

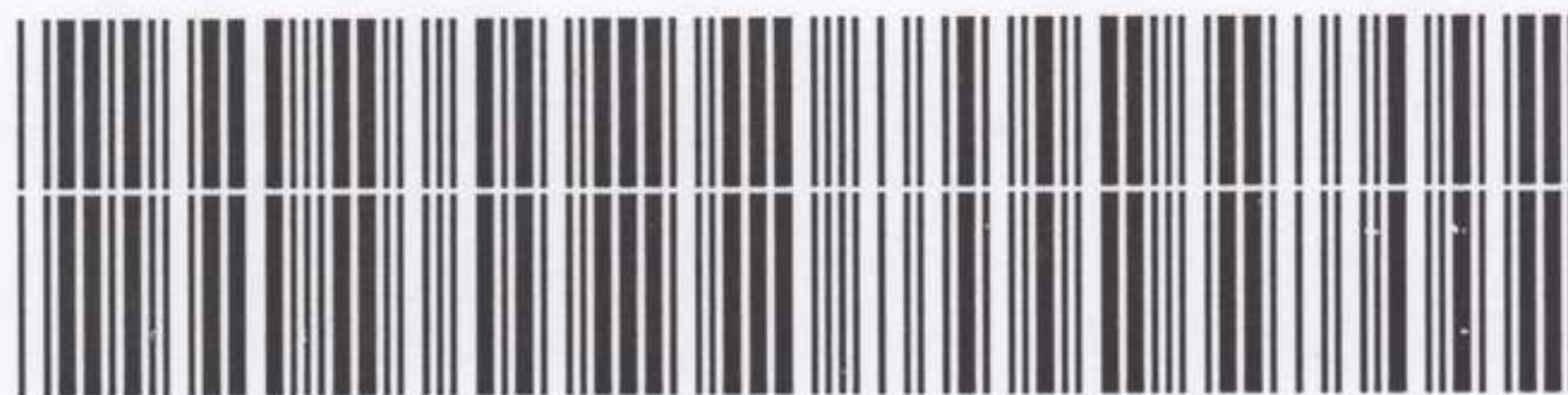
**AWM4**  
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,**  
**1914-18 War**

Artillery

**Item number:** 13/107/2

**Title:** 3rd Australian Medium Trench Mortar  
Battery

April 1918



AWM4-13/107/2



**CONFIDENTIAL.**

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

78  
TRENCH MORTAR  
BATTERIES,  
2ND AUSTRALIAN DIV.  
No. ....  
Date .....

Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

OF

*3<sup>RD</sup> Australian M.I.M. Battery.*

FOR

*April* 191*8*

Signature of Officer compiling

*Bruce Linnell*

Signature of Officer Commanding

*Burford H. Cairnes*  
Capt



WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

TRENCH MORTAR BATTERIES, Army Form C. 2118. 78  
 2ND AUSTRALIAN DIV.  
 No. ....  
 Date .....

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
Le Bizet.	APRIL 1		Increased aircraft activity. Shelling normal. weather good. Strength of Unit 4 Officers 58 ORanks.	Bunford's Camp
		10.15 PM	Fired 10 rounds on to C.11.C.78. all rounds carried to range & burst well. No retaliation	
	2	8 AM	Fired 5 rounds on to C.11.A.8.2. German O.P. Both infantry outposts and F.O.O. observed the enemy scattering in all directions.	
			D.I. No. 1 & C.O. together with Officers from 55 <sup>th</sup> Division proceeded to line to inspect guns, positions etc. preparatory to taking over from this Bty. The relieving division have just come from the Somme front & are considerably understrength.	
	3	10 AM	Relieved by 25 <sup>th</sup> Divn T.M.B. and proceeded to Nieppe. where we stayed overnight. While on this front we <del>put</del> made 8 gun positions and had 6 guns in action & fired over five hundred and fifty bombs. The infantry were highly pleased with the shooting and the decreased <del>amount</del> of minnenwerfers firing was undoubtedly due to the excellent work of these mortars.	
	4	11 AM	Proceeded by motor lorries to Sec Bois. arriving there at 1 P.M. and went into billets	
Sec Bois	5 <sup>th</sup> 6 <sup>th</sup>		Resting at Sec Bois prior to entraining to the Somme.	
	7 <sup>th</sup>	2.30 PM	Marched from Sec Bois to Strayell Station where we entrained at 4.30 PM.	
AMIENS	8 <sup>th</sup>	7 AM	After travelling all night we arrived at Amiens station and detrained	
		9 AM	Started to march to Behencourt a distance of 17 kilometers. but after marching about 5 kilometers managed to secure a motor lorry and so completed the journey arriving at Behencourt at 1 P.M. where we were billeted at the Chateau Behencourt which had been evacuated that day by the civilians who left the Chateau fully furnished having removed nothing	
Behencourt	9		Parades 10 A.M and 2 P.M. Standing by awaiting orders. French Officers came to the Chateau today and packed all furniture in the Chateau in one room	



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Behencourt	9		There were hundreds of bottles of wine in the cellars some of it having been bottled as far back as 1850. All the wine of that year and up to about 1880 was taken away for safe keeping but the remainder was sold out 2 and 3 francs a bottle.	
	10		Parades at 9 AM & 2 PM. The enemy threw a few large calibre shells on the outskirts of the town but otherwise the day was quiet. It is not possible for the Trench Mortar to go into action on this part of the front so the majority of men will be detached to different units.	Recd from McCann's
	11		Word has been received to detach parties to different batteries for the purpose of building waggons lines. No shelling around the place today.	
	12	2 PM	1 officer & 14 ORanks reported to 10 <sup>th</sup> Bty and the same number to 12 <sup>th</sup> Bty today. 3 ORanks to 4 <sup>th</sup> A.F.A. and 3 ORanks to 2 <sup>nd</sup> D.A.H.Q. today for duty.	
		2:30 PM	A squadron of German aeroplanes passed over Behencourt travelling toward Amiens.	
	13		15 ORanks reported to 5 <sup>th</sup> A.F.A. Bde for duty. The Officers & ORanks who reported to 10 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup> Bty yesterday for duty have also gone over to 5 <sup>th</sup> A.F.A. Bde. for fatigue work & digging forward Gun positions.	
	14	7 PM	Two guns complete were taken up to within 600 yards of the front line.	



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Benencourt	APRIL 14		It is not possible to work during the day time on account of snipers so the work of putting in positions will have to be done at night time 2 Gun crews have been selected and are all men of long service and well acquainted with the 6" Mortar. 24 ORanks will be put on digging gun positions tomorrow night. Gun positions are at E.13.B.10.90	
	15		D.I. No. 8 O.C. 2/AMM.T.M. Bty. went up today to inspect positions selected	
			Gun positions almost completed and 40 sheets galvanised iron and sufficient timber for 3 gun positions salvaged.	
	16		Gun positions completed and mens dugouts started. There is every possibility that ammunition will not be available for some time	
	17		Mens dugouts to hold 26 men completed also ammunition pits ammunition not yet available	
	18		Guns ready and mounted for action, but unable to fire owing to no ammunition being available. Weather Showery.	
	19		Ammunition available at last. 200 rounds taken to gun position at 1 P.M. weather showery. Shelling & aerial activity normal.	
	20	3 P.M.	Ranged on enemy front line and the quarry situated at E.13.A.30.70. Sheet 62.D. France Fired 12 rounds from E.13.B.10.80 position & 18 rounds from E.13.B.50.70 position Of the six rounds fired on enemy front line 3 were direct hits on the trench	

Bunford H Camp



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# WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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1. ENEMY MORTAR  
BATTERIES, Army Form C. 2118. 28

2ND AUSTRALIAN DIV.

No. ....

Date. ....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Behencourt	APRIL 20		20 rounds were fired into the quarry with good results, all rounds burst well and large columns of chalk dust were observed. Observation good retaliation nil in vicinity of trenches or pits	
		11 AM	1 OKant wounded in both legs and hand through shell exploding in his dugout.	
	21	3 AM	1 OKant killed and 1 N.C. blinded through shell bursting in dugout. weather fine. Shelling normal. 3 enemy aeroplanes flying at a low altitude flew over Behencourt in the direction of Amiens. During the evening Gnr. McAndrew's body was brought down from the line this evening for burial in the Military Cemetery at Frochencourt.	Bursts of McAndrew's
	22		Reliefs of men in line took place today. Shelling & actual activity normal.	
	23		100 rounds of ammunition taken to gun pits. Dugouts being made at Bazieux for Battery Headquarters.	
	24		working on Bty Hqrs dugouts. 2 more gun positions under construction also ammunition recesses. weather showery. Shelling normal. 1 gun complete taken to line	
	25		Gun positions completed and one gun mounted & ready for action	
		3.30 to 4 PM	At infantry commanders request two sharp bursts were fired on to enemy trenches between E.13.D. 90.95. and E.13.D. 70.75. One of these two shoots illustrating S.O.S. lines. all rounds burst well and carried to range. one great coat & trench shelter were observed in the air.	



WAR DIARY

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Behencourt.	APRIL 26	2.30 AM.	3 guns opened fire on enemy trenches between E.13.D. 70.75. and E.13.D. 90.95. in co-operation with 3" Stokes mortars and 18 pdes. 54 rounds in all were fired	
		3.30 AM.	We again opened fire and swept enemy trenches firing 41 rounds.	
		7 PM.	160 rounds were taken from Contay dump to gun positions	
Barzeux	27	12 noon.	Battery Hqrs moved from Chateau Behencourt to dugouts at Barzeux. one gun complete taken to gun positions. Weather showery shelling normal.	
	28	3 PM.	Opened fire on to enemy dugouts at E.13.D. 110.30. Registered on road from E.13.D. 20.20 to E.13.D. 110.10. and also registered M.G. position at E.19.B. 60.95. Two guns were registered on these positions 19 rounds were fired with one dud. All other rounds burst well. No retaliation near pits. Weather showery. Shelling normal during day but increased at night.	
	29		4 reinforcements received from 2 <sup>nd</sup> D.A.C., one to be returned as he is unfit for line work. Weather showery. Shelling normal during day but increased at night	
		5 PM	Fired 10 rounds on to enemy roads & M.G. position	
	30	2 AM.	Fired 93 rounds from 3 positions on to enemy trenches and M.G. position also broke up working party. that were out repairing damage done by our bombs at 5 pm on 29/4/18. Infantry Commanders were well pleased with our work. All rounds carried to range and burst well. Strength of Battery 5 Officers 56 ORanks.	

Proposed Captain



78

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18,000-12/17-872

# WAR DIARY

OF

*3<sup>RD</sup> Australian M.T.M. Battery.*

FOR

*April 1918*

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.

Subject.

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TRENCH MORTAR BATTERIES, 2ND AUSTRALIAN DIV.		
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