

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

Artillery

Item number: 13/126/1

Title: 15th Australian Light Trench Mortar
Battery

July 1916



AWM4-13/126/1

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
DUPLICATE.
TRIPLICATE.

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

15th A.I.F. M.B.

FOR

July 191*6.*

82
Signature of Officer compiling

Signature of Officer Commanding

Confidential

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

360

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.)

Sheet No 1

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices										
Steinbeque	5/7/16	3 pm	<p>15th. A.L.T.M.B was formed & billeted in Steinbeque. Strength on this date was as under</p> <table data-bbox="770 685 1570 1169"> <tr> <td>Officers</td> <td>0. Ranks</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>22.</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">School of Instruction</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Officers</td> <td>0. Ranks</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> </tr> </table>	Officers	0. Ranks	3	22.	School of Instruction		Officers	0. Ranks	1	3	
Officers	0. Ranks													
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B.M.K.

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Sheet No 2

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Steinbeque	6/7/16		Carried on with organisation of Unit. At 4 pm two N.C.O's of 1st Aust. Div. reported as Instructors.	
do.	7/7/16		Underwent gas attack for practice purposes. This occupied morning. In the afternoon Instructors carried on with training of Personnel.	
do.	8/7/16		Left Steinbeque for Estaires at 11 am. Departure delayed for 3/4 of an hour owing to Transport irregularities. Marched via Merville and Croix Noiraise. Arrived at Estaires at 4 pm. Billeted at Div. Baths Position in column while on March in rear of M. Gun Coy	

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~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

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Sheet No 3

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Estaires	9/7/16	11 am.	Received instructions for two I.C.O.'s attached for Instructional purposes to report back to unit.	
		3-30 pm.	Left Estaires for Sailly, where we arrived at 5-30 pm. Billeted at farmhouse 2 miles West of Sailly. Lieut. Scurry & 3 O. Ranks returned from School of Instruction at 5 pm.	
	10/7/16		Carried on with training of personnel. 2 Lieut. Keys & 2 O. Ranks left for School of Instruction at 5 am. (School held at Terdinghen.)	
	11/7/16		Left Sailly at 2 pm. for Reserve Billet. Arrived at 3-30 pm. Located 2 1/4 miles in rear of firing line. Ofc. look over French stores & emplacements with from Ofc. 13th. A.L.T.M.B. Effected exchange of mortars. Two Howitzers taken over being out of action, owing to elevating stands being defective.	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Sheet No 4

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field	11/7/16		<p>Battery quartered in Defensive emplacements in 300 yds line.</p> <p>2 hnt. Lay left for School of Instruction at Terdingham at 5pm.</p> <p>No firing was done on this day.</p>	
In the Field	12/7/16		<p>H. 2rs of Battery moved to new Billed at Broix Blanche</p> <p>Training of personel carried on at emplacements</p> <p>No firing was done on this day</p>	
In the Field	13/7/16		<p>Battery carried on with training of personel in use & care of Mortar.</p>	<p>4</p>

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Sheet No 5

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field	14/7/16		Very quiet day in the line. Carried on with training of personnel in use & care of mortar.	
In the Field	15/7/16		Continued with training of personnel. Heavy bombardment by Enemy Artillery at night with very little support from our own Artillery. Enemy raid carried out on left of our sector.	

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Sheet No 6

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field	16/7/16		<p>Busy preparing for attack timed to start at zero time to be fixed on 17/7/16.</p> <p>Fairly quiet day in the line. At 11.40 am. one mortar fired 5 rounds at supposed position of Ariel-Torpedo Battery, with the result that large quantities of timber & bags were dislodged at point aimed at. Enemy replied with 3 rounds from their French mortars.</p> <p>2. Off and 2. O. Rauke returned from School of Instruction at Terdinghen. Reported to unit at 5.30 pm.</p>	
In the Field	17/7/16		<p>Mortars in action in front line at 6.30 am. Battery was then distributed as follows.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 section in front line 1 sub-section in reserve in 300 yds line. 2 mortars under guard in Reserve Billet. <p>The last named mortars being out of action through lack of trained personnel</p>	<p>6117</p>

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Sheet No 7

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field	17/7/16		<p>Fired 10 rounds at Enemy's front line causing considerable damage to parapet.</p> <p>Attack postponed till further notice. Retired to 300 yds line at 10-30. after being heavily bombarded by Enemy Artillery.</p> <p>Ammunition supply brought up from rear dump to an intermediate dump in front line between T. C. Avenue & Finneys Avenue.</p> <p>Our guns while in front line were distributed along Brigade Sector; Each gun registering on enemy's parapet easily.</p>	
In the Field	18/7/16		<p>Improved ammunition supply in front line. Enemy shelled communication trenches heavily intermittently throughout the day.</p>	

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Sheet No 8

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field.	19/7/16.		<p>Attack arranged to take place. Zero time. 11 am. Registered at Zero. 30. During Artillery lifts we bombarded Enemy front line. These bombardments took place at the following times.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4-25 to 4-29 5-04 to 5-09 5-29 to 5-36 6-21 to 6-31.</p> <p>Expenditure of ammunition 400 rounds. Our guns took up original positions allotted to them on 17th inst. It was found however that our right sub-section (2 guns) could not register on enemy's parapet as on 17th inst. This is probably accounted for by the fact that on 17th inst there was a fairly strong breeze behind us, which would effect the distance by a few yards. In view of these circumstances it was found necessary to group our right sub-section on the left of left sub-section, where the range was considerably less & enemy's front line could be reached.</p>	

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Sheet No 9

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field	20/7/16		Retired to 300 yds line at 8 am. Day fairly quiet carried on with preparation of Defensive emplacements in 300 yds line.	
In the Field	21/7/16		Carried on with Defensive emplacements in 300 yds line, also Salvage of ammunition left by 14th Battery.	

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Sheet No 10

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field	22/7/16.		<p>Carried on with work as previous day. Both sides very quiet during day.</p>	
In the Field	23/7/16		<p>Enemy & our own artillery very quiet. Carried on with Defensive emplacements & salvage of ammunition</p>	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Sheet No 11

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field.	24/7/16		Day very quiet on both sides. Carried on with Defensive emplacements & salvage of ammunition.	
In the Field	25/7/16		Day very quiet on both sides. Carried on with Defensive emplacements & salvage of ammunition.	

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Sheet No. 12

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field	26/7/16		Day very quiet. Carried on with building of defensive emplacements in 300yds line, & salvage of ammunition.	
do	27/7/16		Day fairly quiet up till 3-p.m. when our Artillery became active; firing in all about 60-70 rounds, most of which was 6" with occasional bursts from our 18 pounders. Battery took up position in front line at 3 pm with the intention of firing, only if the Artillery became sufficiently involved. After two hours (5 pm) Battery retired to 300 yds line.	12

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Sheet No. 12

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field	28/7/16		Very quiet day on both sides - From about 3 pm activity on part of our Aeroplanes was observed.	
In the Field	29/7/16		Very quiet day on both sides nothing to report.	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Sheet No 114

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field	30/7/16		Very quiet day up till 2-30pm when our Artillery opened up on Enemy's front line. This continued till about 6pm without any retaliation from enemy	
In the Field	31/7/16		Very quiet day on both sides. This Battery carried on with with collection of ammunition from saps, in all probability dropped by fatigue party during recent operation.	

W.C.S. Capt.
Ofc. 15th A.L.T.M.B.

31/7/16.

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