

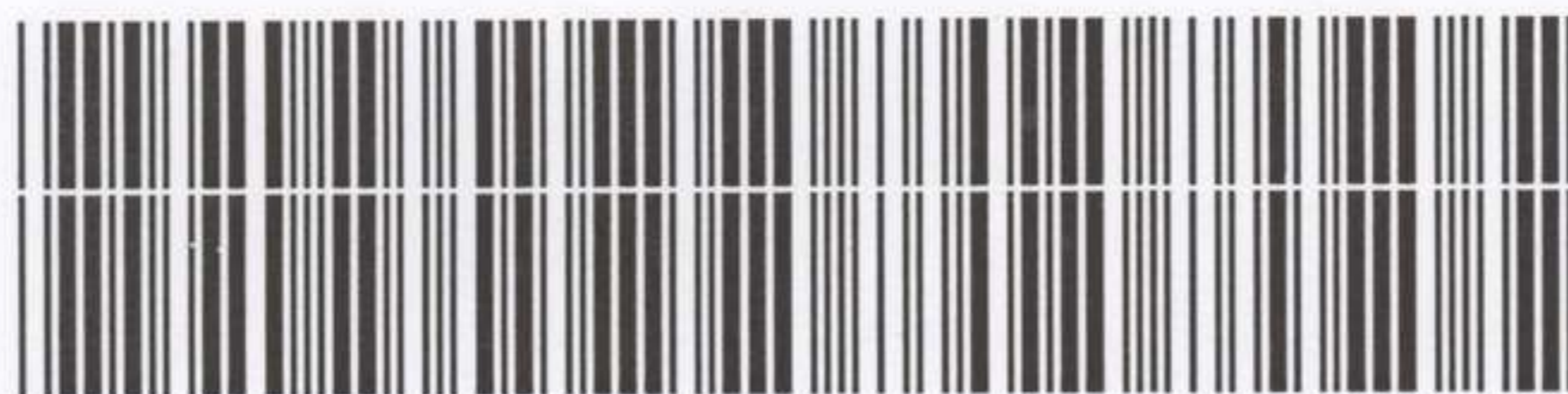
**AWM4**  
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,**  
**1914-18 War**

Artillery

**Item number:** 13/93/13

**Title:** 5th Australian Divisional Trench  
Mortar Officer

August 1917



AWM4-13/93/13

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.) 5th Aust. Divnl. Trench Mortar Bgde.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field France.	1/8/17.		V. 5.A. H.T.M. Bty. and Z. 5.A. M.T.M. Bty. assisting 13th Aust. Field Artillery Brigade to move to forward positions and clearing old positions of ammunition etc.	
(The original of above appears on the same sheet as entries for previous month and will be found with the volume for that month).				

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## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.) 5th Aust Div Trench Mortar Bde

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field France	1.8.17	Cont	X5A and Y5A M.T.M. Bty cleaning <sup>old</sup> battery positions of 55th D.A. of ammunition etc. Rain mist visibility poor.	WMM
	2.8.17		Trench mortar Batteries cleaning up old field Battery positions.	WMM
	3.8.17		Trench mortar Batteries in camp at G.11.b.6.1. + G.4.d.2.1.	WMM
	4.8.17		As above	WMM
	5.8.17		20 <sup>th</sup> on <del>dump</del> VANCOUVER. Ammunition Dump. X5A + Y5A M.T.M. Bty cleaning ammunition for 55th D.A.	WMM
	6.8.17		As above. Capt. E.D. J. KEMP V.5A. H.T.M. Bty transferred to 14th Aust TAB. Lieut. W.D. Wallis promoted T/Captain while D.T.M.O. 5th Aust Div. Dated 8th May 1917. (vide A.I. List. 210. 27.7.17)	
			Lieut. W.H. HIND <sup>30th Bty</sup> X5A M.T.M. Bty promoted Captain dated 25.6.17 + to remain seconded & transferred to V.5A. H.T.M. Bty and to command.	
	7.8.17		Lieut. J.B. Tainton Z5A M.T.M. Bty transferred to X5A M.T.M. Bty. H.T. Mortar Mk III (long) removed from No 2 position to camp at G.11.b.6.1.	WMM

AN AUSTRALIAN  
DIVISIONAL • NON  
MORTAR BRIGADE

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.) 5<sup>th</sup> Aust Divul. Trench Mortar Bde

No. ....  
Date .....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field France	7.8.17	Cont	Elevating gear & metal bed very much damaged by shell fire & rendered useless. HTM Mk I removed, from No 1 position to camp at G.11.b.6.1. One holding down bank slightly splintered. No other damage X5A and Y5A M.T.M. Bty on ammunition dump of 55 <sup>th</sup> D.A. Z5A M.T.M. Bty working on VANCOUVER Dump.	
	8.8.17		V5A H.T.M. Bty cleaning guns in camp & general parades. Z5A M.T.M. Bty on VANCOUVER Dump. X5A and Y5A M.T.M. Bty on ammunition dump of 55 <sup>th</sup> D.A.	MM
	9.8.17		HTM Mk III (long) handed over to I.O.M. for repair. V5A H.T.M. Bty on VANCOUVER Dump Z5A M.T.M. Bty in camp X5A & Y5A M.T.M. Bty on 55 <sup>th</sup> D.A. Ammunition Dump.	MM
	10.8.17		As above.	MM
	11.8.17		As above.	MM
	12.8.17		Z5A M.T.M. Bty on VANCOUVER Dump V5A H.T.M. Bty in camp X5A & Y5A M.T.M. Bty on 55 <sup>th</sup> D.A. Ammunition Dump at H 9c.85	MM

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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5<sup>th</sup> Aust Divul 2<sup>nd</sup> M. Brigade

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field France	13.8.17		25 A.M.T.M. Bty on VANCOUVER Dump. V5A.H.T.M. Bty in camp. X5A and Y5A M.T.M. Btys on 5 <sup>th</sup> D.A. Ammunition Dump at H.9.C.85 2846 Sgt. C.F. ARNOLD 612 Gun. C. WYNDHAM 211403 Gun. W. STILL of V5A.H.T.M. Bty awarded Military Medals for gallantry and devotion to duty in action on 24.7.17.	MM
	14/8/17		25 A.M.T.M. Bty on VANCOUVER Dump. V5A.H.T.M. Bty assisting to move guns of 13 <sup>th</sup> Aust. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Bde to forward positions. X5A and Y5A M.T.M. Btys on STANLEY Dump E. of VLAVENTINGHE.	MM
	15/8/17		As above.	MM
	16/8/17		V5A.H.T.M. Bty on VANCOUVER Dump. 25A M.T.M. preparing for T.M. School X5A and Y5A M.T.M. Btys still on detached duty.	MM
	17/8/17		As above	MM
	18/8/17		As above	MM
	19/8/17		25A M.T.M. Bty proceeded by train to 5 <sup>th</sup> Army T.M. School at VALHEUREUX for 14 days course Half V5A.H.T.M. Bty on VANCOUVER Dump, half in camp at G.11.d.9.6 X5A and Y5A M.T.M. Btys still on detached duty.	MM

F.C.I.  
5th AUSTRALIAN  
DIVISIONAL TRENCH  
MORTAR BDE. CO.  
No.....  
Date.....

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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(Erase heading not required.) 5<sup>th</sup> Aust Divul I M Bgde.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field France	20/8/17		Half V5A.H.T.M. Bty on VANCOUVER Dump, other half in camp at G.11.D.9.6 Z5A.M.T.M. Bty at 5 <sup>th</sup> Army Trench Mortar School	
	21/8/17		X5A and Y5A.M.T.M. Btys on STANLEY Dump. E. of Vlameninghe. As above	MM
	22/8/17		Capt. W.D. Wallis D.T.M.O. on leave. Capt W.H. Hind V.5.A.H.T.M. Bty assumes administrative command during his absence. Half V5A.H.T.M. Bty on VANCOUVER Dump Remaining personnel under Lieut E.H. Booth at BAVARIA HOUSE E of YPRES, stretcher bearing during attack on German lines.	MM
	23/8/17		X5A and Y5A.M.T.M. Btys on STANLEY Dump. X5A.M.T.M. Bty moved from STANLEY Dump to Camp G.12.D.9.6. Y5A.M.T.M. Bty on STANLEY Dump. Half V.5.A.H.T.M. Bty on VANCOUVER Dump. Remainder in Camp.	MM
	24/8/17		V5A.H.T.M. Bty returned from VANCOUVER DUMP. All available personnel of V5A.H.T.M. and X5A.M.T.M. Btys at work on getting H.T.M. up to and preparing position at C.30.B.3.1.	MM

5th AUSTRALIAN  
DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY  
MORTAR BRIGADE.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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5th Aust Divul 7th Mo Brigade

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field France	24/8/17 (Cont)		and bringing up 50 rounds of ammunition in readiness to engage strong points at Botry Farm and Beck House, which were holding up the advance of the Infantry.	
	25/8/17 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.		Y.S.A. M.T.M. Bty on Stanley Dump Strong points at Beck House <sup>4 in rear</sup> were engaged by H.T.M. 17. rounds being fired. Shooting was effective including a direct hit on Beck House which demolished part of a wall. Following on this a party of about 50 Germans were observed to come out of the back of the structure & rapidly retire. Infantry were informed of this evacuation. Retaliation moderate consisting of 77 mm HE and Shrapnel first searching FRENZBERG Ridge & then concentrating on an O.P. there. Previous to firing, enemy snipers & M.G.s active. Bed sank after 17 rounds had been fired. Range 1100. Fuse TIME	Mmm
	26/8/17		X.S.A. M.T.M. Bty in camp Y.S.A. M.T.M. Bty on Stanley Dump. Y.S.A. M.T.M. Bty on Stanley Dump	Mmm Mmm

F.O.  
 CIVILIAN  
 CROSSING  
 MEMORANDUM  
 Date.....

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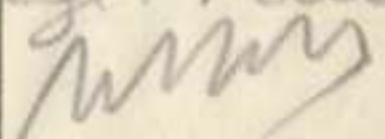
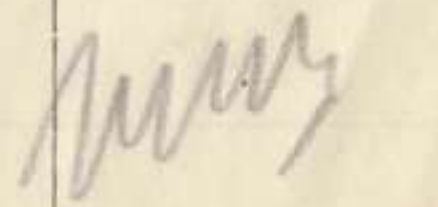
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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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(Erase heading not required.) 5<sup>th</sup> Aust. Divul. I. M. Brigade

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field France	26/3/17	9am to 2pm	<p>VSA. H.T.M. Bty and XSA. M.T.M. Bty working in early morning to make H.T.M. position ready for action again by 9 a.m. and getting 25 rounds extra up to position on night of 26<sup>th</sup> inst.</p> <p>H.T.M. engaged BECK HOUSE again firing 30 rounds. Shooting very effective, three direct hits being recorded. A large crack has appeared across front of building. Enemy again evacuated position &amp; retired to shell holes to right flank. Artillery were at once informed. Retaliation moderate until 2.15pm when ground was searched with 5.9's Range 1100. Enge. Time</p>	<p>Enge. Time  </p>
	27/3/17	10.15 am to 12.30 p.m.	<p>H.T.M. engaged BORRY FARM and vicinity firing 18 rounds. Firing effective, two direct hits being recorded on concrete dugout. Retaliation slight with 77<sup>mm</sup> fms. Range 1140 yds. Enge. Time.</p> <p>YSA M.T.M. Bty on STANLEY DUMP. ZSA M.T.M. Bty at 15<sup>th</sup> Army T.M. School. 2846 Sgt. C.F. Arnold. <del>612</del> 612 Sgt. C. Wyndham &amp; 11403 Sgt. W. Still. awarded Military Medals for gallantry and devotion to duty on 25/3/17 (5<sup>th</sup> ADA RO 70 17/3/17)</p>	<p></p>



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5th Aust Divine Trench Mortar Bde

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DIVISIONAL STATION  
MORTAR BATTALION  
No. ....  
Date .....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field France.	28/8/17	11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.	<p>HTM engaged BERRY FARM firing 15 rounds. Gun had been previously taken out of pit &amp; moved 20 yards forward in the open. No emplacement was constructed as the ground was too wet. Shooting was very effective four direct hits being observed on concrete buildings. Enemy located position and opened fire with 77<sup>mm</sup> in vicinity of gun without effect. Range 1140. Fuze. Time. Strong wind increased range X5A &amp; V5A Bty transported 25 rounds HTM bombs to position</p>	WMS
	29/8/17		<p>HTM engaged BERRY FARM from open position firing 17 rounds. Six direct hits observed on concrete buildings. Retaliation on O.P. &amp; around position heavy, consisting of 5.9's 4.2's &amp; 77<sup>mm</sup> H.E. &amp; Shrapnel. Range 1140. Fuze. TIME &amp; D.A.</p> <p>V5A HTM Bty &amp; X5A MTM Bty transported 30 HTM bombs to position. On returning 1 man was killed by 8" H.V. Shell.</p> <p>V5A MTM Bty on Stanley Dump. Z5A MTM Bty at 5th Army T.M. School.</p> <p>Lt O. J. Daylor attached to 5th D.A.C.</p> <p>Lt P. Podmore attached to 5th D.A.C.</p>	WMS

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5th Aust. Div. Trench Mortar Bde

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field France	30/8/17	8.0 a.m. to 8.45 p.m.	<p>HTM. engaged BORRY FARM firing 18 rounds from open position. Shooting very effective, three direct hits being recorded. Retaliation very heavy consisting of 59's, 42's, 77's HE &amp; shrapnel and later including eight-inch H.E.; all however without result. Bed gave trouble after fifth round and had to be re-adjusted.</p> <p>V5A HTM Bty and X5A M-TM Bty transporting ammunition Y5A M-TM Bty at Stanley Dump. Z5A at 5th Army T.M. School.</p>	
			<p>W. M. J. Captain A/D T.M.O. 5th Australian Division</p>	

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5th Aust. Divnl. Trench Mortar Bgde.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>In the Field BELGIUM (Sheet 28). G.11.d.9.6</p>	<p>31/8/17.</p>		<p>Parties from V.5.A H.T.M. and X.5.A. M.T.M. Btys. transporting H.T.M. ammunition to gun position. Y.5.A. M.T.M. Bty. working on STANLEY DUMP, E of VLAMENTINGHE Z.5.A. M.T.M. Bty. at 5th Army Trench Mortar School VALHEUREUX.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(The original of above appears on the same sheet as entries for subsequent month and will be found with the diary for that month).</p>	<p>W.D.W.</p>