

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

Artillery

**Item number:** 13/126/12

**Title:** 15th Australian Light Trench Mortar  
Battery

June 1917



AWM4-13/126/12



WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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.

15th A. L. T. M. B. (Erase heading not required.)

Shed 7/1

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field	1/6/17		During the morning the battery co-operated with the 60th Bn. in attack practices under open warfare conditions. In the afternoon a return cricket match was played with B. N. Q. The battery team was again successful.	E.K.R.
"	2/6/17		Usual morning parades. Experiments in packing mortars on mules were carried out with satisfactory results.	E.K.R.
"	3/6/17		Church parade was held at 9.30 a.m. Inspection of lines by S.O.C. Brigade at 11 a.m. A cricket match played against the 20th A.S.C. resulted in a win for the battery by twenty runs.	E.K.R.
"	4/6/17		The battery co-operated with the 59th Bn. in attack practices. During the afternoon a cricket match was played against a team from the 57th Bn. Q. M.'s Store Battery scored another win.	E.K.R.





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Sheet 2

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field	5/6/17.		Parades as laid down in syllabus of training. During the afternoon all men of the battery had a bath & received a change of clothing.	EKB
"	6/6/17		Battery co-operated with 5-8 <sup>th</sup> Bn. in attack practices.	EKB
"	7/6/17.		Battery co-operated with 5-7 <sup>th</sup> Bn. in attack practices. The scheme was as follows: — An advanced guard composed of one company of infantry, one Vickers gun team, & one Stokes mortar detachment, was allotted three objectives. The mortar was packed on a mule, & together with further shells carried in ordinary shell jackets on another mule, was taken forward as far as the nature of the ground would allow, then unpacked & carried by the detachment. The first objective offered no great difficulty, & was taken by the infantry alone, the second required the co-operation of the Vickers gun team, & the third the co-operation of both Vickers & Stokes. The infantry attacked under cover of a bombardment	





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Sheet 3

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field	7/6/17	Continued	by the Stokes at the rate of gun fire at 6 sec interval. Owing to the small quantity of ammunition available, this fire could not be long maintained & ceased as soon as the rifle grenades got within effective range of their objective. The grenades then bombarded until the remainder of the infantry got within charging distance & rushed the position.	C.R.R.
" "	8/6/17		The evening parade took the form of a route-march, the route followed being Biefville - Basse-de-Warlencourt - Arnes-les-Bains.	C.R.R.
" "	9/6/17		Carried on with training as laid down in syllabus. During the afternoon a cricket match was played against a team from the 57 <sup>th</sup> Battr. The Battery team won by fifteen runs.	C.R.R.





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Sheet 4.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the field	10/6/17.		Church parade was held at 9.15 a.m. At 11 a.m. lines were inspected by G. O. C. Brigade. Everything was found satisfactory.	C.R.K.
	11/6/17.		Carried on with training as per syllabus. The packing of mortars & ammunition on mules was successfully tried. This method of transportation would be specially suitable for rough or broken country where wheeled transport could not be used.	C.R.K.
" "	12/6/17.		Carried on with training as laid down in syllabus. Nothing of special interest.	C.R.K.
"	13/6/17.		Usual parades. Making preparations to move.	C.R.K.





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Sheet 5

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field.	14/6/17.		During the morning timber was packed & lines cleaned up in anticipation of moving. Later a cricket match was played against a team from the M. B. Coy. Battery team won by one hundred & twenty runs. At 6.15 p.m. battery entrained at Bapaume. At 9.30 p.m. detrained at Puchevillers & marched to Contay where we went into billets. Men were served with hot tea on arrival.	C.R.R.
.	15/6/17.		The day was spent in improving billets & a general clean up of clothing & equipment. The billets are clean & comfortable.	C.R.R.
.	16/6/17.		A washing parade was held during the morning. Each man received clean underwear.	C.R.R.
.	17/6/17.		Church parade was held at 9 a.m.	C.R.R.





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15<sup>th</sup> A. L. T. M. B. (Erase heading not required.) Skel 6.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field.	18/6/17.		Commenced a new syllabus of training this morning. Capt. W. C. Sweeney left the battery to take up an appointment as instructor at Corps School.	C.K.B.
	19/6/17.		Carried on with training as laid down in syllabus.	C.K.B.
	20/6/17.		Usual parades. Nothing of special interest.	C.K.B.
	21/6/17.		Usual parades. Nothing of special interest.	C.K.B.
	22/6/17.		Bathing parade during morning. At 11.30 p.m. battery route-marched to Beaumont & returned over the same route. Strict march discipline was enforced & the marching throughout was good.	C.K.B.





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Sheet 7

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field.	22/6/17		Carried on with training as laid down in syllabus. Capt Freeman & Lt Gamble marched in from 5th Army Coy School	E.K.B.
	24/6/17		Church parade was held at 9 a.m.	E.K.B.
"	25/6/17		Battery conts. marched this morning. The route followed was through Contay - Gortencourt - Puchevillers - Housain - Contay. Nothing of unusual interest occurred.	E.K.B.
	26/6/17		Carried on with training as laid down in syllabus. A trial of gopher packs was made but they were found unsuitable for carrying Stokes shells. Experience has shown that the easiest & most economical way to carry Stokes ammunition is place the shells in two sandbags tied together slung over either shoulder.	E.K.B.





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10th A.L.T.M.B. (Erase heading not required.)

Sheet 5.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field.	27/6/17.		Work for the morning consisted of close order & given drill. Two selected teams did special training for forthcoming Divisional competitions. In the afternoon a cricket match was played against a team from the 57th Batta. The battery team won by wickets, five runs.	C.K.B.
" "	28/6/17.		Battery route - marched through Contay - Huisant - Puchevillers - Fontenecourt - Contay. A bathing parade was held at 3 p.m. B. O. C. Brigade inspected brigade at this moment at 3 p.m. Officers & Q. C. of battery attended lecture on advanced guards given by B. O. C. at 4 p.m.	C.K.B.
" "	29/6/17.		Work for the morning was a repetition of that done on 27th inst.	C.K.B.
" "	30/6/17.		Work for the morning consisted of bayonet fighting & gun-drill, & close order drill. A kit inspection was also held.	C.K.B.

