

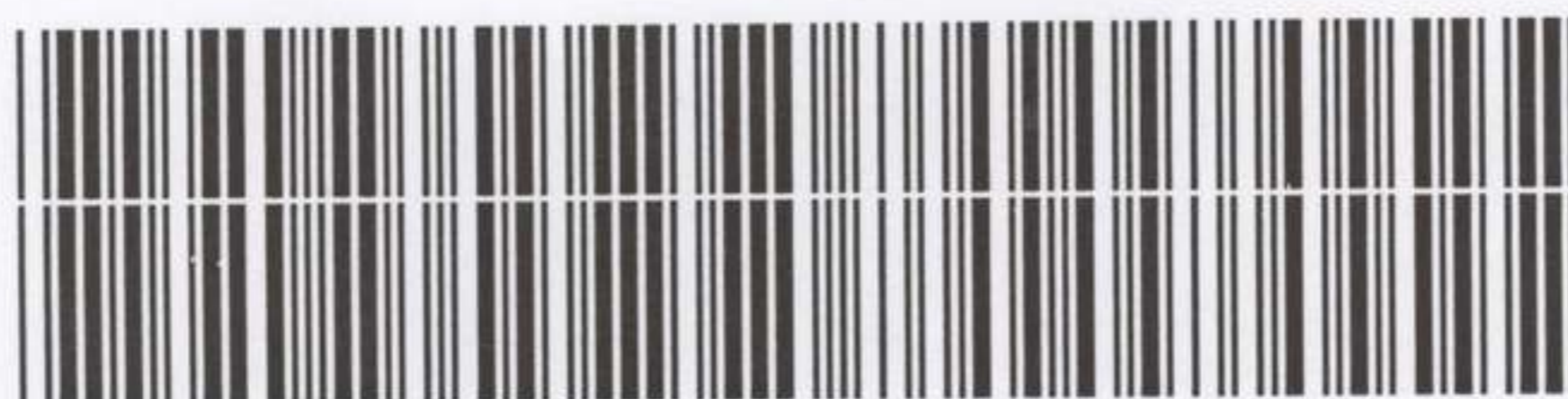
AWM4
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War**

Artillery

Item number: 13/92/24

Title: 4th Australian Divisional Trench
Mortar Officer

September 1918



AWM4-13/92/24

CONFIDENTIAL.

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

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

4th Australian Divisional Trench Mortars

FOR

September 1918

Signature of Officer compiling

W. G. ...

Captain,

a/ D. T. M. O.

4th Aust. Div.

Signature of Officer Commanding

W. G. ...

Captain,

a/ D. T. M. O.

4th Aust. Div.

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

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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.

4th Aust Div French Mortars

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Longueau	1/9/18		Day fine & cloudy with occasional showers. Battalion attended church parade in morning balance of day was spent in rest. All personnel are in good health and well equipped. Strength 10 Officers 1050R	
	2/9/18		Day fine & cloudy few light showers. Morning was spent in routine work and in afternoon final inspection was held in view of the fact that G.O.B. would inspect the next day. 2 Mortars were received from Heavy I.M. Mortars fitted with spades. 2 Limited Limited Wagons for carrying same were also received, but no means of pulling same. Spades are well put on beds & showed to a great amount. New hand notes received & an appreciable increase is noted.	No.
	3/9/18		Day cloudy at intervals otherwise fine. G.O.B. 4 th Aust Div inspected French Mortar personnel at a march past. 9 Officers 88 other ranks were on parade and turn out was excellent. No adverse criticisms were received & apparently G.O.B. was well satisfied. Afternoon spent in rest.	E 6201 2/9/18

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(A. 10266) Wt W 300/2713 750,000 c/10 Sch. 22 Forms/C2118/16

WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

4th Aust Div French Mortars

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices.
Longueueau	4/9/18		Day fine, cloudy at intervals. Batteries carried out usual training routine during the day. 2 guns were sent to Heavy Down at Montreux to have spades fitted. Strength 9 officers 106 others. <u>Ab</u>	
	5/9/18		Day fine cloudy at intervals. Routine work was carried out by Batteries. 2 other ranks vacancies. Strength 9 officers 104 O.R. <u>Ab</u>	
	6/9/18		Day fine and warm. Batteries carried out usual parades. Capt Ewan vacated sick to hospital. Capt W. Finlay of 7 th H.M.T.M.B. Co performing duties of N.I.M. O during Capt Ewan's absence. 1 O.R. rejoined from leave to United Kingdom. <u>W.F.</u>	
	7/9/18		Day fine. 4 th Div Artillery less French Mortars moved forward to PROYART area. French Mortar Batteries remaining in billets in LONGUEUEAU. 1 O.R. vacated sick to hospital. 2 O.R. proceeded on leave to United Kingdom. 1 O.R. rejoined from leave to United Kingdom. 2 O.R. rejoined from Hospital. <u>W.F.</u>	62 DI 440000

WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LONGUEAU	8/9/18		Day mostly fine, a few light showers fell at intervals. Battalion carried out routine work during the day.	WF
	9/9/18		Weather fine but cloudy. Usual parades and routine work carried out.	
	10/9/18		1.0 P. proceeded on leave to United Kingdom 1.0 P. admitted to hospital while on leave to Paris. Weather showery throughout the day. Battalion carried out parades and cleaning of equipment.	WF
	#		2 guns returned from Heavy D. O. M.'s fitted with shade heads 2 G.S. limbered waggons supplied by D. O. M.	WF
	11.9.18		Day fine mostly, strong wind blowing from the West. 4 th Div French Mortars moved forward per six Motor Lances to relieve the 5 th Div French Mortars in the line in the PERONNE area, travelling through VILLERS BRETONNEUX, WARFUSÉE ABANCOURT (62 nd 140,000) FOUCHUCOURT, ESTREES, VILLERS Carbonnel, BRIE, MONS-EN-CHAUSSEE & ST CREN (62 nd 140,000) where the 7 th Battery remained, taking over from the	Order N III of 10/9/18

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WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CARTIGNY (Sheet 62 ^c / ₄₀₀₀₀)	27/9/18		<p>9th Aust. Med. I. M. Bty. Headquarters and the 8th Bty then proceeded to CARTIGNY where they went into camp in huts situated P. 3.0. 60.80 (62^c/₄₀₀₀₀). The 4th S. Limbered waggons carrying the mortars and beds fitted with spades, had to be drawn the whole way, fastened to the back of the Motor lorries, as no horses have yet been supplied. Lieut. J. P. Sullerton rejoined from A. G. B. D. Strength of unit, 11 Officers 110 O.R.</p> <p>Ammunition taken over by 7th Battery from 9th Battery HQ Rooms T.M.G. complete. One O.R. rejoined from leave to United Kingdom. 1 O.R. proceeded on leave to United Kingdom.</p> <p>Day showery with strong wind, visibility low, no observation balloons up. D.I.M. A visited Inf Bde Major of Brigade in the line, and explained that, having taken over from 5th Div Medium Mortars, we now had two mobile mortars (those fitted with spade beds) at his disposal.</p>	

WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CARTIGNY	13/9/18		<p>The 8th B Battery are detailed for duty in the line, a 1. Officer of Battery for duty in the line to visit Brigade in the line every morning at 10 am to learn the situation, and to put in mortar and engage targets at the request of the Infantry. So far owing to the tremendous width of no-man's-land, it has not been possible to get into action.</p> <p>1 OR proceeded on leave to United Kingdom</p> <p>Day fine with showers at intervals, sky overcast most of the day. Still no operation. About 9 pm several enemy aircraft came over and slight bombing of the area took place. 2 Enemy planes brought down as a result of our A.A. fire, and aeroplane action.</p> <p>2 OR Rejoined from leave to UK.</p> <p>Day fine, observation good. 2 OR proceeded on 6 months special transport duty to Australia. 2 OR. Rejoined from Base. 1 OR proceeded on leave to UK.</p>	<p>T.M.F. 742 12.9.18</p> <p>WSP</p> <p>WSP</p> <p>WSP</p>

WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Bartigny	15/9/18		Weather fine and warm. Bartigny shelled at intervals throughout the day with H. 2. H.V. 2 OR rejoined from leave to W.K.	
	16/9/18		E.A. dropped several bombs during the early part of the night. Day fine and warm, bright sunshine, slight haze near the ground in the morning making observation difficult. Capt Felstead Ob. 8 th Battery and 1 OR proceeded on leave to W.K. Bombs again fell in the vicinity. 2 OR in hospital struck off strength. Strength 11 Officers 108 OR. all in good health and well equipped. Very heavy thunder storm ^{broke} just before midnight and lasted about two hours, tremendously heavy rain and almost incessant lightning.	WP WP
	17/9/18		Day clear and bright after the storm. Lieut Fullerton detached for duty with 11 th FA B. Lt P. Burton detached for duty with 10 FA B. There is still no work for mortars, and the batteries	

WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Bartigny	18/9/18		are carrying out short parades and "smartening up" drill in the mornings, and resting in the afternoon	WP
			Day showers in early morning, fine later. 4 th Div Artillery covered advance of Infantry, 1 M's took no part in the operation 2 OR proceeded on leave to W.R. 1 OR evacuated sick 1 OR taken on strength from 11 th I.A.B. de	WP
	19/9/18		Day fine and cloudy 1 OR rejoined from Base. 1 OR rejoined from leave W.R. 1 OR proceeded on leave to W.R.	WP
	20/9/18		Fine except for heavy shower at noon, observation good 1 OR rejoined from Base, 1 OR proceeded on leave to W.R. 1 OR proceeded to St John's Wood, 1 OR proceeded to boys Sig School 1 OR admitted to hospital while returning from leave to W.R.	WP
	21/9/18		Day fine but cloudy, fair observation Strength 11 Off 110 OR. The health of the unit is excellent and food and equipment good.	WP

WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Bartigny	22/9/18		Raining all day 2 OR proceeded on leave to W.K. 1 OR rejoined from leave to W.K. 1 OR rejoined from detachment 10 th of a Bde	WP
	23/9/18		Day fine with slight showers about noon A disturbance occurred in one of the huts of 8 th Battery, several men fighting and some drunk, five placed under close arrest.	WP
	24/9/18		Day fine but overcast, visibility low. 1 OR proceeded on leave to W.K., 2 OR proceeded on leave to France, 1 OR rejoined from leave to W.K. The five men placed under arrest yesterday were brought before the C.O. who dismissed one charge, and remanded the remaining four to D.I.M.O. Four OR remanded by C.O. & brought before D.I.M.O., who dismissed the charge against one man, the other three being remanded to S.I.M.	WP

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Cartigny	23/9/18		Day cold and showery, the weather seems to be breaking up.	WF
			2 O.P. returned from leave to UK Summary of evidence taken in the cases of the three O.P. remanded to G. B. M., and G. B. M. applied for.	WF
	24/9/18		Day fine and warmer. Received orders to vacate present billets, and move forward	WF
	27/9/18		to VILLERS FOUCON Sherb 62° ⁴⁰⁰⁰⁰ and ST CREN, H ⁺ and Men I. M.C. left CARTIGNY, and the moved to billets in VILLERS FOUCON, obtained by Mr Jones of 7 th Battery yesterday. 6 G.S. Wagons conveyed the kits, stores etc, and the personnel of each battery marched. 2 G.S. Wagons had to be sent back for the remainder of stores, and the other four teams sent back to draw the 4 lumbered G.S. Wagons carrying the mobile mortars of each battery. Moving in this manner is easy enough for a short distance, but for long distances it would be hopeless, as we should never have our stuff up by the time we had to go into action.	Order No 112 26.9.18

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WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VILLERS FOUCON	28/9/18		<p>On arrival at VILLERS FOUCON 2 Lieuts Jones, Moore and Sam were detached for temporary duty with 10th J.A.B. Co and 2 Lt Edwards with 11th J.A.B. Co 1 O.R. rejoined from leave Day fine and clear 1 O.R. rejoined from Base, 1 O.R. rejoined from leave to unit.</p>	<p>T.M.F. 742 T.M.F. 743 WF</p>
			<p>commencing today the 7th and 8th Batteries supply a party of 1 Officer and 20 O.R. to work on the A.R.P. at VILLERS FOUCON from 9am to 5pm.</p>	<p>T.M.F. 744 WF</p>
	29/9/18		<p>The D.I.U.O. took over the A.R.P. at Villers Foucon as per orders received last night, to clear up the dump and organise the ammunition and empties so that they can be easily taken away. Lieut G. B. Benson transferred from Hth Div Arty to Hth Div It 2 as Official Artist, and is struck off strength of this unit 1 O.R. evacuated sick 1 O.R. proceeded on leave to Paris WF</p>	

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WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
30. Villers Soucon	30/9/18		<p>Day cold and rainy. a working party is detailed from ^{of 1 Sgt and 20 OR.} each battery to report daily to the cunt at Villers Soucon. The C.R.A. directed that the cases of the three OR who were remanded for G.B. M on 25/9/18 should be dealt with summarily by the D.J.M.O. The D.J.M.O. reopened the cases and awarded one OR 14 days I.P. No. 1 and the other two 7 days I.P. No. 1 each. 3 OR in Hospital struck of strength. 2 OR proceeded on leave to UK.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">WF</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WF made capt at D.J.M.O.</p>	<p>T.M.F 749 29/9/18.</p>

WAR DIARY

OF

4th Australian Divisional Trench Mortars.

FOR

September 1918.

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1.	E 62 Orders for parade for inspection by G. O. B. 3. 9. 18.
2.	Order N ^o III. Dated 10. 9. 18 re movement of Unit from LONGUEAU on 11. 9. 18.
3.	TMF 742 Dated 12. 9. 18. Liaison arrangement with Infantry Bde.
4.	Order 112 Dated 26. 9. 18. re movement of Unit (7 th Battery from ST CREN and 8 th Battery from CARTIGNY) to VILLERS FAUCON.
5.	TMF 742 Dated 26. 9. 18. Instructions of Lt. Forrest and Lt. Moore to report to 10 th Aust. F. A. Bde for duty temporarily.
6.	TMF 743 Dated 26. 9. 18 Instructing Lt. Saint to report to 10 th Aust. F. A. Bde. and Lt. Edwards to 11 th Aust. F. A. Bde. for tempo duty temporarily.
7.	TMF 744 Dated 26. 9. 18. Instructions for fatigue parties for work at A.R.P. at E 28a 5.3 (Sheet 62 ^c 1:40,000.)
8.	TMF 749. Dated 29. 9. 18. Instructions re above fatigue parties.



7th Battery
8th Battery
Trench Mortar

Ref Map 12d 4/0000

1 The G.O.C. 4th Aust Div will inspect
to 4th Div M G. M. on Tuesday 3rd Sept.

2 Formation Batteries will march
past in columns of route and the
order of march will be 7th Bty
8th Battery.

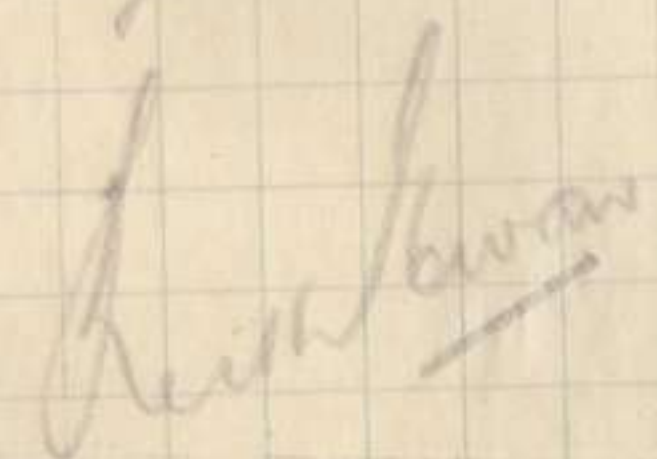
3 Route. 1st Time Batteries will be
ready to move at 10.45 am on the
3rd inst and will pass the Inspection
Point M. G. M. at 11.15 am. They will
then march to camp, thence to
barracks.

4 Compliments When passing the
Inspection Point all officers will
salute, compliments will be paid
by other ranks on the order of
the Battery Commanders.

5 Dress Drill order. Hats will be
worn by all ranks turned up at
the sides, chin straps under the
chin. Goggles where possible.
B.C.s will ensure that grenades &
colours patches are on all tunics.
Officers. Build boots, gloves and
camo.

6 This is a general parade and a
good turnout is desired.

7 Acknowledge.



D. T. M. O. Captain,
4th Aust. Div.

Fourth Australian Divisional Trench Mortars

Order N° III.

10. 9. 1918

1. The 4th Australian Divisional Trench Mortars will relieve the 5th Aust. Div. T. M's in the line on the 11th instant.
2. Six lorries will be at LONGUEAU CHURCH at 9 a.m. on 11th inst. These are allotted as follows:—

1	Headquarters
2	7 th Battery
2	8 th Battery
1	Personnel

Battery Commanders will ensure that all stores and equipment of their Batteries are placed only on the lorries allotted to them. The sixth lorry will convey only personnel and their kits. No stores or Battery equipment will be placed on this lorry.
3. All stores, equipment & kits will be stacked outside billets ready to load at 9 a.m.
4. Care will be taken that billets are left in a thoroughly clean and sanitary condition. 2/Lt. Edwards in company with a representative of the Town Major will inspect billets and obtain a certificate to the effect that they are clean &c.
5. Battery Commanders will furnish to this Office by 10 a.m. 12th inst. a certificate to the effect that no stores or equipment have been left behind.
6. Each man will carry his arms and 50 rounds S.A.A. in his bandolier.
7. Acknowledge.

1. File
2. 7th Battery.
3. 8th Battery.
4. D.A. H.Q.
5. War. Diary.

W. J. Fisher Capt.,
a/D.T.M.O.

APPENDIX 3

Secret

3

8th Battery
7th Battery (for info.)
War Diary.

HEADQUARTERS, 4th AUSTRALIAN DIVL. TRENCH MORTAR
T.M.F. 702
Date 12-9-18

8th Battery will be next for
duty in the line.

For Liaison purposes, O.C.
8th Battery will arrange for an officer
to report at 10 am daily to H. Qrs.
Infantry Brigade in the line
(at present 13th Aust Inf Bde) at
Q 17 d 9060, Sheet 62 C.
Acknowledge (8th Battery only)

W. P. Smith Captain,
D.T.M.O.
4th Aust. Div.

#

Fourth Australian Divisional Trench Mortars

Order No. 112

26.9.1918

1. The 4th Australian Divisional Trench Mortars will move from present position to VILLERS FAUCON on Friday 27th inst., and go into billets arranged for by an Officer of 7th Battery.
2. Six G.S. Wagons will be at D.T.M.O. Headquarters at 8 a.m. and will be allotted as follows:-

1	Headquarters
3	7 th Battery.
2	8 th Battery.

O.C. 7th Battery will have a guide at headquarters to guide wagons to St. Bren. at 8 a.m.
The wagons will carry stores and kits only.
Personnel will march.
The 7th Battery will march direct from St. Bren and 8th Battery from Bartigny.
3. All stores and kits will be stacked outside billets ready to be loaded by 7.30 a.m.
4. All billets will be left in a thoroughly clean and sanitary condition, and a certificate to that effect rendered to this Office.
5. Battery commanders will render to this Office by 10 a.m. 28th inst., a certificate to the effect that no stores or equipment have been left behind.
6. Each man will carry his arms and 50 rounds of SAA in his bandolier.
7. ~~Unconsumed~~ ^{Unconsumed} portion of the day's rations will be carried.
8. Acknowledge.

1. File
2. 7th Battery.
3. 8th Battery.
4. D.A. HQ.
5. War Diary.

W. J. Man Capt.,
a/D.T.M.O.

APPENDIX 5

o - 5
 A. B. 7th Battery.

TMF 742
 26/9/18.

Immediately on arrival at
 VILLERS FOUCON you will
 instruct 2/Lts. Forrest and Moore
 to report to 10th Aust. F. A. Bde.
 for temporary duty.

Acknowledge.

W. Smith Captain,
 D. T. M. O.
 4th Aust. Div.

1. 7th Battery
2. 8th Battery
3. 14th Aust. Div. Artillery
4. War Diary
5. File



APPENDIX

6

6

C.O.
8th Battery

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FMF 743
26/9/18.

On arrival at VILLERS FOUCON
you will instruct 2/Lieut. Saint to
report to the 10th Aust. F.A. Bde and
2/Lieut. Edwards to the 11th Aust. F.A.
Bde. for temporary duty.

Acknowledge.

W. P. Jones

Captain

D. T. M. O.
4th Aust. Div.

1. 7th Battery
2. 8th Battery
3. 10th Aust. F.A. Bde
4. War Diary
5. File.

APPENDIX



APPENDIX 7

O.C.

7th Battery8th Battery

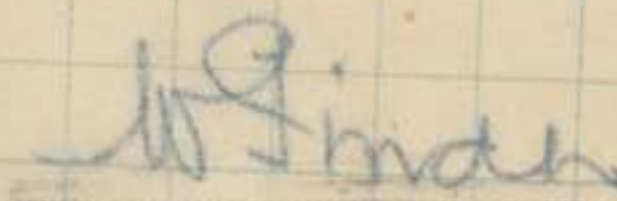
TMF 744

26.9.18

Commencing Saturday 28th instant
Batteries will supply 1 Officer and 20
O.R. to report daily to ARP from
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. to clear the dump
of empties etc.

This duty will be performed by
Batteries on alternate days, starting
with 7th Battery.

Acknowledge.



Captain,

D. T. M. O.

4th Aust. Div.

1. 7th Battery
2. 8th Battery
3. DA HQ
4. War diary
5. File



APPENDIX 8.

7th Battery
8th Battery

HEADQUARTERS, 4th AUSTRALIAN DIVL. TRENCH MORTAR
T.M.F. 749
29.9.18

190

Both 7th & 8th Batteries will supply a party for work on the dumps, one Sgt and 20 O.R. daily

An officer from each Battery will take charge of the parties on alternate days.

Next for duty - 7th Battery

W. J. Mans Captain,
D. T. M. O.
4th Aust. Div.

- (1) 7th Battery
- (2) 8th Battery
- (3) D.A.H.Q.
- (4) War Diary ✓
- (5) File.

