

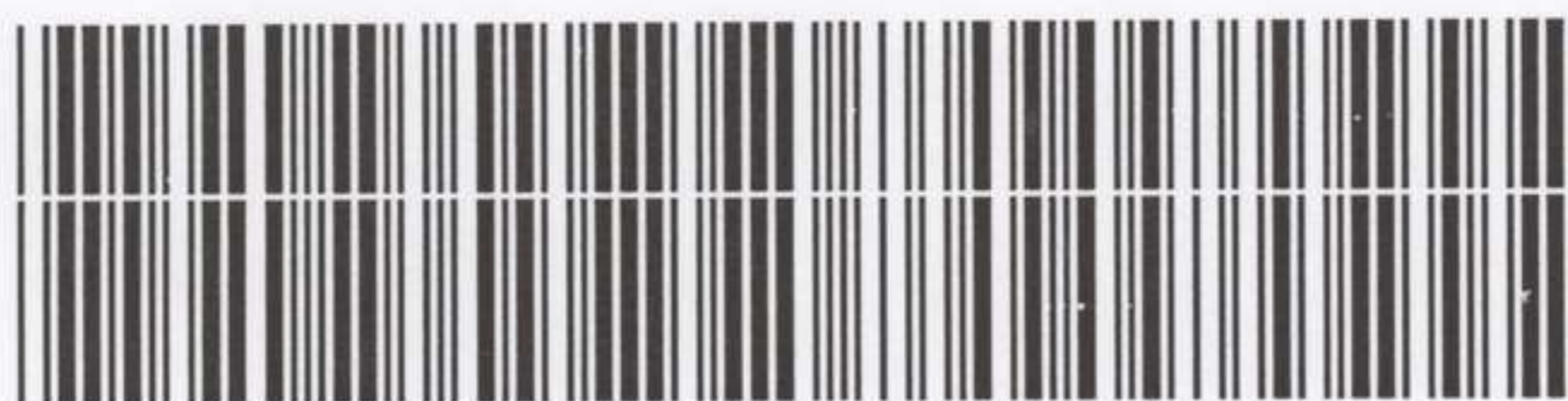
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Artillery

Item number: 13/92/18

Title: 4th Australian Divisional Trench
Mortar Officer

March 1918



AWM4-13/92/18

Triple
 ORIGINAL
D. G. M. 4th Aust Div

WAR DIARY

Army Form C.

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.

or
 INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>1/3/18 LAITERIE Sheet 28 N-16-d 2040</p>			<p>The Medium Trench Mortar Batteries have been re-organised into 2 6-inch gun Batteries Strength one Captain O.C. 3 Lieutenants 53 Other Ranks per Battery. The Divisional Heavy Trench Mortar Battery has been disbanded and a Corps Heavy Battery formed consisting of six 9.45 Mark III. Heavy Mortars. 16 other ranks from V 4 A Battery have been transferred to Corps Heavy Trench Mortar Bty. the remainder to Medium Trench Mortar Batteries. No. 232 Corporal East G.L.T. leaves Unit to report to Administrative Headquarters LONDON for special transport duty Cpl. East enlisted in 1914 One Officer from 1st Aust. Div T.M. reports to arrange details of relief for 4th Aust Div TM. 2/Lt. Hutchison F. and party of men salvaged a 7.5 Minenwerfer Mortar from MESSINES A quantity of 7.5 c.m. ammunition has been salvaged and it is intended to use the gun against the enemy.</p>	
	2/3/18		<p>1st Aust. Div T.M. arrive to take over from us.</p>	
	3/3/18		<p>Relief effected. The 8th Medium Battery is attached to 1st Division to take the place of a Battery of theirs at LEULINGHEM Trench Mortar School.</p>	
<p>MERRIS Sheet 36 a E 12.b.0050</p>	4/3/18		<p>The remainder of 4th Divisional Trench Mortars moved by lorry to billets at E 12 b 0050, Sheet 30a 1/40,000. 9 6" Mortars were drawn from D.A.D.O.S., thus completing our establishment of guns</p>	
	5-5/3/18		<p>Short parades held each day and a careful inspection made. All ranks cleaning and resting.</p>	
	8/3/18		<p>Captain C.A. Sherwood left for Administrative Headquarters LONDON for return to AUSTRALIA.</p>	
	9-13/3/18		<p>Nil.</p>	
	14/3/18		<p>10 Other Ranks reported as re-enforcements from 4th Australian Div. Ammunition Column. Lieut Felstead returned from on attachment to 8th Corps R.A.</p>	
15-16/3/18			<p>4 other ranks of 8th Battery were gassed whilst attached to 1st Aust Div One Officer and two other ranks return from Gas School</p>	

(A7092). Wt. W12839/M1293. 750,000. 1/17. D. D. & L., Ltd. Forms/C.2118/14

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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<p>MERRIS E 12 5 0050 Sheet 36a Sheet 1/40,000)</p>	<p>From 7/3/18 to 24/3/18</p>		<p>Training in gun drill, foot drill, rifle exercises with special attention to the training of N.C.Os. N.C.Os. classes are held in the afternoons. Parades 8 to 8.30 a.m. Physical drill, B.S.M. takes this parade. 10.30 to 12 noon gun drill etc. 2 to 3 p.m. N.C.Os'. The 6-inch guns sent out from ENGLAND ARE not fit for action as the guys are made too weak, all guys are being remade at Army Ordnance Workshops. Weather has been dry and a considerable amount of satisfactory training done.</p>	
	24/3/18		Received orders to proceed to TINQUES. D.T.M.O. arranged personally with Q Branch of Division for seven lorries to convey guns and personnel. Orders issued at 1 a.m. 25/3/18 to 7th and 8th Batteries.	A. A.
	25/3/18	7 a.m. 9 a.m.	<p>At 3 a.m. orders were received changing destination of Unit from TINQUES to HOUDAIN. Surplus kits are xxxxxx dumped at METEREN. Lorries arrive and are loaded with 13 6" guns complete and accessories, 10 Officers and 116 O/Ranks. Proceeded to HOUDAIN via VIEUX BERQUIN, BRUAY. On arrival the Staff Lieut. (who was billeting officer) allotted us BEUGIN as our billeting area. Remained here one night. Billets very comfortable. First time Australian Troops had been billeted in this locality</p>	A. A.
	26/3/18	9 a.m.	Moved by lorries to BASSEUX on arrival found the village was being evacuated, were then ordered to proceed to SAULTY on arrival there we were informed that BARLY, RAVINCOURT, GOUY-en-ARTOIS had been allotted to 4th Australian Divisional Artillery. Proceeded to BARLY, D.T.M.O. went to RAVINCOURT to ascertain if billets were obtainable there as BARLY was said to be full. 13th Field Ambulance moved from BARLY Chateau and 7th and 8th Medium Batteries took over billets and remained there one night, Headquarters in the Chateau.	A. A.
	27/3/18		Received orders to proceed to ACHEUX (orders gave name as AUHEUX) which place does not exist) and there await instructions, spent the night at this place.	A. A.
	28/3/18		Received orders to proceed to BAVELINCOURT arrived there and billeted after much trouble at White Chateau. Enemy shelling cross roads near Chateau. Guns remain in lorries ready for an immediate move.	A. A.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BAVLINCOURT	28/3/18		<p>(continued) One officer and 30 0/ranks sent as working party to HENENCOURT conveyed by lorry. Shell fell few yards in rear of lorry wounding three men, one being the driver of lorry; a fourth also received a slight wound but remained on duty. Damage to lorry was slight.</p>	H.
	29/3/18		<p>One officer and thirty 0/ranks sent as working party to HENENCOURT bringing 48 hours rations work being the construction of Headquarters for 10th Aust. F.A. Brigade. Considerable amount of time has been spent in training personnel in T.M. work who are now employed at digging. These mortars cannot be used in mobile warfare only on fronts which have trench systems of a permanent nature. Batteries are armed with 6 6" Mortars each of which have a range of 1420 yards. Weight of shell about 50 lbs.</p>	H.
	30/3/18		<p>Acting on instructions from Div. Arty. a picquet consisting of an N.C.O. and six men was sent to patrol BEHENCOURT.</p>	H.
	31/3/18		<p>One Officer and 20 men were instructed to report to O.C. of A.R.P. at CONTAY Station for work at the dump.</p>	H.
			<p><i>AM</i> Captain, D.T.M.O. 4th Australian Division</p>	

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4

FOURTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL TRENCH MORTARS.

2/3/18.

Summary of operations etc., from 5th January to 3rd March - 57 days in the line - 3 6" Mortars in action.

1 9.45" pit built.

25 rounds 9.45" ammunition carried to pit.

2 new 6" Mortar emplacements built, 3 reconstructed, splinter proof cover built over all pits and ammunition recesses, tracks to pits duckboarded.

Communication between D.T.M.O. and Battery H.Grs. established, also between D.T.M.O. and E.S. 36. (SPOIL BANK reserve H.Grs.)

684 rounds of 6" ammunition fired. Practically all carried by T.M. personnel. Total weight 15 tons. Result - 4 enemy M.Gs. silenced and possibly destroyed. 8 dugouts partly or wholly destroyed. 1 dump blown up. 6 Minenwerfers silenced. 1 enemy outpost destroyed with personnel. 8 direct hits on pill boxes. Quantity of wire destroyed.

Co-operation in preparation for raids.

One 7.5 c.m. Minenwerfer salvaged from MESSINES.

100 rounds complete, 6" mortar ammunition salvaged. 4 reserve positions selected and marked with notice boards, lines of fire by 2 white posts.

Casualties - 2 other ranks died of wounds.

Copies.

1. File.
2. 7th Aust. M.T.M. Battery.
3. 6th Aust. M.T.M. Battery.
4.)
5.) War diary.
6.)

Captain,
D.T.M.O.