

AWM4

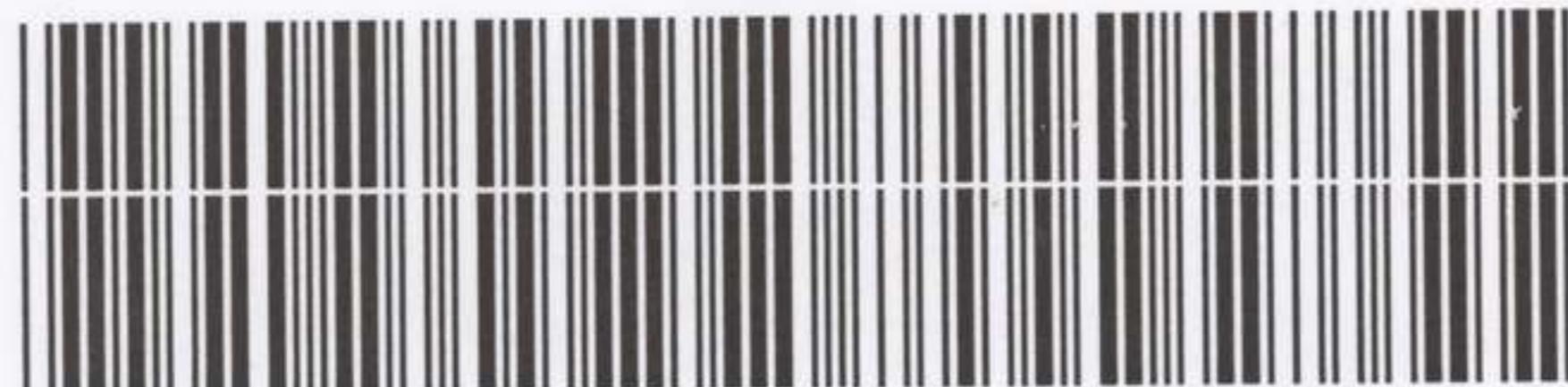
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War**

Artillery

Item number: 13/107/7

Title: 3rd Australian Medium Trench Mortar
Battery

September 1918



AWM4-13/107/7

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
DUPLICATE.
TRIPPLICATE.

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

3RD A.M.T.M. Battery

FOR

September 1918

Complete

Signature of Officer compiling

Signature of Officer Commanding

WAR DIARY

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks & References to Appendices
H3D9.5	Sept.	1. 7 am	Orders from D.T.M.O for part of Battery to move forward to H3D9.5.0 and make dump at that position.	
		9.30 am	Lient Pontef and 22 O.R proceeded to H3D9.5.0 and were engaged all day unloading ammunition from motor transports and constructing dump. Ammunition on dump consisting of 4.5 Howitzer, 18 pounder & 13 pounder shells. Lient Bans and 10 O.R remained at dump situate at G29 A 5.5. Weather fine and warm. Strength 1 officer 35 O.R.	D. John M.
	do	2. 10 am	Lient Bans and remaining men moved to forward dump. Battery engaged working all day on dump. Lms. Canwill, Rankin and Spiller returned from English leave. Enemy aircraft active at night. Many bombs dropped close by and several men killed and wounded also horses in adjacent horse lines and on road. The Battery are occupying old German dugout which are strongly constructed and well below the level of the ground. The dump is screened from observation by a slight rise and in the depression are several battery horse lines.	
	do	3. 11 am	Weather unsettled, cloudy and showery. Strength 1 officer 35 O.R. Lient Mac Donald of 2 D.A.C and O.R. from the D.A.C arrived at dump. Mr. McDonald assumed charge. Battery engaged all day working on dump. Ammunition coming in and going out all the time.	

WAR DIARY

3RD A.M.T.M. Battery

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks & References to Appendices
H 3 D 9.5	Sept 3.	11 am.	Heavy traffic day and night on roads. Several high velocity H. 2 shells dropped near billets. No damage was caused but result being that several Batteries moved their wagon lines elsewhere. Enemy aircraft active at night and several bombs dropped in vicinity of dump weather fine and warm. Strength 1 officer 35 O.R.	Datum U
do	4		Battery engaged all day working on dump. Mounted guard at night. Memo from A.I.F. HQs advising Gen. Yeend was reporting to W. I. A.A. Hospital on 26/8/18 weather - Day fine and warm. Night very dark with ground mists. Strength 1 officer 35 O.R.	
do	5		Orders from D.T.M.O. that dump was being handed over to 5 th Aust. Div. and to be ready to move to Bray tomorrow. Lieut Barns proceeded to Bray to pick billets for Battery. Observation balloons on left moved forward a long way - sure sign of an advance. Capt. Caines returned from English leave. Weather fine and warm during day - very dark night and heavy thunderstorms about 7 pm. Big glow at night behind enemy's lines as if from burning village or ammunition dump. Strength 2 officers 35 O.R.	
do	6	6 am	Renewal and parade at 6.30.	
		7.30 am	Battery moved off and proceeded to D.T.M.O. at Herbecourt. At Herbecourt loaded all guns, beds, stores &c on 5 G.S. wagons from 2 nd DAC and proceeded to billets at Bray.	21

WAR DIARY

3RD A.M.T.M. BATTERY

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks & References to Appendices
	Sept 6.		Cpl. Munter and Gnr. Bondurant reported back to Battery with 2 G.S. Beds fitted with spade patent. Received from mobile workshops two pill boxes for use of battery.	
	noon		Battery arrived at billet in Bray. Bray has been very lightly shelled and our billets are in houses in very good condition. The river Liffey runs just at the back so we are well off as regards washing and swimming. Cpl. Renwick taken on strength and detailed to No. 1 section. Received from 4th Army T.M. School medal won by Gnr. McBrearty last school course. Weather unsettled and showery. Strength 2 officers 36 OR.	Gordon L.
Bray.	7		In billets at Bray.	
L29(6.5)	10am		Parade - fatigue dress. Mounted and cleaned all guns and beds. Fatigues etc. Orders from D.T.M.O re inspection of Division by Commander-in-Chief. Orders from D.T.M.O for 4 men to report to W.O. Baths in Bray. Few gunners detailed to work at Baths. Gnr. Kilmartin detailed to report to D.T.M.O as storeman. Bdr. Dunstan taken on strength. Weather fine and warm. Strength 2 officers 36 OR.	Vide Appendices 1 and 2
L29(6.5)	8		In billets at Bray.	
	10am		Parade fatigue dress. Church Parade for R.C.'s in town church at 9.30. Men engaged working on baths, fatigues and cleaning equipment. Weather unsettled. Dull and cloudy with showers. Strength 2 officers 36 OR.	(ee)

WAR DIARY

3RD A.M.T.M. Battery

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Remarks & References
to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	
L 29 C 6.5	Sept 9.	In billets at Bray.		
	10 am.	Parade marching order, inspection of equipment & rifles &c. Brigade sports to be held tomorrow. Arranging for entries for various events and picking teams for Battery events. Overhauling & checking all stores - preparing indents for shortages. Issuing equipment to men for v.s. stuff. Received consignment of Comforts from War Chest Fund consisting of tobacco, cigarettes, tinned fruit, milk, oatmeal, syrup &c. Weather cold and wet - raining very heavily in evening. Strength 2 officers 35 O.R.	Joshua M.	
do	10	10 am.	In billets at Bray. Parade fatigue dress - inspection of billets &c. Brigade sports postponed till tomorrow on account of heavy rain. The rain found the weak spots in the roof and several rooms leaked very badly necessitating a hasty retreat to other billets on the part of the occupants. Weather cold and heavy rain falling Strength 2 officers 35 O.R.	
do	11	10 am.	In billets at Bray. Parade - fatigue dress. 4 th Field Artillery Brigade Sports held this afternoon in showery weather. The D.T.M.O's gelding ridden by Bent Barns won the Officers Plate also the first division of the Kleg event 'Cappy' Plate and was second in the final. All the Battery backed the horse in all his races.	A

WAR DIARY

3RD. A.M.T.M. Battery2
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks & References to Appendices
			Summary of Events and Information	
Sept 11	L 29 C 6.5	12	The sports were a great success and everyone enjoyed the afternoon's sport. Sdr. W. Gaddan returned from English leave. Strength 2 officers 85 O.R. Weather cool and showery.	
			In billets at Bray.	Guthrie H.
			Capt. Arthur and 6 O.R. returned from course at 4 th Army French Mortar School. Forwarded 12 names to D.T.M.O for English leave. Memo from D.T.M.O with official report on Cpl Barker's work at Pcs School. Report showing excellent work by N.C.O. Received program of events for Divisional Sports to be held on 16 th inst and arranging for entries. Several good concert parties showing at Bray and neighbouring villages and the opportunity of hearing same eagerly availed of by personnel of Battery. Weather cold and wet - heavy showers falling in course of day. Strength 3 off. 42 O.R.	
do	13.		In billets at Bray.	
	10		Parade fatigue dress. Sdr. Scape and Gn. Bondrat proceeded on leave to England. Weather cold and unsettled - very showery. Strength 3 officers 42 O.R.	
do	14.		In billets at Bray. Cpl Luburis & Gn. Lake returned from English leave. Orders from D.T.M.O for Capt. Gaines to be ready to leave for Australia on furlough. All day 1914 men from all Divisions have been marching into billets here	ex

WAR DIARY

3RD A.M.T.M. Battery

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and References to Appendices
L 29 C. S.	Sept 14	5.30 pm	To await train to Marseilles en route to Australia on furlough. Parade in Town Square by 194 men and address delivered by Mr. Hughes Prime Minister of Australia. Speech mainly thanking them for what they have done and re arrangements made for them as regards furlough. Mr. Hughes was accompanied by several American journalists who were accompanying him on a tour of the battlefields. The personnel of Battery have been taking advantage of the warm weather and the close proximity of the river to indulge in swimming and also fishing. The river abounds in fine fish and many good hauls have been made. Weather fine but cloudy. Strength 3 officers 44 OR.	Gordon H
do	15	10 am	In billets at Bray. Church Parade Battery played the S.A.A. Section 2 nd D.A.C. Australian Football this afternoon and we won by 30 points to 15 points. The S.A.A. is reckoned one of the best teams in the 2 nd Div. Artillery so we did very well to beat them. Bdr. T. Jones proceeded to England on leave. Several aeroplanes over town during afternoon but very high up. Bdr. Taylor returned from leave. Weather fine and warm. Strength 3 officers 43 OR.	
do	16		In billets at Bray. Divisional Sports held near Garry today. Very great attendance Good sport and a very enjoyable day. The D.T.M. d's horse ridden by our Lt Col Barnes won heat in "Herdcourt Trotter" and was just beaten in final. Gnr. Canavan proceeded to England on leave. Weather fine and warm. Strength 3 officers 44 OR.	©

WAR DIARY

3RD A.M.T.M. Battery21
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and References to Appendices
Bray	Sept 17		In billets at Bray.	
L 29 C 6.5	17	10 am	Parade fatigue dress - cleaned and painted all guns and beds. Cleaned up billets and in neighbourhood of same. Capt. Carnes left Bray at 3.30 pm by train for Marseilles en route for Australia. Weather fine but cloudy during day - very heavy thunderstorm during night. Strength 2 officers 42 O.R.	Joshua H.
do	18	10 am	In billets at Bray. Parade fatigue dress. Further issue of comforts. Weather cloudy and showery. Strength 2 officers 43 O.R.	
do	19	10 am	In billets at Bray. Parades fatigue dress. Weather cloudy & showery - cool breeze blowing. Strength 2 Officers 42 O.R.	
do	20	10 am	In billets at Bray. Parade 10 am. fatigues etc. Further issue of comforts from Comforts Fund. Weather cool and showery. Strength 2 officers 42 O.R.	
do	21		In billets at Bray. Parade 10 am. fatigues etc. Gus Carnill and Spicer returned from English leave. Weather cool and showery. Strength 2 officers 44 O.R.	V

WAR DIARY

3RD A.M.T.M. Battery25
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks & References to Appendices
Bray	Sept 22		In billets at Bray. Parade 10 am fatigues dress. Battery engaged on fatigues etc. Memo from A.I.F. HQs advising that Bdr. Scape was instructed to report to 1 st A.I.F. Harefield on 17 th inst. Memo from Adj. 2 nd Batt re application by Gen. G. Taylor for transfer to that Battalion. A large amount of American transport passing along roads towards the line. Weather cool and showery. Strength 2 officers 44 O.R.	Vide Appendix 3
do	23	9.30	In billets at Bray. Parade 9.30 am drill order. Inspection of rifles & equipment also billets. Rearanging Sections and preparing list of shortages. Weather cool and cloudy. Strength 2 officers 44 O.R.	Johnson A
do	24	9.30 am	In billets at Bray. Parade 9.30 am drill order. Weather cool unsettled - raining at intervals. Strength 2 officers 44 O.R.	
do	25	9.30	In billets at Bray. Parade 9.30 drill order inspection by officers etc. Orders from D.S.M.O. re lumbers. Weather cool and cloudy.	Appendix 4
do	26	9.30	In billets at Bray. Parade 9.30 am fatigues dress. Inspections & fatigues. Weather fine and warm. Strength 2 officers 44 O.R.	J

WAR DIARY

3RD. A.M.T.M. Battery22
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks & References to Appendices
Bray	Sept L29C6.5	27 9.30	In billets at Bray. Parade 9.30 drill order. Inspections &c. Ssns. Leammons, Denmen and Liffit proceeded on leave to England. B.M. Ballingall and Dr. Browne proceeded on leave to Paris. Orders from D.S.M.O. to be ready to move off tomorrow. Orders from D.S.M.O. for 2 N.C.O.s and 6 men to join S.A.A. Section 2 nd D.A.C. with the two limbers with two guns complete and patent spade bed. Weather fine but cool and cloudy. Strength 2 officers 39 O.R.	forkin
do	28 9 am		Battery in conjunction with 4 th Battery & D.S.M.O. moved in motor transports to Roisel. Billets very bad - town merely a mass of ruins Limbers moved with D.A.C and rejoined Battery at billets in Roisel. Orders from D.S.M.O. re probable use of two mobile guns in forthcoming operations and re salvaging party. Picked gun crews & salvaging party. A big 13.5 railway naval gun firing from railway at back of town. Heavy transport on roads - many American troops & transport on road. Gnr. York J. proceeded on leave to England. Enemy aircraft over town during night and many bombs dropped in vicinity of railway line. Weather cold and raining heavily. Strength 2 officers 38 O.R.	Han no. 7.
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WAR DIARY

3RD. A.M.T.M. BatteryRemarks and References
to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	
Roisel	Sept 29		<p>In billets at Roisel.</p> <p>Very misty morning. Beginning of our offensive - heavy bombardment at dawn.</p> <p>Gun crews and salving party standing by in readiness for action.</p> <p>1 Driver & 2 mules attacked to Battery from 2nd D.A.C.</p> <p>Obtained from ammunition dump 40 pounds ammunition for guns.</p> <p>Orders from D.S.W.O. for all guns and stores to be packed & stored and gun crews to be ready to move forward at any time.</p> <p>Prisoners taken in attack passing thru town to P.O.W. cages.</p> <p>Weather cold and heavy rain falling.</p> <p>Strength 2 officers 38 O.R.</p>	Arthur H. Vol. No. 9.
	30		<p>In billets at Roisel.</p> <p>Battery standing by awaiting instructions.</p> <p>Memo from D.S.W.O. for Cpl McCarrie to interview C.R.A. this morning in reference to his application for transfer to A.F.C.</p> <p>Weather very cold and unsettled - heavy showers falling.</p> <p>Strength 2 officers 38 O.R.</p>	10

WAR DIARY3 RD A.M.T.M. Battery

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Review by O. C.

Septv '18.

This month has been a very easy one for the Battery. The first six days were engaged in ammunition dump work but from the 6th to the 28th the Battery was resting in billets in Bray. During these days the whole Division was out of the line but an expected inspection by the Commander-in-Chief did not eventuate. However the few days spell were enlivened by Brigade and Divisional Sports. Our billets in Bray were excellent and the Battery was able to indulge in swimming in the adjacent river from which we also derived a plentiful supply of fish.

As has been previously referred to in my Review for August the nature of the operations and the almost daily advances of our troops did not permit of the use of the 6" trench Mortar. The new spade bed patent designed to render to a certain extent, the gun mobile may probably be used in the forth coming operations when the Divisional Infantry goes in the line. The end of the month finds the Battery with two picked gun crews and limbers loaded with guns, spade beds, stones &c standing by for further orders & in anticipation of assisting in the new attack.

The health of the Battery has been excellent - the only exception being of an N.C.O reporting sick whilst on furlough in England.

The clothing of the men has somewhat improved from last month but Australian tins are still very hard to obtain. However leave has been very liberal and as the men obtain a complete new issue of clothing at A.I.F. Headquarters London this reduces the demand on our own

Review by O. 6 (contd)

Quartermaster. The Battery is correct as regards equipment, in fact, any shortages in this respect can always be made up by salvaged material.

Richard G.

O. 6 3rd A.M.T.M. Battery

WAR DIARY

OF

3RD. A.M.T.M. Battery

FOR

September 1918**LIST OF APPENDICES.**

No.

Subject.

- ✓1. Special Order by Maj.-Gen. G. Rosenthal C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.
- ✓2. Orders re ceremonial parade of Division.
- ✓3. Memo re Bdr. Scape.
- ✓4. Orders from D.T.M.O. re tanks.
- ✓5. Movement Orders by Capt. L. Seymour M.C. D.T.M.O.
- ✓6. Orders from D.T.M.O. re mobile mortars.
- ✓7. " " " re ammunition.
- ✓8. " " " re Salvaging Party.
- ✓9. " " " re movement.

APPENDIX

2nd AUST. DIVISION

M-A24/13

DIV. ARTILLERY V.G.

SPECIAL ORDER

by

Major-Gen. C. ROSENTHAL, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.,

Commanding 2nd Australian Division.

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The following congratulatory messages, received in connection with recent operation, are published for promulgation to all members of the 2nd Australian Division:-

To MAJOR-GENERAL C. ROSENTHAL from LIEUT-GEN. SIR JOHN MONASH, AUST. CORPS.

On the completion of the present series of operations by the 2nd Australian Division, I desire to tender to you and, through you, to the Commanders, Staffs, and Troops of the Division, my very warmest thanks for the brilliant services which they have rendered to the Corps, and to the Allied Cause, in the recent battles. The performances of the Division, since they resumed duty in the line on August 24th, have been on the highest plane of merit. While all troops and services of the Division have contributed to these great successes, no one will begrudge the singling out of Brigadier-General MARTIN and the 5th Australian Infantry Brigade for special praise. The capture of MONT ST. QUENTIN has evoked a chorus of praise throughout the press of the world, as the finest single feat of the war, and this high encomium is richly deserved. The subsequent decisive defence of that important key position by the 6th and 7th Brigades was not less notable. I wish you to convey to all ranks of the Division my heartiest appreciation of all this fine work; and I also have pleasure in appending a copy of a message received from General Sir H. RAWLINSON, the Commander of the Fourth Army.

Copy of Telegram from Fourth Army Commander to Australian Corps Commander.

"The capture of MONT ST. QUENTIN by the 2nd Division is a feat of arms worthy of the highest praise. The natural strength of the position is immense and the tactical value of it in reference to PERONNE and the whole system of the SOMME defenses cannot be over-estimated. I am filled with admiration at the gallantry and the surpassing daring of the 2nd Division in winning this important fortress, and I congratulate them with all my heart.

Gen. RAWLINSON."

To MAJOR-GENERAL C. ROSENTHAL from GENERAL SIR W.R. BIRDWOOD, G.O.C., A.I.F.

Hearty congratulations to you and whole of 2nd Division on your last complete success.

Division Headquarters,
5th Sept. 1918.

J. MacDonnell
Lieut-Colonel,
A.A. & Q.M.G.
Second Australian Division.

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S E C R E T.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Divisional Headquarters,
4th. September, 1918.

C.R.A.
C.R.E.
2nd. Aust. Div. Sig. Coy.
5th. Aust. Inf. Bde.
6th. Aust. Inf. Bde.
7th. Aust. Inf. Bde.
2nd. Aust. Pioneer En.
2nd. Aust. M. G. Bn.
2nd. Aust. Div. Train.
A.D.M.S.
D.A.D.V.S.
D.A.P.M.
Camp Commandant
2nd. Aust. Div. Salvage Coy.

Units are warned that in from seven to ten days time the Divisional Commander proposes to have a ceremonial parade of the Division complete with Artillery, transport, etc., in the vicinity of CAPPY.

The Divisional Commander hopes that the Field Marshal, C-in-C., will be present and that arrangements can be made for the Official Photographer to take panoramic photographs of the whole parade and photographs of units afterwards.

All preparations will be commenced forthwith to secure the best possible turnout in clothing, equipment, etc.

It is proposed to have a rehearsal parade on the afternoon prior to the review.

J. MacDonnell
Lieut-Colonel,
A.A. & Q.M.G.
Second Australian Division.

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Administrative Headquarters
Australian Imperial Force
130 Horseferry Road,
London, S.W.1.

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Commanding Officer

3rd Medium Trench Mortar Battery.

17th Sept. 1918

A.I.F. ABROAD

No 1616 Bdr Scafe C.H. 3rd M.T.M.B

on leave from France until the 28th inst., was instructed to report
to 1st A.A.H Harefield for admission on the 17th idem.

W. W. Munro

Captain
D.A.A.G.

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APPENDIX

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2nd And Div "French Mortar"
Y (4) Headquarters
28/9/18.

DC 3rd Amusub.

4th Amusub

Re Mortar Lumber & Wagons

B.G.'s will see that the Rising Sun with 2nd in it, is placed on the back of both lumber and wagon in the right hand corner.

These wagons are to be kept ready for inspection at all times.

Approved
Capt
D. Luis

18

2nd Australian Division French Mortars
78 (5) APPENDIX 5

Movement Orders by Capt Seymour M.C. R.T.M.O.

Reference Map. Sheet 62^c 1/40,000.

now. 2nd Aus' Div's Inf Btys will move on 28th inst at 10 a.m. from Bray to Roisel advance party - 100 billets:- 1 officer from 4th Bty, and 5 OR's from each battery. will leave Bray at 7 a.m. on morning 28th inst and proceed to Roisel on bicycles for the purpose of finding billets of transport:- (1) 3 short motor lorries will be reporting to I. & Q. office, Bray at 9 a.m. 28/9/18

3 lorries are for 50% of personnel of each Battery, battery stores and guns.

1 lorry will report to I. & Q. office for Qms Store and office gear, and will then report to Batteries officers mess for officers gear and mess gear.

The remainder of personnel will march to Peronne leaving Bray not later than 9 a.m. on arrival at Peronne they will wait at X roads I. w. D. 2. 4. where they will be picked up by lorries returning from Roisel. This party must make that map reference by 2.30 pm otherwise it will be impossible for lorry to wait.

An officer will accompany the above party.

This to be arranged by battery commanders

Billets All billets to be left clean, and are to be inspected by an officer prior to departure and a certificate ~~return~~ rendered to this office by 9 a.m. 28/9/18

H. J. Seymour
H. J. Seymour
R.T.M.O.

2nd Aus Div 4-prce Mortars 78
Head quarters.

O.C. 3rd Aus Inf B.
~~4th Aus Inf B.~~

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27/9/18

In the event of the above mortars being used in the forthcoming operation it will be necessary to select gun teams with very reliable N.C.O.s. An officer will also be detailed to each gun, as it is possible they may be detached with certain Infantry units.

Please inform me when this has been done

H. G. C. J.
D. S. M.

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APPENDIX 6

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2nd Aust Div Artillery Headquarters
①

OK 3rd August.

28/9/18

Please report to this office when the
mobile guns arrive, from D.A.T.
The fore-end of the limbered G.S. Wagon
is to be made ready to receive ammuni-
tion, so the super-bed can be taken
out

~~Dear Mr Cap
D.L.M.~~

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APPENDIX

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Two Aust Divisional French Mortars.

O.C. 3rd Australian B.
1st Australian B.

8

Headquarters
29/9/18

O.C. batteries will detail 3 hds and 12 men
to report to D.I.M.O on morning of 29th inst
at Bairal, these men will be required to
salve all captured guns in the Divisional
Area during forthcoming operations.

Approved
Captain
D.I.M.O.

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APPENDIX

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Znd Aust Div French Morau

APPENDIX

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9

Headquarters

29/9/18

O.C's 3rd Am Sub

4th Am Sub

As it is possible that this unit will be moving forward rather rapidly within the next 48 hours both batteries stores will be stored in one room at present location, and arrangements made for a responsible guard to be left behind to guard same. Please have this carried out immediately as no more takes place unexpectedly.

Howard P
Capt
H.D.M.S.

2/10/18
2/10/18