

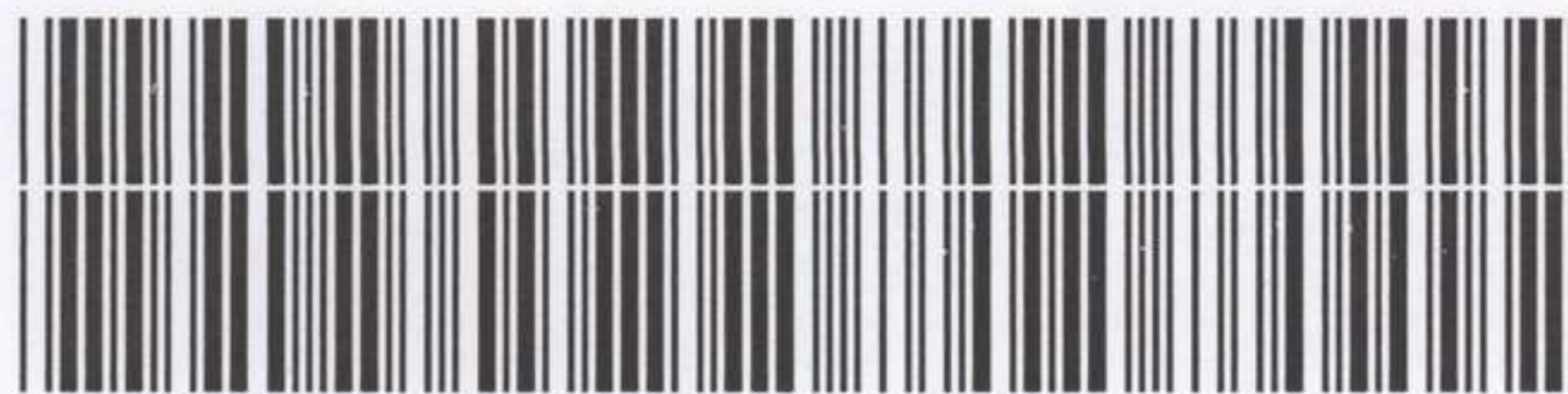
**AWM4**  
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,**  
**1914-18 War**

Artillery

**Item number:** 13/93/29

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

December 1918



AWM4-13/93/29

**CONFIDENTIAL.**

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

H.Q. 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL TRENCH MORTAR BRIGADE.	
No. ....	.....
Date .....	.....

247

**Australian Imperial Force.**

**WAR DIARY**

OF

*5<sup>th</sup> Aust Div Trench Mortar Brigade*

FOR

*December 1918*

Signature of Officer compiling

*[Handwritten signature]* Captain

Signature of Officer Commanding

*[Handwritten signature]* Captain

5th AUSTRALIAN  
DIVISIONAL TRENCH  
MORTAR BATTALION

WAR DIARY


Vol. 30  
Page 1.

Army Form C. 2118.

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.) 5th Aust. Divnl Trench Mortar Bde

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MAZINGHIEN 7 km. SSE of Le Cateau FRANCE	1/17/18	to	<p>During this period the unit has remained attached to the 5th Aust. DAC for duty. Nothing of general interest has taken place except the departure on the 4th inst of Capt E. J. Ferguson M.C. 10th A.M.T.M. Bty and two other ranks who are returning to Australia under the 1914-15 Jan - Feb. 1915. scheme. Names of personnel who embarked up to June 1915 have been taken and interest runs high as to when they will go. The Education Scheme proceeds apace and Lt L. G. Sanders 9th A.M.T.M. Bty has been appointed EO for 5th DAC &amp; T.M.S. The scheme has been explained to the men and applications for courses in a wide range of subjects have been received from all ranks. Genl Monash's lecture on 'Demobilization and Repatriation' has been read to all ranks and discussion is very keen on these subjects. [4 other ranks have been transferred to A.I.F. Hdqrs. London as clerks for Demob. &amp; Repat.] Leave has been very scanty, both in France &amp; to U.K. but may improve later when we settle down for a while. Until the Infantry moved out on 8/17/18. the billets were very poor.</p>	<p>247</p> 

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5th AUSTRALIAN  
DIVISIONAL TRENCH  
MORTAR BRIGADE.  
No. ....  
Date .....

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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
MAZINGHIEN 7 km. SSE of LE CATEAU FRANCE	11/12/18 18/12/18	10.	<p>few being even weather-proof, but on the move of the Infantry the troops soon made themselves comfortable. With the exception of the 8<sup>th</sup> &amp; 9<sup>th</sup> <sup>on some</sup> mist and an odd few hours afternoons, the weather has been dull, rainy &amp; cloudy. The cold has not been severe but rain has been constant. Arrangements are being made for a very fine Xmas Dinner for the two batteries, from Reg. Funds and 1/6 per head allowed from Divisional Funds. Being probably the last chance the unit will have of having a united dinner on this side, it was resolved to make things worthy of the occasion &amp; £50 is being spent, averaging about 11/- per head. Rations of late have not been all that could be desired, bread &amp; fresh meat being often short. Mail has been irregular owing to shortage of trucks at the Base.</p>	
	19/12/18 31/12/18	10.	<p>On the 19<sup>th</sup> mist the unit moved with the Dac. to CARTIGNIES near AVESNES, being the first day of a two day's trek to SEMÉRIES, which was reached about 3pm next day 20<sup>th</sup> mist. The unit now settled down for Xmas, being still attached</p>	

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H.Q.  
5th AUSTRALIAN  
DIVISIONAL TRENCH  
MORTAR BRIGADE.

WAR DIARY

OR  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

5th Aust. Div. Trench Mortar Bde

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
SEMETRIES FRANCE 6 km. E. of AVESNES Sheet Valenciennes. 12/100000	19/12/18 to 21/12/18		to the 3rd Dac. A party had left on the 16th for Amiens to purchase poultry fruit etc. for the Xmas Dinner & these returned on the 20th with a fair amount of goods. A further amount had been ordered from the canteen, but there was some doubt of these arriving in time. The Comforts Fund was in the same position with regard to their Xmas Boxes. Previous to the 16th inst. the Batteries had been rationed by Dac. by after that date they re-opened their own cook-houses & drew their own rations. This enabled them to conserve a surplus of mutton & ham for the Xmas Dinner. A large hall was engaged & preparations proceeded apace. Tables, chairs & crockery were obtained. The poultry etc. was cooked in the village Baker's oven and the cooks spared no pains to have everything cooked and ready. At the last moment most of the canteen staff arrived and also 12 cases of Xmas Boxes from the Trench Mortar Batteries.	247 Appendix I (copy)

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.

H.Q.  
5th AUSTRALIAN  
DIVISIONAL TRENCH  
MORTAR BRIGADE.

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

WAR DIARY

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Army Form C. 2118.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

2nd Aust. Div. Trench Mortar Brigade

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SEMETIES	19/12/18			
FRANCE	31/12/18			
6 km. E of AYESNES.				
Sheet				
Valenciennes				
12 1/100,000.				
			<p>comforts found. These ensured a plentiful supply of every thing. About 85 sat down to the Xmas Dinner at 7pm on 25<sup>th</sup> including Major W.D. Wallis M.C. M.M. ex-D.I.M.O. <sup>600</sup>quon D.D.A.C., Lt L.G. Sanders Educ. Officer &amp; Lt W.L. Shannon OC 9<sup>th</sup> A.M.T.M. Battery &amp; Lt O.J. Taylor ex OC 9<sup>th</sup> A.M.T.M. Battery, who was proceeding to Australia on the 26<sup>th</sup> on 1914 leave. The menu consisted of Roast Goose, Roast Mutton, York Ham, Roast and boiled potatoes, green peas, Plum Pudding, Brandy Sauce, Fruit, nuts, sweets, chocolates, cigars &amp; cigarettes, Beer and rum. In the evening a cold collation was set for 6pm, when the menu was cold Roast Turkey, cold Roast Lamb, York Ham, Boiled custard &amp; Blanc-mange, Fruit, nuts, lollies, chocolates &amp; cigarettes, whisky, gin, vermouth &amp; port wine. Everybody enjoyed themselves to the utmost. The Xmas Boxes worked out at 3pm noon, one of which was distributed at the dinner &amp; the remainder next day.</p>	<p>247</p> <p>Appendix 2 (2 copies)</p>

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Par. II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

H.Q.  
5th AUSTRALIAN  
DIVISIONAL TRENCH  
MORTAR BRIGADE.  
No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

WAR DIARY  
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(Erase heading not required.)

5th Aust. Trench Mortar Bde

Summary of Events and Information

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Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Switzerland	19/12/18		This ended the most enjoyable time that the unit had ever spent in France. Next day, Boxing	
France	to		day a sports meeting was held by 5 DABOL in conjunction with T.M.s. It was now decided to give the children of the village a fête on New Year's Eve, in return for the hospitality & general kindness extended by all the inhabitants of the village. A committee was formed composed of the DTMO & a representative of each of Nos. 2 & S.A.A. Sections 5 DTC & T.M. Brigade. Subscriptions were collected by these from their respective units, totalling 1390 francs. The committee then proceeded to Paris & obtained fruit, <sup>figs</sup> chocolate, coffee & milk & a pair of boots or shoes for each child. The Hall was prepared and tables laid and the kiddies attacked at ZERO hour. Spent on 31/12/18. Lists of the children had been prepared & with the assistance of the Maire this was the	
6 km. E of Avesnes	31/12/18			
Sheet				
Calenciennes				
12. 1/100,000				

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.

H.Q.  
5th AUSTRALIAN  
DIVISIONAL TRENCH  
MORTAR BRIGADE.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

*St Aust. Dune Trench Mortar Bge*

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Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<i>Semeries</i>	<i>19/12/18</i>		<p>whole fête was an unqualified success. After the children had eaten all they desired &amp; filled their pockets etc. with the rest, the books &amp; shoes were presented. The children &amp; everyone, especially the French people, were immensely pleased, this being the first time in four years that they have had anything approaching a Xmas or New Year's Fête. At the beginning one of the children made a speech of thanks &amp; welcome to the troops and handed the DTMO a bouquet on behalf of the children &amp; people of the village. Copy of speech attached. The bouquet is being forwarded to the Aust War Museum &amp; I think will be unique in the annals of the A.I.F. Cheers were given by the children for Australia &amp; the Australians &amp; thus closed one of the happiest incidents of the year. The children &amp; people of SEMERIES will long remember &amp; cherish the memory of the Australians &amp; New Year's Eve 1918/19.</p>	<p>Appendix 3 (3 copies)</p>
<i>France</i>	<i>31/12/18</i>			
<i>6 km. E of Avesnes</i>				
<i>Sheet</i>				
<i>Salency</i>				



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(Erase heading not required.)

5<sup>th</sup> Aust. Divn. Trench Mortar Bde

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>Senaries France 6 km. E. of Avenue Sheet balencennes 12/100,000.</p>	<p>19/17/18 21/12/18</p>		<p>About 40 children were present. In continuation of the fête a dance is being arranged to take place at 7 pm in the same hall, on New Year's night for the adults and troops. Names of all 1915 men have been taken and these constitute 50% of the unit. Speculation is rife as to when these men will go &amp; hopes run high [An April 1915 man proceeded to U.K. on 28<sup>th</sup> en route for Australia] The health of the troops is generally good but advice has been received of the deaths of no less than seven (7) men from bronchial pneumonia following on influenza. [One died whilst on leave in Paris, one on board boat whilst being invalided to Australia, one in hospital in France, two in hospital in U.K. &amp; two whilst on leave in U.K.] Leave to U.K. has been increased and 12 months men are now going</p>	<p>247</p>

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.



INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

5<sup>th</sup> Aust. Divn. Trench Mortar Bde

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Remarks and references to Appendices

Summary of Events and Information.

Place	Date	Hour		
Senieries	19/12/18		on leave. Paris leave has not increased very much.	
France	to		but 48 hours leave to Charleroi & Brussels has been	
6 km. E. of Avesnes	31/12/18		instituted. Clothing & equipment has come to hand in good quantities. Sport is being indulged in a great deal. [A Rugby League match against	
Sheet.			114 <sup>th</sup> Battery was played on 29/12/18 resulting in a	
Balenciennes			win <sup>for us</sup> by 9 points to 8. A Rugby Union match	
12, 1/100,000.			against S.A.A. Section was played on 30/12/18 resulting	
			in a win by 36 Nil for T.M.'s. We play the winner of	
			N <sup>o</sup> 1 & N <sup>o</sup> 2 Section shortly, in this competition, for a	
			silver cup.] A combined D.A.C. & T.M. sports meeting	
			is to be held on 8 <sup>th</sup> & 9 <sup>th</sup> January and many entries	
			for all events are being received. On the 28 <sup>th</sup> medals	
			were presented by H.R.H. The Prince of Wales to	
			4340 Corp. E.H. Wiber D.C.M. 1083 Sgt. J.H. Hale M.M. 491 Cpl. B.W.B. ENEBERG M.M.	
			2076 F.W. FREEMANTLE M.M. 11403 Corp. W. Still M.M. 2990 Pdr. F.E. MORRIS M.M. & bar	
			A6945 Wt. W11422/M1160 350,000 12/16 D.D. & L. Forms/C.2118/14. 1085 Cpl. T.S. BERWICK M.M.	

Appendix (copy)

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.



(Erase heading not required.)

5th Aust. Div. Trench Mortar Bde

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
				247
Semines	19/17/18		Educational classes were carried out in shorthand,	
France	to		Arithmetic Mathematics, French & Book-keeping. Classes	
6km E of	31/17/18		were well attended but progress was hindered	
Avesnes			by lack of subjects. Text books.	
Sheet			Brigade strength.	
balencennes	1/12/18		6 Officers 93 Other Ranks	
12 '100,000.	15/17/18		4 " 83 "	
	31/17/18		3 " 79 "	
<p>Thus closes the year 1918, the year of victory, to be for ever memorable in history by reason of the most gigantic offensives and counter-offensives the world has ever seen.</p>				
<p><i>[Signature]</i> Captain D.T.M.O. 5th Aust. Division</p>				

## WAR DIARY

OF

5<sup>th</sup> Aust Div. I. M. Bde

FOR

December 1918

H.Q.	
5th AUSTRALIAN	
DIVISIONAL TRENCH	
MORTAR BRIGADE.	
No.	.....
Date	.....

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## LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1	- <del>Bus</del> Fare for troops.
2	- Christmas Greetings
3	- Translation of French Speech.
4	- File re presentation of Medals.

Appendix 1  
(1 copy, Orig)

WJR.

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5TH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Headquarters,  
17. 12. 18.

D. T. M. O. 5th Aust. Div.

CHRISTMAS FARE FOR TROOPS.

The following correspondence has been received by Corps Headquarters from Expeditionary Force Canteens :-

" Arrangements have now been made with regard to the supply of Poultry etc., and your allotment will be 300 Turkeys and Geese, the greater proportion being Turkeys. With regard to nuts, oranges, apples, etc., the quantities which will be available cannot definitely be given at present, but supplies can be drawn at the same time as Poultry.

All the above will be available at CHARLEROI Bulk Canteen, and I will advise you by wire immediately they can be drawn. At the same time supplies of ordinary canteen stores, such as whisky, etc., in addition to the usual allotment drawn by you will also be available. A definite date cannot be given, owing to the traffic difficulties, but it is anticipated that it will be not later than the 22nd inst.

Please advise me by return that you will take the above quantity. "

" With reference to the list of goods which has been sent in reply to an inquiry by the Canteen Officer, Fourth Army 'Q', the attached letter gives precisely the position as far as pork, poultry nuts, oranges, figs and apples are concerned. My H.Q. have promised that increased supplies as regards the ordinary E.F. Canteen supplies will be available. With regard to Beer, there will be a certain amount of bottled beer, but the position as regards beer in barrel is uncertain, and I am taking the matter up with the C. 1/c Brewery Dept. E.F.C. H.Q.

With regard to the other items not enumerated above, such as green vegetables, etc., it is suggested that Divisions make their own arrangements, as E.F.C. will be unable to supply. Flour, sugar, fowls, ducks and eggs, of course, cannot be supplied by E.F.C. in their canteens. "

When the stores are available the Divisional Canteen Officer will arrange to collect, and allotments will be made and Units advised.

*J. L. Cunningham*

Major,  
D.A.C.M.G., 5th Australian Division.

HEADQUARTERS 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY.
No. <i>111/1193</i>
Date.....

H.Q. 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL TRENCH MORTAR BRIGADE.
No.....
Date.....

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*Handwritten notes:*  
Hunt to  
25/1/18  
down

# Appendix 2 (Orig)

OTL.

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION. A.56/4419.

Headquarters,  
23rd December, 1918.

Officers, N.C.O's and Men, 5TH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

I wish you all a Happy Christmas, the best of luck and a safe journey home during the coming year.

The 5th Australian Division has established a record of success and gallantry second to none in the Australian Imperial Force, and I trust that in the period which must elapse before we can return to our native land, all ranks will strive to maintain the magnificent reputation you have earned in the field, and by a high standard of discipline and efficiency help to make the name of the Australian soldier honoured and respected, not only in France and Belgium, but throughout the British Empire and other countries.

H.Q. 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL TRENCH MORTAR BATTALION
No. ....
Date .....

*Handwritten signature:*  
[Signature]

HEADQUARTERS 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY.
No. <i>A11/1258</i>
Date <i>24-12-18</i>

*J. Tivey* MAJOR-GENERAL,  
COMMANDING 5TH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

67/-

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Headquarters, A.I.F.,  
Care H.Q., Fifth Army,  
25th December, 1918.

The following message from the G.O.C., A.I.F.  
to all members of the Australian Imperial Force, is notified for  
information :-

" I send most hearty greetings and good wishes for  
Christmas to every member of the A.I.F., for all can  
indeed look back with satisfaction to the magnificent  
work that has been accomplished. I trust that all  
may have many a still happier Christmas and prosperity  
for many a long year to come when they reach their  
homes. H.Q.

W.R. BIRDWOOD".

6th AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL TRENCH MORTAR BRIGADE.	
No.	10/11/18
Date	

9<sup>th</sup> P.M.  
10/11/18

H.D. Hunter

Lieut.-Colonel.  
A.A.G., A.I.F.

For your  
information communication to all  
ranks and return to this office.

*Amicalty*  
D.T. 1170. 3 Aust Div  
Captain

- 2:

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You will take with you on that day when you reach your distant country, the heartfelt gratitude and happiest memories of the children of this parish.

With my comrades I say  
"Vive les Australiens" and  
"Vive l'Australie".

Omer Bulte (aged 7)

Removes Dec 31st 1918



Appendix 3

copy

Gentlemen (orig)

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It is my pleasant duty to express in the name of all my fellows the great happiness it gives us to spend this year in the midst of soldiers our friends & the saviours of our country.

The long agonies and privations of these recent years have but served to enhance the happiness & the relief which we experience today; the joy which now is expressed in our demeanour is but a dim reflection of that inner satisfaction of that reassurance and comfort which the daily sight of our protectors & sympathisers induces in our hearts.

In the name of all my fellows I thank you for the interest which you display towards us, and we pray that this New Year may restore to you who also have suffered much the happiness of family life.



"A" Form.  
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form C.2121  
(in pads of 100).  
No. of Message

Prefix	Code	m.	Words	Charge	This message is on a/c of:	Recd. at	m.
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.							Date
			Sent		Service.	Date	
			At			m.	
			To		From		
			By		(Signature of "Franking Officer.")		

TO { DTMO

Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
*	27 <sup>th</sup>		

Wagon leaves No 2 Section  
Lines at 0700 at latest  
T.M. personnel to be there  
at 0645

From D.A. HQ  
Place  
Time

The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z)  
Censor. Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.

\* This line should be erased if not required.  
750,000. W 2183 - M509. H. W. & V., Ltd. 6/16.

"A" Form.  
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form C.2121  
(in pads of 100).  
No. of Message

Prefix	Code	m.	Words	Charge	This message is on a/c of:	Recd. at	247 m.
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.							Date
			Sent		Service.	Date	
			At			m.	
			To		From		
			By		(Signature of "Franking Officer.")		

TO { DTMO (Copy Orig)

Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
* #555	27		

Amend this office 17/5/12  
aaa Busses will call at  
Church Messies at 0900 tomorrow  
28<sup>th</sup> inst. to collect medical  
personnel 14<sup>th</sup> Aust F.A.B. aaa  
Remaining personnel will  
be collected RAMOUSIES 0845 as  
detailed previously aaa  
Greatcoats will be worn or  
carried by all ranks aaa  
Lorries will remain to bring  
personnel back aaa Add<sup>d</sup>  
all concerned

From 5<sup>th</sup> Aust DA  
Place  
Time

The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z)  
Censor. Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.

\* This line should be erased if not required.  
750,000. W 2183 - M509. H. W. & V., Ltd. 6/16.

H.Q. 8th AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL TRENCH MORTAR BRIGADE.
No.....
Date.....

**8th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.**

-----

HEADQUARTERS  
8th AUSTRALIAN  
DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY.

No. *A 11/5/12/64*Date *29/12/18*

Headquarters,  
26th December, 1918.

**PRESENTATION OF MEDALS BY H.R.H. the PRINCE OF WALES.**

-----

With reference to previous correspondence regarding the above parade, the following additional instructions will be carried out.

1. In view of the distances from the parade ground, troops from 8th and 14th Brigade Groups will be represented on the parade ground as under :-

**8th Brigade Group.**

-----

2 Companies each from 30th and 32nd Battalions.  
1 Section from 8th Field Ambulance.  
1 Section from 8th Field Company A.E.

**14th Brigade Group.**

-----

2 Companies each from 53rd and 56th Battalions.  
1 Section from 14th Field Ambulance.  
1 Section from 14th Field Company A.E.  
2 Companies from 5th Pioneers.

2. Dress - Drill Order, except N.C.O's. and men to be presented with medals who will not carry rifles.  
Overcoats will be worn or carried by all ranks attending this parade.

3. N.C.O's. and men to be presented with medals will parade half an hour before the time of parade so that rolls can be checked etc.

In the case of the 8th and 14th Brigade Groups, Pioneers and Artillery, they will report to a Staff Officer from D.H.Q. on the parade ground.

In the case of the 15th Brigade Group, to report to a Staff Officer of that Brigade.

4. ARTILLERY. - Transport for N.C.O's. and men from the Artillery to be presented with Medals will be at the Church, RAMOUSIES, at 8.45 a.m., and at the Church at LIESSIES at 9 a.m. on the 28th inst. and proceed to parade ground.

These lorries will remain to transport N.C.O's. and men back to RAMOUSIES and LIESSIES.

5. Parade ground for 8th and 14th Brigade Groups is at 4.B.11.08. and will be pointed out to representatives of the Groups.

6. The 15th Brigade Group will parade at the Chateau DOULERS, under the orders of the G.O.C. 15th Inf. Bde.

Colonel  
A.A.S.C.M.G. 5th Australian Division.

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C.O. 13th Aust. F.A.Bde.  
14th Aust. F.A.Bde.  
5th Aust. D.A.Column.  
D.F.M.O. 5th Aust.Div.  
10th A.A.S.C.

HEADQUARTERS  
5th AUSTRALIAN  
DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY.  
No. *Am/5/1264*  
Date *27.11.1918.*

Reference this Office A 17/5/1264. *of 24-12-18*

1. H. R. H. The Prince of Wales will present Medals to Officers, N. C. O's and Men as nominated in list submitted to Units.

The 8th Brigade Group, 14th Brigade Group, Pioneers, and 5th Australian Divisional Artillery personnel, will parade in the vicinity of SOLRE LE CHATEAU, on the SOLRE LE CHATEAU - SIVRY ROAD approximately 4.6.11.80 NAMUR (1/100,000) to be formed up at 10.20 tomorrow, 28th instant.

The troops are being formed on three sides of a square for the presentations. The 14th Brigade is arranging for a band to be on Parade.

After the presentations, the troops will march past H. R. H. and the Officers will be presented to him.

2. DRESS.

Drill order, hats turned up. Box Respirators will not be carried.

Men will be inspected by Unit Commanders prior to moving off.

3. C.O. 13th Aust. F. A. Brigade will detail an Officer of the rank of Captain to take charge of the Divisional Artillery Details; name of this Officer to be forwarded to this Office forthwith.

All personnel will report to this Officer at the Church RAMOUSIES at 0830 on the 28th inst, and will embus and proceed under his direction to the Parade Ground, where he will report to the Officer in Charge of the Parade.

4. Two buses for transport of personnel, are reporting to O/C. Artillery Details at the Church RAMOUSIES at 0845 on 28th instant.

5. Acknowledge.

*Ackd. 27/12/18  
14/10  
J.W.*

*E. H. Booth* Captain.  
Staff Captain.  
5th Australian Divisional Artillery.

*For your information,  
necessary action and return  
to this office, please.*

H.Q.  
5th AUSTRALIAN  
DIVISIONAL TRENCH  
MORTAR BRIGADE.  
*27/12/18*  
Date.....

*Macalister* Captain  
D.F.M.O. 5th Aust Div

"A" Form.  
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form C.2121  
(in pads of 100).  
No. of Message .....

Prefix .....	Codg ..... m.	Words	Charge	This message is on a/c of:	Recd. at ..... m.
Office of Origin and Service Instructions:		Sent			Service.
2		At 1700 m.		From .....	
		To .....		(Signature of "Franking Officer.")	
		By .....		By .....	

TO { 5<sup>th</sup> D.F.A.

Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
* T.M. / 196	26	A.17 / 5 / 1964	

All available

From	D.T.M.O.	
Place	1700	
Time		
The above may be forwarded as now corrected.		(Z) Aubrey Wilson Sergt
Censor.	Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.	

\* This line should be erased if not required.  
750,000. W 2185 - M509. H. W & V., Ltd. 6/16.

HEADQUARTERS  
5th AUSTRALIAN  
DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY.  
No. H/17/5/1964  
Date 24.12.1918

C.O. 13th Aust. F.A. Bde.  
14th Aust. F.A. Bde.  
5th Aust. D.A. Column.  
D.T.M.O. 5th Aust. Div.

6 It is proposed to hold a parade for the presentation of medals on the 28th inst. Please advise this Office not later than noon 27th instant, which of the under-mentioned men are not available for this parade:-

Unit.	No.	Rank.	Name.	Decoration.
	9661.	Gunner.	J.W. Francis.	D. C. M.
	3489.	Corporal.	C.G. Brown.	D. C. M.
	234.	Sergeant.	P.J. Graham.	D. C. M.
	1102.	Sergeant.	P.M. Pottage.	M.M. & Bar.
	4454.	Sergeant.	W. Sutherland.	M.M. & Bar.
	874.	B.Q.M.S.	A. Moore.	M. M.
	4831.	B.Q.M.S.	H.S. Taylor.	M. M.
	1266.	Driver.	E.R.T. Walton.	M. M.
	2759.	Driver.	W. A. Howatt.	M. M.
	30007.	Gunner.	H. P. Sims.	M. M.
	1012.	Corporal.	A. Crozier.	M. M.
	1632.	Driver.	B.T. Warman.	M. M.
13th Aust. F.A.	4004.	Sergeant.	V. DeChanot.	M. M.
Brigade.	3359.	Gunner.	A. Lindsay.	M. M.
	1021.	B. S. M.	H.H. Martin.	M. M.
	2890.	Sergeant.	A. Smith.	M. M.
	3829.	Corporal.	S. McLatchie.	M. M.
	27764.	Gunner.	T.A.R. Nolan.	M. M.
	2106.	Bnldr.	F.H. Suthern.	M. M.
	2087.	Driver.	H. Suthern.	M. M.
	29985.	Gunner.	G.R. Minchin.	M. M.
	300a.	Sergeant.	A.O. Moseley.	M. M.
	1944.	Sergeant.	J. Stewart.	M. M.
	3238.	Bnldr.	D.J. Williams.	M. M.
	2104.	Sergeant.	C.S. Jameson.	M. M.
	1365.	Bnldr.	G. F. Smith.	M. M.
	59.	B. S. M.	W. Fleming.	M.M. & Bar.
	30759.	Bnldr.	R.I. Hunter.	M. M.
14th Aust. F. A.	2050.	Corporal.	T. Murray.	M. M.
Brigade.	1959.	Driver.	H. Douglas.	M. M.
	1153.	Driver.	H. Catling.	M. M.
	4361a.	Gunner.	H.R. Douglas.	M. M.
	2086.	Lieut.	W.L. Willis.	M. M.
	7957.	B. S. M.	F.S. Marshall.	D. C. M.
5th Aust. D. A.	1231.	Driver.	T.E.F. Bowen.	M. M.
Column.	1673.	Driver.	S.F. Wyatt.	M. M.
	1215.	Driver.	R.S. Beggott.	M. M.
	1605.	Corporal.	A.J. McGahan.	M. M.
	4208a.	Driver.	J.A. Witham.	M. M.
	2920.	Bnldr.	A.R. Morris.	M. M.
	4349.	Corporal.	F.H. Wiber.	D. C. M.
M. T. M.	1055.	Sergeant.	F.H. Hale.	M. M.
Batteries, 5th	1055.	Gunner.	T.S. Berwick.	M. M.
Aust. Div.	2026.	Corporal.	F.W. Freemantle.	M. M.
	11103.	Corporal.	W. Still.	M. M.
	491.	Corporal.	B.E. Kneberg.	M. M.

Copy of for your information  
10a Distention and returns.  
Please make necessary  
Arrangements

*E. H. Booth*  
Captain.  
Staff Captain.  
5th Australian Divisional Artillery.

5th AUSTRALIAN  
DIVISIONAL TRENCH  
MORTAR BRIGADE.  
No. 76/17/18  
Date

*BT M.O.* Captain  
5th Aust. Division

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C.O. 13th. Aust. F.A. Brigade.  
 14th. Aust. F.A. Brigade.  
 5th. Aust. D.A. Column.  
 D.F.M.O.

HEADQUARTERS 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY.	
No.	A 11/1017
Date	8.12.1918.

1 The attached message from the Corps  
 Commander is being issued down to Batteries and  
 Sections D.A.C. and is to read on parade.

2 Units will notify this office  
 when the Corps Commander's message has been  
 communicated to their Commands.

Captain,  
 Staff Captain,  
 5th. Aust. Divisional Artillery.

*9th Bty*  
*1st*  
 To note which area  
 return. Please comply with para 2  
 as soon as possible and forward  
 acknowledgements to this office

*2/7/18.*

*Macalister Captain*  
*D.F.M.O. 5th Aust Div*  
*per. 267*

## AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

Corps Headquarters,  
November 29, 1918.

Comrades of the 5th Australian Division -

As you are doubtless aware, I have been appointed to succeed General Sir John Monash, K.C.B., V.D. in command of the Australian Corps.

Though I am deeply sensible of the honour, I feel very much the parting from you and I want to tell you all how very grateful I am, and how sincerely I appreciate the loyal and devoted service of all ranks during the twenty-three months I have been your Divisional Commander. During that time, and especially during the last seven months, much indeed has been asked of you: you have never failed to respond, but with superb gallantry, determination, and self-sacrifice have achieved victory after victory, often under conditions which made success seem well-nigh impossible. You may well be proud of being able to claim that you have never failed in carrying out the work allotted to you with complete success.

No words of mine can adequately express the pride and honour I feel in having been your Commander, or of the gratitude and admiration, mingled with sorrow, I share with you for our gallant comrades who have laid down their lives in the great cause for which we have been fighting so long.

It is a great pleasure to me to know that, though I leave the Division, I am, as Corps Commander, still closely associated with you, and hope frequently to have the pleasure of seeing you and serving with you during the period that must elapse before we return to AUSTRALIA.

(Sgd.) J. TALBOT HOBBS,  
Major-General,  
Commanding AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

D. T. M. O.

5<sup>th</sup> Aust Div

Re 5<sup>th</sup> D. A. A 11/1017

2. 12. 18

Corps. Commanders Message

The above message has been  
communicated to all ranks.

*[Signature]*  
Lieut  
Commanding 10<sup>th</sup> A. M. T. M. Bty.

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D. T. M. O.

5<sup>th</sup> Aust. Div<sup>n</sup>

Re 5<sup>th</sup> A. A. A 11/1017 2. 12. 18  
Corps. Commanders Message.

The above message has been  
communicated to all ranks of this  
Unit.

*[Signature]*

a/c  
9<sup>th</sup> A. M. T. M. Bty.

9TH AUSTRALIAN  
MEDIUM TRENCH  
MORTAR BATTERY.  
No. ....  
Date 5. 12. 18.

APPENDIX



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FIFTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY

HEADQUARTERS 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY.
No. 618/1089
Date

C.O. 15th Aust. F.A. Brigade  
 C.O. 14th Aust. F.A. Brigade  
 C.O. 5th Aust. D.A. Column  
 D.T.M.O. 5th Aust. Division

Headquarters  
 11th December, 1918

The attached communication dealing with a  
 Narrative of Operations competition is forwarded ~~you~~  
 for your information, please.

H.Q. 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL TRENCH MORTAR BRIGADE.
No. 17/12/18
Date 8/12/18

*J. Ruwe*  
 Major,  
 Brigade Major,  
 5th Aust. Divl Artillery.

*94BNy*  
*10th*

*Do not initial and  
 return, please*

*Macalister* Captain  
 D.T.M.O. 5th Aust Div

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G14/ 3326

NARRATIVE OF OPERATIONS.

1. In connection with the educational scheme and with a view to obtaining interesting and valuable records of the operations in which the Australian force has been engaged, the Corps Commander is offering prize medals for narrative accounts of the more important operations in which the Corps has taken part.

2. It is desired that the competition shall cover the whole campaign in France, and it will therefore be divided into three periods :-

- (i) From the landing in France to the commencement of the German retirement at the end of January 1917.
- (ii) From February 1917 to February 1918 (inclusive).
- (iii) From March 1918 to the cessation of hostilities.

Separate prizes will be awarded for each period.

A. INFANTRY - BRIGADE MEDALS.

In each infantry brigade, for each period, a silver medal as first prize and a bronze medal as second prize will be awarded for the best narrative account of any of the operations in the attached list "A".

B. DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY.

In each divisional artillery one silver and one bronze medal will be awarded, for each period, for the best narrative account of any of the operations in the attached list "B".

C. ARMY BRIGADES.

In the Army Brigades A., B., C. One silver and one bronze medal will be awarded in the second and third periods for the best narrative account of any of the operations in the attached list "B".

D. DIVISIONAL ENGINEERS.

As above, for divisional engineers. List of operations "C". Competitors may select any operations included in those lists in which his unit was engaged.

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-2-

3. It has been suggested that some additional prizes be offered for special essays on particular subjects - such as "With the pack transport at PASSCHENDAELE" - "Australian raids" - "Patrols in no man's land" etc., for which individual officers are prepared to offer prizes. If approved these special essays might be called for in connection with the scheme.

4. Corps Gold Medal. The prize essays will be submitted to the Corps Commander, who will award gold medals for the essays judged to be the best in the infantry, artillery (including Army brigades) and engineers. One gold medal will be given for each period and for each arm.

5. As the competition promises to produce a number of very valuable contributions to our records, the Divisional Commander hopes that Brigade and Battalion Commanders will do all they can to induce the best men to compete, and to make these narratives as complete and reliable as possible. In judging, both accuracy in facts and literary excellence should be considered.

6. List of subjects and general conditions are appended.

10th December 1916.

Lieut-Colonel,  
General Staff,

5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

	<u>Copies</u>		<u>Copies</u>
8th Brigade	5	D.A.D.V.S.	2
14th Brigade	5	D.A.D.O.S.	1
15th Brigade	5	D.A.P.M.	1
5th Div. Artillery	5	Salvage Company	1
5th Div. Engineers	4	Camp Commandant	1
5th M.G. Battalion	5	5th A.D.R.W.	1
5th Pioneer Battalion	1	Education Officer	1
Signal Company	1	"I.Q."	1
Div. Train	5		
A.D.M.S.	5		

LIST OF SUBJECTS "A" (INFANTRY BRIGADES).

1st Period.

1. With the ---- Brigade at FROMELLES.
  2. With the ---- Brigade at POZIERES.
  3. On the SOMME FRONT during the winter 1916-17.
- 

2nd Period.

1. In pursuit of the Germans to the Hindenburg Line - Spring 1917.
  2. The German attack at LAGNICOURT.
  3. The operations round BULLECOURT.
  4. With the ---- Brigade at MESSINES, July 1917.
  5. With the ---- Brigade on the PASCHENDAELE front - Autumn 1917.
- 

3rd Period.

1. With the ---- Brigade on the ARRAS - AMIENS - MONT-DIDIER front, March-August 1918.
  2. With the ---- Brigade on the HAZEBROUCK front, April-August 1918.
  3. With the ---- Brigade on the 8th August 1918.
  4. Operations from 9th to 30th August 1918.
  5. The battle for PERONNE, 30th August - 4th September 1918.
  6. The German retreat and the capture of the Hindenburg system.
  7. Through the BEAUREVOIR LINE with the ---- Brigade.
-

LIST OF SUBJECTS "B" (FIELD ARTILLERY).1st Period.

1. With the Australian artillery at PROMELLES.
  2. With the Australian artillery at POZIERES.
  3. With the guns on the SOMME front, winter 1916-1917.
- 

2nd Period.

1. Australian artillery in the German retirement to the Hindenburg line, Spring 1917.
  2. With the Australian artillery at BULLECOURT.
  3. With the Australian artillery at MESSINES, July 1917.
  4. With the Australian artillery at PASCHENDAELE.
- 

3rd Period.

1. With the Australian artillery on the ARRAS - AMIENS - MONTDIDIER front, March-August 1918.
  2. With the Australian artillery in the German attack on the LYS, April-August 1918.
  3. With the Australian artillery from VILLERS BRETONNEUX to the SOMME, August 1918.
  4. Attack on the Hindenburg system.
-

LIST OF SUBJECTS "C" (ENGINEERS).1st Period.

1. The Australian engineers at FROMELLES, 1916.
2. POZIERES, 1916.
3. With the Australian engineers and pioneers on the SOMME front during the winter 1916-1917.

-----

2nd Period.

1. In pursuit of the Germans to the Hindenburg Line, Spring 1917.
2. Preparation for the battle of MESINES, July 1917.
3. From Hell Fire Corner to BROODELINDLE, 1917.
4. WYTSCHAETE - MESINES - ARMENTIERES defences, Winter 1917-1918.

-----

3rd Period.

1. Working with the engineers and pioneers on the ALBERT - AMIENS front, March-July 1918.
2. On the MERAIS front, April-August 1918.
3. Preparing for the attack of 8th August 1918.
4. The crossings of the SOMME, August-September 1918.

-----

GENERAL CONDITIONS.

1. Competitors must be present or past members, officers or other ranks, of the formation concerned.

2. Collaboration is permitted.

3. In each formation a committee will be detailed to appoint judges and to conduct the competition :-

- For A. By the Brigade Commander.
- For B. By the C.R.A. of each Division.
- For C. By the C.O.C., R.A.
- For D. By the C.R.E. of each Division.

It is considered desirable that the brigade stories should form the basis of the competition, and formation commanders or the committees appointed by them must evolve a means of circumventing this difficulty. Some form of preliminary competitions in battalions, etc. would probably be the best method of doing this. It could be done by holding an initial competition among battalions and other units within the group, and awarding prizes for them. The narratives so obtained could then be typed in sufficient numbers to place a copy of each at the disposal of competitors in the brigade competitions. With this data at their disposal these latter could construct the brigade story.

4. Competitors will write under noms de plume, and will not attach their names to the manuscripts. Failure to comply with this rule will entail disqualification. Names and noms de plume will be sent under sealed cover to the D.A. & Q.M.G., Corps Headquarters. These will not be opened till after the final award of gold medals in each period by the Corps Commander.

5. Contributions must reach the judges :-

For first period not later than 31-1-19.

For second period not later than 21-2-18. ← 21.2.18

For third period not later than 15-3-18.

In order to lighten the work of the judges any contributions completed before these dates should be sent in as early as possible.

6. Applications for maps should be sent to the D.A. & Q.M.G. Corps stating the part of the front required, but supplies cannot be guaranteed as G.H.Q. has difficulty in providing maps for certain sectors.

7. All contributions become the property of the Corps.

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8. As these narratives should provide a most valuable and interesting record of doings of the Australian troops, it is proposed later to publish those of special merit and sell them at cost price to members of the force. If the competition is as successful as is hoped this record should embrace all the most interesting operations in which the Corps has played its part.

9. The Corps Commander offers a special prize for the best design for the medals to be awarded for these narratives. Any member of the Corps may compete. Designs to be submitted not later than 1st January 1919 to the D.A. & C.M.G., Australian Corps.

-----

Contributors will write under name of platoon, and will not attach their names to the manuscripts. Manuscripts to be sent to the D.A. & C.M.G., Australian Corps Headquarters. Manuscripts will not be opened till after the final award of gold medals is made by the Corps Commander.

- 1. Manuscripts must reach the D.A. & C.M.G. for first period not later than 31-1-19.
- 2. Manuscripts must reach the D.A. & C.M.G. for second period not later than 31-2-19.
- 3. Manuscripts must reach the D.A. & C.M.G. for third period not later than 31-3-19.
- 4. Manuscripts to be sent to the D.A. & C.M.G. should be sent to the D.A. & C.M.G. in triplicate, but original cannot be returned as D.A. & C.M.G. has difficulty in providing same for printing.
- 5. All contributions become the property of the Corps.



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HEADQUARTERS  
5th AUSTRALIAN  
DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY.  
No. 418/1125  
Date.....

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY.

C.O. 13th Aust. F.A. Brigade  
C.O. 14th Aust. F.A. Brigade  
C.O. 5th Aust. D.A. Column  
D.T.M.O. 5th Aust. Division.

Headquarters,  
14th December, 1918.

The attached circulars respecting the competition for "Narratives of Operations" are forwarded for your information and circular please.

*J. Russell*

Major,  
Brigade Major,  
5th Australian Divl. Artillery.

Distribution.

	Copies.
13th Aust. F.A. Bde	3
14th Aust. F.A. Bde	3
5th Aust. D.A.C.	2
D.T.M.O. 5th Aust. Division	1
File	1

*9th Bty D.F.  
10th Co*

*To note and return, please  
[Signature] Captain  
RT 1110 - 5th Aust Div*

H.Q.  
5th AUSTRALIAN  
DIVISIONAL TRENCH  
MORTAR BRIGADE.  
Date 15/12/18

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HEADQUARTERS 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY.
No. <u>918/1125</u>
Date .....

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY.

---

Headquarters,  
15th. December 1918.

- C.O. 13th. Aust. F.A. Brigade
- C.O. 14th. Aust. F.A. Brigade
- C.O. 5th. Aust. D.A. Column
- D.T.M.O. 5th. Aust. Division. ✓

*[Handwritten signature]*

Reference this Office G18/1125 of 14/12/18 and G18/1089 dated 13/12/18.

The C.R.A. has in accordance with the powers vested in him, nominated MAJOR H.K. PRIOR, MAJOR T.R. MELLOR and an Officer to be detailed by C.O. 14th. Australian F.A. Brigade, as a Committee to appoint Judges and to conduct the Competitions.

C.O. 14th. Australian F.A. Brigade will please forward his nomination as soon as possible, and it will be communicated to all concerned in due course.

*J. R. Mellor*  
Major,  
Brigade Major,  
5th. Australian Divl. Artillery.

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HEADQUARTERS	
5th AUSTRALIAN	
DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY	
No.	918/1147
Date	

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY.

Headquarters,  
16th December, 1918.

- C.O. 13th Aust. F. A. Brigade
- C.O. 14th Aust. F. A. Brigade
- C.O. 5th Aust. D. A. Column
- D.T.M.O. 5th Aust. Division.

Reference this Office No. G18/1125 of the  
15th December, 1918.

The following will be the committee to judge  
the Narratives of Operations:-

- Major R. S. COATES
- Major H. K. PRIOR
- Major T. R. MELLOR

*L. Beams*

Major,  
for Brigade Major,  
5th Australian Divl Artillery.

*DM*