

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

Artillery

**Item number:** 13/108/3

**Title:** 4th Australian Medium Trench Mortar  
Battery

May 1918



AWM4-13/108/3



**CONFIDENTIAL.**

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

Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

OF

*4th Aust Medium Trench Mortar Battery*

FOR

*May*

*1918*

Signature of Officer compiling

*Hickox Lieut*

Signature of Officer Commanding

*Hickox Lieut*



4<sup>th</sup> Aust M. T. M. Battery

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

May 1918

Army Form C 2118

4 A.M. - T.M. 1918  
May 1918

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
Baizeux	1 <sup>st</sup>		Working parties proceeded to reserve gun pits and control to carry on with construction of same, signallers engaged on communications with Right and Left sectors, the laying of the line was not completed owing to heavy shell fire <u>H.B.</u>	
	2 <sup>nd</sup>		Working party proceeded to forward area to carry on with duties in hand. Gun crews and signallers of right sector relieved. Party to "Conray" dump for ammunition Telephone communication between Left & Right sectors established <u>H.B.</u>	
	3 <sup>rd</sup>		Working party to forward area. Relief of Left sector gun crews 3 men wounded on Right sector Parties carrying bombs to guns on right <u>H.B.</u>	



4<sup>th</sup> Aust M. T. M. Battery

WAR DIARY

May 1918

Army Form C. 2118. 29

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Baizeux	4 <sup>th</sup>		Wounded men replaced on Right Sector 1 Reserve gun withdrawn from the line 10 rounds fired on Enemy posts and strong points at E 86 (Sheet 62 d.)	
	5 <sup>th</sup>		Work on gun positions and preparations made for relief	
	6 <sup>th</sup>		Battery relieved by a battery of 18 <sup>th</sup> Division, completed at 9 pm and gun crews arrived at billets in Baizeux at 12 midnight	
	7 <sup>th</sup>		Cleaning arms and equipment prior to moving.	
	8 <sup>th</sup>		Battery moved to Frichen-court, 2 G.S. wagons were supplied to carry stores, Kit & packs, arrived at 6 pm	



4<sup>th</sup> Aust. M.T.M. Battery

WAR DIARY

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(Erase heading not required.)

May 1918

49  
Army Form C. 2115.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Frécheny court	9 <sup>th</sup>		Forenoon:- Swimming Parade, afternoon:- Holiday <u>AB Lt</u>	
	10 <sup>th</sup>	9 am	Inspection of rifles and gas appliances Rifle & foot drill.	
		2 pm	Gun-lying and Gun drill. <u>AB Lt</u>	
	11 <sup>th</sup>	9 am	Rifle exercises & foot drill	
		2 pm	Holiday. <u>AB Lt</u>	
	12 <sup>th</sup>		Cricket match between 105 <sup>th</sup> How Battery, won by 4 <sup>th</sup> Bty by 3 wickets <u>AB Lt</u>	
	13 <sup>th</sup>	9 am	No parade owing to weather conditions	
		2 pm	Gun overhauled & cleaned <u>AB Lt</u>	



4<sup>th</sup> Aust M.T.M. Battery

WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Fréchencourt	14 <sup>th</sup>		Battery moved to "La Houssoye", 3 men attached as orderlies to D.F.H.Q. M.B.	
La Houssye.	15 <sup>th</sup>		Stores checked & shortages replaced, preparations made for moving into the line M.B.	
	16 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Battery moved to "Héilly" Party consisting of OC Battery 1 officer and 2 N.C.O.s proceeded up the line to select positions for guns Remainder of battery employed getting timber for Eva beds, trees were cut and sawn by Pioneers of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Div Pioneer Battalion, in a saw-mill driven by a water wheel. Battery strength on going into the line, 5 officers 46 OR. (9 short) M.B.	



4<sup>th</sup> Aust. M.T.M. Battery

19

WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Heilly	17 <sup>th</sup>		Party of 2 officers and 20 OR. proceeded to forward area to dig gun pits 2 guns sent up the line with beds made by the battery, owing to the two positions being separated, two trips had to be made by the Q.S. wagon, one mule was wounded by a M.G. bullet on the first trip, and one killed and one wounded on the second trip by M.G. fire.	
	18 <sup>th</sup>		2 Gun crews remained on the guns with 2 officers. <i>Ball</i> Guns placed in position and 160 rounds of ammunition taken up the line, the wagon that was abandoned on the night of 17 <sup>th</sup> was brought down undamaged after being in full view of the enemy all day at 517d 2010. (Sheet 62 <sup>d</sup> ). <i>Ball</i>	



4<sup>th</sup> Aust M. T. M. Battery

49

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Heilly	19 <sup>th</sup>		30 rounds fired by the gun at J 12 d 3580 to support the infantry in their successful advance at 2 am, all objectives being gained and new positions established in the enemy's front trenches in a few minutes after "zero hour" <i>BB</i>	
	20 <sup>th</sup>		Gun temporarily out of action owing to breakages of gear, which was replaced the same day <i>BB</i>	
	21 <sup>st</sup>		Gun crews to line to relieve present crews, two extra guns and beds sent up at night. 10 rounds fired by gun at J 246 7570. <i>BB</i>	
	22 <sup>nd</sup>		16 rounds fired from gun on right on M.C. emplacement. Working party getting timber for beds. <i>BB</i>	
	23 <sup>rd</sup>		10 rounds fired from left sector gun, more timber sent up to complete beds in line. <i>BB</i>	



4th Aust Inf T.M. Batters

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Heilly	24 <sup>th</sup>		Fatigue party to line to construct dugout. Bombs etc sent up at night, 1 man evacuated sick. <i>B.L.</i>	
	25 <sup>th</sup>		Gun Crews relieved in line. 23 rounds fired by right sector guns, numerous Germans were seen by signallers and sniped at by officers and signallers from the O.P. 1 bomb exploded in the German trench at K 19 central & several Huns seen to run from it, one of them carrying a box. <i>B.L.</i>	
	26 <sup>th</sup>		17 rounds fired by right sector guns on M.C. active on our front & support lines these have not since fired. <i>B.L.</i>	
	27 <sup>th</sup>		25 rounds fired by Right sector guns. 100 rounds of ammunition to line, owing to heavy barrage by H.E. & Gas shells one wagon was unable to get through & the bombs were dumped at a sap at J 10 d 80 30. The T.C.O. acting as a guide was afterwards evacuated gassed. <i>B.L.</i>	



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Heilly	28 <sup>th</sup>		2 McCoy's 1 man evacuated gassed, right sector guns fired 20 rounds. Left sector guns fired 15 rounds on post, and L.M.W., which was silenced. <i>BL</i>	
	29 <sup>th</sup>		Gun crews relieved. 20 men to 105 <sup>th</sup> Bty W.L. to have gas helmets inspected and new eyepieces put in. <i>BL</i>	
	30 <sup>th</sup>		15 O.R. to 105 <sup>th</sup> Bty W.L. to get gas helmets fixed up, two super beds and guns sent up the line to be placed in reserve position.	
	31 <sup>st</sup>		107 Rounds fired on various targets with good results. <i>BL</i> Reserve positions being fixed, 200 rounds sent up to Right sector by 4 G.S. Wagons. <i>BL</i>	

Richers Lieut  
oc 4<sup>th</sup> A M T M Bty