

**AWM4**

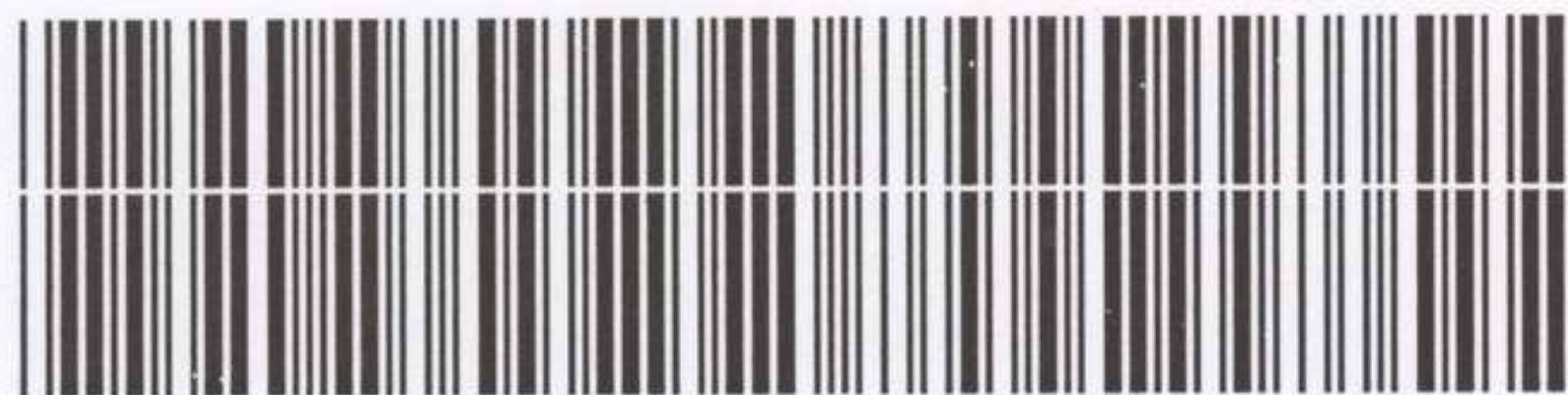
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,  
1914-18 War**

Artillery

**Item number:** 13/108/4

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

June 1918



AWM4-13/108/4



**CONFIDENTIAL.**

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

69

TRENCH MORTAR BATTERIES, 2ND AUSTRALIAN DIV.
No. <i>J. Kelly</i>
Date

**Australian Imperial Force.**

**WAR DIARY**

OF

*4<sup>th</sup> Australian Medium Trench Mortar Battery*

FOR

*June* 191*8*

Signature of Officer compiling

*Thickens Lieut*

Signature of Officer Commanding

*Thickens Lieut  
oc 4<sup>th</sup> Battery*



WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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.

Brig

June

Army Form C. 2118.  
 TRENCH FRONTIER  
 BATTERIES,  
 2ND AUSTRALIAN DIV.  
 No. *[Signature]*  
 Date *[Signature]*

67

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Heilly	1/6/18		Two guns placed in position in reserve line one to cover J 30 and the other one to cover J 24. <i>ABG</i>	
"	2/6/18		75 rounds fired by right sector guns on the following targets:- Enemy front line in K 19C, Switch trench at K 19D 35, Road at K 19d 56, Machine Gun Position and Strong point at K 19C 85-90. and Enemy front line in K 19 b Gun crews in the line relieved <i>ABG</i>	
"	3/6/18		The following targets were engaged by our guns:- Mincenwerfer firing from K 20C 2.8. (10 rounds fired & shooting reported by the Infantry to have been good) Mincenwerfer firing from K 8C 24 (10 rounds) <i>ABG</i>	



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WAR DIARY  
or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

MORTAR. 2118.  
 BATTERIES.  
 2ND AUSTRALIAN DIV.

No. *14*  
 Date *4/6/19*

62

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Heilly	4/6/19		<p>150 rounds ammunition to right sector guns and 50 rounds to left sector guns</p> <p>The following targets were engaged by our mortars:-</p> <p>3pm 10 rounds on Strong Point K 20a 2.7.</p> <p>4pm 8 rounds on M.G. Plat K 196 5.6.</p> <p>6pm 5 rounds on MW at K 20c 2.6</p> <p>6:30pm 10 rounds on on K 196 52.62.</p> <p>6:45pm 10 rounds on K 196 61.65.</p> <p>10:30pm 40 rounds on K 196 71.75, K 196 90.80., K 196 70.92.</p> <p>The two reserve guns were shifted forward to positions in K 30a</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>DA</i></p>	<p>All references sheet 62 D NE</p>



WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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Army Form C. 2118.  
TRENCH MORTAR  
BATTERIES,  
2ND AUSTRALIAN DIV.  
62  
Date *5/6/18*

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Heilly	5/6/18		<p>The following targets were engaged by our mortars:-                      Mincenwerfer at K 20 C 26 (8 rounds) 10 rounds on MW at K 8 C 24 in response to a call from the infantry, the enemy replied with 77 cm shells fell close to positions, also with light MW from K 14 C 01 K 14 d</p> <p>2.30am The enemy attempted to raid our trenches under cover of a heavy barrage, though he succeeded to penetrate our front line system, it was reported that none of the raiders returned to their own lines; - 20 rounds were fired by left sector guns on SOS lines</p> <p>2.15am The enemy shelled billets at Heilly with H E and Gas one man (G. Lee) was wounded</p> <p>250 rounds of ammunition to right sector guns at night</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>[Signature]</i></p>	<p>All map references                      Sheet                      62 D ME</p>



WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

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1. ENCH MORTAR BATTERIES, 2<sup>ND</sup> AUSTRALIAN DIV.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Heilly	6/6/18	1145pm	<p>10 rounds fired by right sector guns on MW at K200 2.6.</p> <p>Gun crews relieved</p> <p>Lieut Carter evacuated wounded (gassed)</p> <p>Lieut Ralph transferred to 104<sup>th</sup> How Battery</p> <p>2 guns taken over from 3<sup>rd</sup> AMT M Bty and taken to the line</p> <p>Two men were buried by a shell, but were rescued by their comrades uninjured.</p> <p>7/6/18 Left sector guns handed over to 3<sup>rd</sup> Bty, the old crews went to right sector to man the new guns, which were placed in position at J24C</p> <p>4 reinforcements arrived from DAC, Battery strength 3 officers and 54 O.R.</p>	



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WAR DIARY  
or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

RENCH MORTAR. 2118.  
BATTERIES.  
2ND AUSTRALIAN DIV.  
79

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Heilly	9/6/18		A Guide was provided for 3rd Battery ammunition wagons Work in connection with gun pits, ammunition recesses, and dugouts on new positions on the right. <i>ABG</i>	
	9/6/18		52 rounds were fired on the following targets for registration purposes on the enemy wire + front trench systems in K19a + K19C also K25a The shooting was observed to be good, large gaps being afterwards seen in the enemy wire, the enemy retaliated with a light mortar bombs fell near our front + support lines but caused no damage. <i>ABG</i>	



WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Army Form C. 2118.  
 TRENCH MORTAR  
 BATTERIES,  
 2ND AUSTRALIAN DIV. 60  
 Date: 10/6/18 Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information
Heilly	10/6/18		<p>Rations were carried up by a party during daylight owing to an operation being timed to start at 9.45 pm <del>10.15</del></p> <p><del>9.45</del> 170 rounds were fired in conjunction with an artillery preparation and barrage, covering an attack by the infantry operation order attached.</p> <p>The enemy shelled our positions heavily before our barrage opened; -</p> <p>When our shooting was completed a number of the men volunteered to carry wounded down to the dressing station, No 637 Bombardier Clark was conspicuous and with No 868 T. Cpl M. E. Leman was recommended for a decoration</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>MBL</u></p>



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WAR DIARY  
or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Army Form C. 2118  
1. ENCH MORTAR  
BATTERIES,  
2nd AUSTRALIAN DIV.  
Date: *11/6/18*  
Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Heilly	11/6/18		Very little work could be done owing to a heavy barrage laid down by the enemy on our front and support lines <i>W. B. A.</i>	
	12/6/18		Gun Crews relieved; new positions prepared further forward, the old positions being out of range; - Lieut Kerv and 1 Gx reported for duty from D.A.C. <i>W. B. A.</i>	
	13/6/18		Guns taken forward to new positions by an infantry carrying party, ammunition also carried forward 1 man (Gx Gould) wounded <i>W. B. A.</i>	



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WAR DIARY  
or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Army <sup>21</sup> 8.  
MORTAR  
BATTERIES,  
2ND AUSTRALIAN DIV.  
79  
Date.....  
Remarks and  
references to  
Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Heilly	14 <sup>th</sup> 6/18		Work on new positions, dugouts & ammunition recesses. <i>A.B.L.</i>	
..	15/6/18		Infantry fatigue party carrying bombs from old positions to new. Rations were carried forward by pack mules, no iragon being available the Saa section D.A.C. having gone out of the line with the infantry. <i>A.B.L.</i>	
	16/6/18		1 Gun out of action by shell fire, a small hole being made in the piece by a piece of H.E. shell. <i>A.B.L.</i>	



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WAR DIARY  
or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Army Form C. 2118.  
ENH MORTAR  
BATTERIES,  
AND AUSTRALIAN DIV.  
Remarks and  
references to  
Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Heilly	17/6/18		Gun crews relieved, Rations to line by Pack Squads <i>MB Li</i>	
"	18/6/18		Rations to line by wagon which brought the U.S. gun back, a gun was drawn from ordnance to replace it. <i>MB Li</i>	
	19/6/18		The billet at Heilly was heavily shelled by a battery of 5.9 Howitzers 2 NCOs and 3 men were wounded, 1 (G. Hinwood) seriously, 1 man evacuated sick <i>MB Li</i>	



WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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69  
 Army Form C 2118  
 MORTAR BATTERIES,  
 2<sup>ND</sup> AUSTRALIAN DIV.  
 No. 118  
 Date 24/6/18  
 Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information
Heilly	20/6/18		10 rounds fired by No 4 gun on MW firing from K 20 a S. 9. 1 man wounded at Heilly <u>Bt</u>
	21/6/18		Battery employed in making dugouts at Heilly Gun crew to line to relieve old crew <u>Bt</u> B. Clark + T/Cpl Mc Lennan awarded M.M.
	22/6/18		8 Reinforcements from 2nd D.A.C.
	23/6/18		35 rounds fired to cover the right flank of a raid by our infantry. <u>Bt</u> 200 rounds of T.M.G. to line
	24/6/18		Preparation made for firing to cover raid by our infantry <u>Bt</u>



79  
62

2118.  
ARTILLERY MORTAR  
BATTERIES,  
2ND AUSTRALIAN DIV.  
No. 1  
Date 1/10/18  
Remarks and references to Appendices

WAR DIARY  
or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Heilly	25/6/18		Guns crews in the line relieved, raid by infantry postponed ABH	
	26/6/18	12.30am	126 rounds fired by our guns covering the raid by the infantry, which was successfully carried out without casualties to our troops operation order attached Lieut Carter returned to duty, Lieut Kerr wounded in the arm 150 rounds taken to line by G S Wagons ABH	
	27/6/18		Work on dugouts at Heilly, guns in line inactive ABH	
	28/6/18		do do ABH	
	29/6/18		do do ABH	
	30/6/18		do do ABH	

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12/6/18

Operation Order No. 1. By D. T. Major 2nd and 2nd Bde

An attack is being carried out by 4th Bde with object of improving their position between Sully Forest and Montancourt.

The final objective is to be the approximate line K. 25. C. 05. inclusive, K. 19. D. 4. 6 K. 13. D. 65. 20. K. 13. B. 2. 8.

Tasks for (b) 6 inch howitzers of 4th Artillery are as follows:-

From Zero to Zero Plus 3 minutes

6 rounds per gun per minute

From Plus 3 mins to Plus 30 minutes on selected targets at 2 rounds per gun per minute

10 Plus 3 minutes. Instantaneous fuses  
10 Plus 30 c/s Delay fuses.

The following signals will be fired:-

1 Capture of Objective. Green Very Light

2 Consolidation of Objective. Red Very Light

all lights fired towards the north.

Zero hour will be 9.45 pm. on June 10th 1918.



79

Watch will be synchronized at  
10.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m. on Z. day.  
by an officer from your unit at  
Left Group Hdqrs. at T.I.C.S.I.

All Fire will cease at Zero plus  
30 minutes unless otherwise ordered

~~See memo~~  
Cap.  
D. L. O.  
-1-



2nd Australian Divisional Trench MortarsHeadquarters

79

24-6-18.

Operation Order No. 6. By Capt L. Seymour, M.C., D.A.M.C.

- i) A raid will be carried out by the 32<sup>nd</sup> Battalion on the night 24/25<sup>th</sup> June 1918 in conjunction with Right Group Artillery and 6" Trench Mortars.
- ii) The raid party will enter the enemy trenches at K. 19. D. 85.30. and K. 19. D. 85.35. at Zero plus 1 minute and will spread out to K. 19. D. 80.20. and on the south, and K. 19. D. 88.50. on the north.
- iii) Zero hour will be notified later.

Table "A"6 inch mortars T.M.s.

From Zero onwards One T.M. on target 12

One T.M. on target 13.

and all available T.M.s on target 7 as shown on attached diagram.

Table "B"Rates of Fire:-

Zero to Zero plus 10	3 rounds per Gun per min.
Zero Plus 10 to Zero Plus 15	2 do do do do do
Zero Plus 15 to Zero Plus 30.	1 do do do do do

AcknowledgeDiagram Attached

Seymour  
D. G. D.

Date	No.	1. EN IN FRONT BATTERIES, 2ND AUSTRALIAN DIV.
24/6/18	111	



79

Rnd. Aus<sup>v</sup> Div French mortars

O.C. 4<sup>th</sup> AmB. B.

June 25<sup>th</sup> 1918.

With reference to Operation Order No. 6.

- I The Zero hour will be 12.30 am. night of 25/26<sup>th</sup> June 1918.
- II Artillery and T.M. fire will cease at Zero Plus 30 minutes, or on the signal rocket White over White over White being seen, according to which is the earlier.
- III Attached file for your information kindly return tonight.

Seymour  
D. Luo





SECRET.

## RIGHT GROUP ARTILLERY.

Ref. Map  
Sheet 624 N.E.  
1/20,000

OPERATION ORDER No. 4

1. **CANCEL** This order cancels Operation Order No. 3 of 23/6/18. Recipients please note.
2. **INFORMATION** On night 25/26th June 1918 the 3rd Bn. is carrying out a raid the points of entry at ZERO plus 1 minute being K 19 d 85 30 and K 19 d 85 35 and then will spread out to K 19 d 80 20 on the Sth and K 19 d 88 50 on the Nth.  
ZERO hour will be notified later.
3. **ACTION.** The Artillery support will be carried out by the Right Group and D.T.M.O. of 'C' Divl. Artillery in accordance with Table A and diagram attached.
4. **RATES of FIRE & AMMUNITION.** See Table B attached.
5. **LIAISON.** The Liaison Officer at Right Bn. H.Qrs. will accompany the Battalion Commander in the event of him going forward to the raid. There will be no Liaison Officer with O.C. Raid.
6. **SYNCHRONIZATION.** The 3rd (Army) Bde. A.F.A. will send an Officer to Right Group H.Q. at 8 p.m. on night 25/26th June, and Batteries of 5th F.A.B. will send an Officer to 15th Battery on receipt of Code wire "FIFTEENTH" to receive synchronised time.
7. **REGISTRATION.** No registrations are to be carried out in the immediate vicinity of points to be raided.
8. **TELEPHONE.** No communication whatever is to take place on the telephone with regard to this operation.
9. **ACKNOWLEDGE.**

DISTRIBUTION:

7th Battery  
8th "  
9th "  
103rd "  
13th "  
14th "  
15th "  
105th "  
3rd (Army) Bde. A.F.A., H.Q.  
Right Inf. Bde. H.Q.  
Right Bn. H.Q.  
Liaison Officer, Right Bn.  
2nd Aust. D.A.H.Q.  
D.T.M.O. ✓  
Left Group Artillery  
File  
3 War Diary  
2 Spars.

*S L Roberts* Lieut.  
for Adjutant, Right Group Artillery.

Right Group Artillery Headquarters,  
24th June 1918.





T A B L E " A " .

(TO ACCOMPANY RIGHT GROUP ARTILLERY OPERATION ORDER NO. 4.)

NOTE :- (ARTILLERY AND TRENCH MORTAR FIRE WILL CEASE AT ZERO PLUS 30 OR ON THE SIGNAL ROCKET WHITE OVER WHITE OVER WHITE BEING SEEN ACCORDING TO WHICH IS THE EARLIER.)

-----000-----

9th. Battery - (i) At zero with 4 Guns open on Trench (see diagram) from K.20.c.00.75 - K.20.a.20.12 - K.20.a.40.18.

(ii) Zero to zero plus 1 - Open with 2 Guns on line - K.20.c.18.60 - K.20.c.20.68.  
Zero plus 1 to zero plus 2 - K.20.c.36.52 - K.20.c.40.62.  
Zero plus 2 onwards K.20.c.53.47 - K.20.c.60.55.

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15th. Battery - At zero open on line from K.20.c.00.75 - K.20.c.60.55.  
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13th. Battery - At zero open on line from K.25.b.70.90 - K.26.a.22.70.  
-----

14th. Battery - At zero with 4 Guns open on line from K.25.b.70.90. - K.25.b.67.30.  
Zero to zero plus 1 open with 2 Guns on line from - K.25.b.88.83 - K.25.b.93.92.  
Zero plus 1 to zero plus 2 - 2 Guns on line from - K.26.a.06.77 - K.26.a.10.86.  
Zero plus 2 onwards - 2 Guns on line from - K.26.a.22.70 - K.26.a.26.80.  
-----

7th. Battery - Zero to zero plus 1 from K.20.c.06.30 - K.20.c.19.60.  
Zero plus 1 to zero plus 2 from K.20.c.24.22 - K.20.c.36.52.  
Zero plus 2 onwards from K.20.c.40.17 - K.20.c.53.47.  
-----

8th. Battery - Zero to zero plus 1 from K.25.b.92.92 - K.20.c.07.29.  
Zero plus 1 to zero plus 2 from K.26.a.11.86 - K.20.c.24.22.  
Zero plus 2 onwards from K.26.a.26.80 - K.20.c.40.17.  
-----

103rd. How. Battery - From zero onwards one How. on each of the Targets numbered 1,2,4,5,6 and 14.  
-----

105th. How. Battery - From zero onwards one How. on each of the Targets numbered 8,9,10,11 and 2 Hows. on Target 7.  
-----

6" Newton Trench Mortars - From zero onwards One T.M. on target 3.  
" " " " 7.  
" " " " 12.  
" " " " 13.

and 2 T.M's to be used as required by the Battalion Commander.

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APPENDIX.

TABLE "A"

TO ACCOMPANY RIGHT GROUP ARTILLERY OPERATION ORDER No. 4.

Battery	Time	Rate of fire.
18- pdr.	Zero to Zero plus 4	4 rds per gun per minute.
do.	Zero plus 4 to Zero plus 11	3 rds per gun per minute
do.	Zero plus 11 to Zero plus 15	2 rds per gun per minute
do.	Zero plus 15 onwards	1 round per gun per minute.
4.5" Hows.	Zero onwards	1 round per How. per minute.
6" T.M.'s.	Zero to Zero plus 11	3 rds per T.M. per minute.
do.	Zero plus 11 onwards	1 round per T.M. per minute.

AMMUNITION:

NOTE - 13th and 15th Batteries will, if the wind is favourable, fire 1 round per gun SMOKE shell on opening.

18-pdrs.- Zero to Zero plus 11 - All "A" (50% graze).  
 Zero plus 11 onwards - 50% "A" (50% graze): 50% "AX".  
 4.5" Hows. - "BX".





ADDENDUM TO RIGHT GROUP ARTILLERY OPERATION ORDER NO. 4.

(i) Zero hour will be 12.30 a.m. night 25th/26th. June 1918.

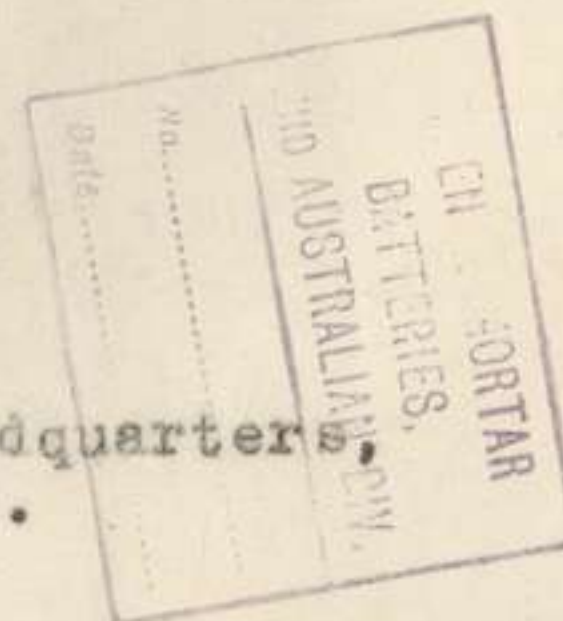
(ii) ACKNOWLEDGE.

*L. L. Roberts* Lieut.  
Acting Adjutant, Right Group Artillery.

DISTRIBUTION:-

Issued to all recipients of  
Right Group Artillery Operation Order No.4.

Right Group Artillery Headquarters,  
25th. June 1918.









2nd Australian

Australian.

12th June 1918.

4th  
Australian  
Medium  
Trench  
Mortar  
Battery,  
A.I.F.

637  
Bombardier  
Charles  
Frederick  
CLARK.

868  
Bombardier  
(T/Corporal)  
George Traill  
McLENNAN.

On Night 10/11th June 1918 during the attack South of MORLANCOURT near ALBERT, these N.C.O's shewed great courage and determination under most trying conditions. They were each in charge of 6" Newton Mortars which had very important tasks. Just prior to the attack their gun positions were very heavily shelled and this continued throughout the barrage fire covering the advance. The work of these N.C.O's, who could not remain under cover all the time, was extremely dangerous, the enemy batteries having the range exactly. Their great gallantry set a splendid example of coolness to their men.

(Signed) O.F. PHILLIPS, Brigadier-General,  
Commanding 2nd Aust. Divl. Arty.

THE MILITARY MEDAL.

T. ENCH MORTAR  
BATTERIES,  
2ND AUSTRALIAN DIV.

No. 18  
Date 12/6/18

APPENDIX

21



DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY ROUTINE ORDERS.  
by  
BRIGADIER-GENERAL O.F. PHILLIPS, DSO.

COMMANDING SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY.

79

Headquarters,  
29th June 1918.

HONOURS  
AND  
REWARDS.  
949.

Under authority delegated by the Field Marshal  
Commanding-in-Chief, the Aust. Corps Commander has awarded  
the MILITARY-MEDAL to:-  
No. 637, Bdr. C.F. CLARK, 4th Aust.M.T.M. Bty.  
" 868, Bdr. (T/Cpl) G.T. McLENNAN, 4th do.  
(Auth. 2nd Aust.Div. 74/420 of 24:6:18).

The congratulations of the Corps and Divisional  
Commanders and those of the C.R.A. are to be conveyed to  
the recipients.

HORSE  
RATION.  
950.

A number of cases of sickness have occurred amongst  
horses through being fed on green wheat. To obtain this  
it is apparent that crops are being cut in the forward area  
which unless arranged through the Supply Officer is strictly  
against orders issued.

SIDE-  
BONE.  
951.

Cases of side-bone, which are induced by too fast a  
pace on hard ground, have been far too prevalent of late in  
horses. Horses and mules with slight sidebone, which, with  
care, would not prevent them from working, are rendered  
serious by being trotted and even galloped, over hard ground.  
Any further cases occurring are to be inquired into and  
unless satisfactorily explained disciplinary action is to  
be taken against N.C.O. or man responsible.

RATIONS:  
demanded  
for  
ALLIES  
attached.  
952.

Special attention must be drawn to G.R.O.4333.  
Every Q.M. and Q.M.S. should be made conversant with this  
order, which is as under:-  
4333.- ISSUE OF RATIONS TO ALLIES ATTACHED TO BRITISH  
UNITS - When Officers and men of Allied Armies are attached  
to British Units for rations, the Unit to which they are  
attached must render separate indents for rations demanded  
for them.  
Such indents, (marked 'On Repayment'), must be receipted by  
an Allied Officer or Senior N.C.O. of the party attached,  
and will shew the Unit to which he belongs."

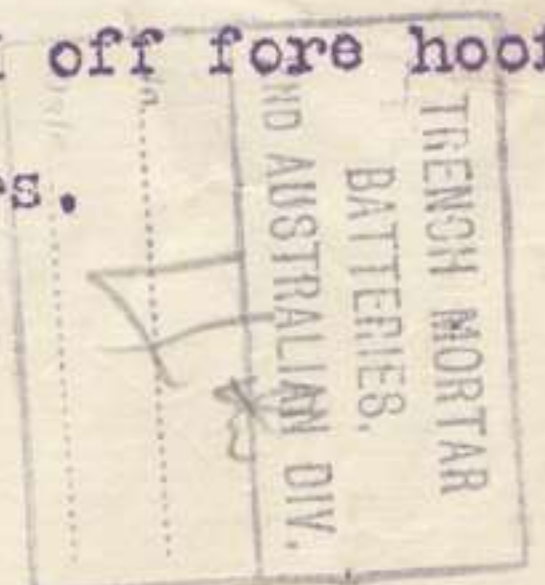
ORDERS.  
953.

Attention is directed to the following Routine Orders:-  
G.R.O.4334. Ammunition. Sorting of Propellants,  
G.R.O.4363. Field, Heavy and Siege Artillery- Lewis Gun  
Equipment.

*W. O'Connell* Captain,  
Staff Captain,  
2nd Aust.Div.Arty.

NOTICE.

Strayed from 14th Battery Wagon Lines on 27th instant  
MULE: Dark Brown,  
Height 14:3 hands,  
Brand- 216 Near fore hoof, 2 X off fore hoof,  
Gelding.  
Information to 5th A.F.A. Bde. Headquarters.





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CONFIRMING RECORDS AND OTHER INFORMATION

BRITISH-AMERICAN COMMISSION  
DA  
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