:14:8 was expended on a Christmas treat for those at that time with the Unit and the Balance now to Credit with C.P.M. is 62:10:1		
			<b>WEATHER.</b> - Up to 26th Janry, has been very mild, Winter conditions, however now Prevail.		

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

CONFIDENTIAL-ORIGINAL.

TRENCH MORTAR  
BATTERIES,  
1ST AUSTRALIAN DIV.

1ST AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL MEDIUM TRENCH MORTAR  
BATTERIES.

WAR DIARY

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No. JANRY 1919  
Date

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

VOLUME 34 - PAGE 3.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices								
<b>AN BIESME. BELGIUM S.E. of CHARLEROI.</b>	<b>Janry 31</b>		<p><b>APPRECIATION.</b> Now that the Unit is practically disbanded and not likely to be re-instated, owing to the number of its personnel who are returning to AUSTRALIA for Demobilization; it is desired to express the following few words of appreciation for General S.M. Anderson D.S.O. who has, for some time, so ably commanded the 1st Aust Divl Arty: an appreciation which is shared by every man of the Unit.</p> <p>He has always shown a steadfastness in purpose, a soldierly keenness in the performance of his Duty to his Country and, at the same time has exhibited a more than ordinary interest in his men for their well-being and comfort; traits which are heir to a General of the highest qualifications, and gained for him the esteem and confidence of all Ranks.</p> <p><b>STRENGTH.</b> - At beginning of Month ..... 5. Offs 82.0/Rs Rejoined from Base ..... 3 " "</p> <p style="text-align: right;">84</p> <p>5. " 80</p> <p>TO Hospital 4.0/Rs - 1914 Leave to U.K. 1. Offr. " AUSTRALIA for Demobilization 2.0/Rs ..... 1 " 33</p> <p style="text-align: right;">29</p> <hr/> <p>Total Strength at end of Month ..... 4 " 51</p> <p>Distributed as under:-</p> <table style="margin-left: 20px;"> <tr><td>With Unit</td><td>1 " 10</td></tr> <tr><td>1st Aust F.A. Bde</td><td>1 " 22 (2I)</td></tr> <tr><td>2nd " " "</td><td>2 " 16</td></tr> <tr><td>1st Aust D.A.C.</td><td>4</td></tr> </table> <p>The health, discipline and general appearance of the Troops is excellent. Their Billeting quarters are the best yet provided and the civilian population do all in their power to make the Troops comfortable. The Military have done everything in their power to add to the well being of the Troops.</p>	With Unit	1 " 10	1st Aust F.A. Bde	1 " 22 (2I)	2nd " " "	2 " 16	1st Aust D.A.C.	4	
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CAPTAIN  
1ST M.D. 1st AUS. DIV.

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 CAPTAIN  
 1ST M.D. 1st AUS. DIV.