

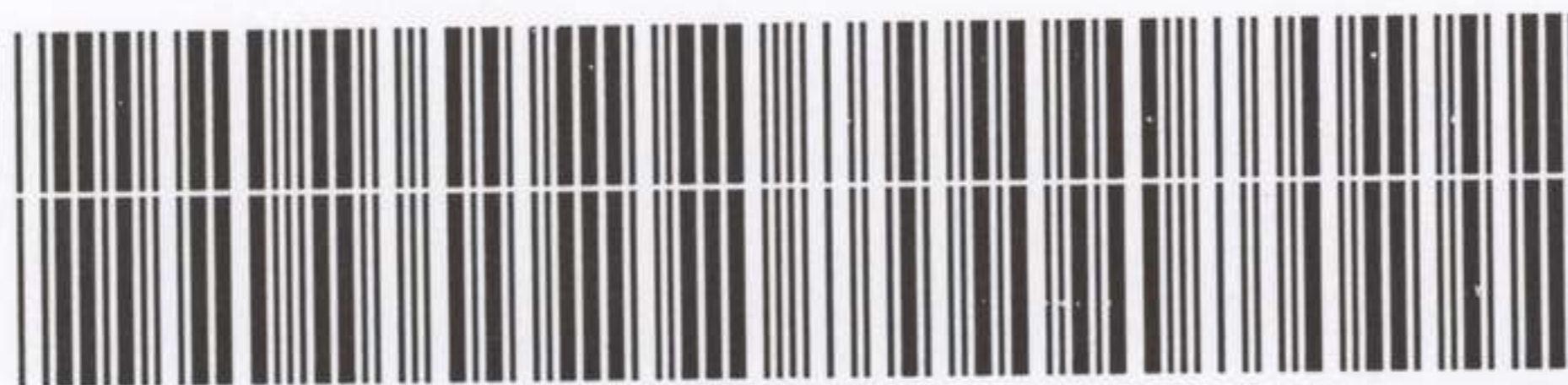
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Artillery

Item number: 13/126/21

Title: 15th Australian Light Trench Mortar
Battery

March 1918



AWM4-13/126/21

Dupli
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WAR DIARY

OF

15th Aust L.T.M Bty

From

1st March

To

31st March 1918

VOL. No.

R. 25,000-5/18-11212.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

Volume III
Sheet I

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.)

15th A.L.T.M.C

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the field	1/3/12		<p>Enemy fairly quiet during twenty four hours with the exception of a dummy raid put up on our left centre battalion front at about 9.45 p.m. During the night several replacements were constructed by our detachments. A few rounds were fired on enemy trenches at 0.35. 0.29 + 0.55. 0.25 for purposes of registration. Weather very rough + windy.</p>	
	2/3/12		<p>Enemy fairly quiet during twenty four hours. During the night our detachments were employed on laying + storing ammunition in new replacements + checking of registrations, lines of fire. Weather again very rough + windy.</p>	

ELK

WAR DIARY

Army Form C, 2118.

Volume III
Sheet II

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

15th A.L.T.M.B.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field	3/3/16.		<p>At 11.45 p.m. two raids were carried out on our brigade front, one on small salient at U. 5. D. 7.3. + the other on enemy trench on both sides of CINEMA ROAD. at O. 35. D. 7.7.</p> <p>Battery co-operated with artillery in the bombardment on the bomb of both sectors. Seven mortars were allotted to each sector, six being borrowed from the 6th L.T.M.B. for the purpose. The same programme of fire was used on both sectors. From zero to zero + 2 the raid area was bombarded at the rate of fifteen rounds per mortar per minute. At zero + 2 fire was switched to each flank of raid area to form blocks in enemy trenches. Fire at the rate of three rounds per mortar per minute was maintained till zero + 15.</p> <p>By this time raiding parties were returning to our trenches. Owing to the softness of ground + consequent sinking of base-plates some of our</p>	

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Volume III
Sheet III

15th A.L.T.M.B.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the field	3/5/18.		<p>mortars were unable to complete the arranged programme on the whole however the emplacements stood well. Our total expenditure was 714 rounds. Enemy's barrage was not placed down until four minutes after zero, fairly heavy on right, lighter on the left. lasted about forty minutes. Our detachments had no casualties.</p>	
"	4/5/18.		<p>Detachments were engaged on construction of defensive emplacements in support area. At about 2 a.m. our S.C.B. went up on right battalion front where enemy attempted to raid one of our posts. He was driven off by our heavy machine & bomber. A heavy machine was put down to cover this attempted raid. Enemy's activity on this part of brigade sector is most marked. One O.R. rejoined from hospital.</p>	<p>Edth</p>

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Volume III
Sheet IV

15th ALT.M.B

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Tidd	5/3/18		Detachments carried on with construction of defensive emplacements. Enemy mineweepers again active on the right battalion front. Between 9.30 p.m. & 2 a.m. between 100 & 150 projectiles were dropped around our posts in U.S.B. One C.R. evacuated to Div. Rest Station. Weather fine.	
	6/3/18		Detachments well engaged on construction of new offensive emplacements & fixing of ammunition. Three hundred rounds of ammunition were taken forward by fatigue parties to new emplacements. Enemy activity again unusual. Weather fine.	
	7/3/18		New offensive emplacements well completed, ammunition dumps established in anticipation of a shoot on enemy trenches. Enemy artillery a little more active than usual. Weather fine.	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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15th W.L.F.M.B.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the field	8/3/18		<p>During the night two shots in enemy trenches in vicinity of T.C. 15 95, at 9 p.m. and at midnight respectively, in conjunction with our artillery and machine guns a total of three hundred & seventy rounds was fired. Enemy put up his S. L. S. & placed a fairly heavy barrage in rear of our pocket line.</p> <p>One O.B. marched in from English leave.</p> <p>Two O.B's evacuated wounded.</p> <p>Weather fine.</p>	
	9/3/18		<p>Enemy artillery more active than usual. Detachments were employed on construction of offensive emplacements & firing ammunition. Supply parties took forward some four hundred rounds.</p> <p>Casualties - Nil. - weather fine.</p>	

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WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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15th A.I.T.M.B

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field	14/3/11.		Enemy artillery not nearly so active as during previous twenty-four hours. During the night our detachments carried out operations on enemy trenches in vicinity of O.B.C. 1395. Weather fine. Casualties - hit. Expenditure of ammunition - 24 rounds. One O.B. unattached in front. One O.B. evacuated to C.C.S.	
	11/3/11.		Enemy artillery active but shelling very scattered. At 10.30 pm our brigade carried out two raids, the one against enemy strong point at O. 29. a. 95. 25 + the other against enemy post line system between O. 5. a. 31 75 + O. 6. c. 13 95. Our detachments co-operated in the bombardment for the latter raid, eight guns firing in the raid area from 900 to 900 + 2, then switching out four to either flank, maintaining a block on enemy trenches. Three prisoners were taken in each raid. Expenditure of ammunition - 450 rounds. Casualties - hit. One O.B. evacuated - neck & struck off strength.	

E/O/B

WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

15th Oct 1918

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Sheet 5

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
in the field.	12/3/18		Enemy artillery not so active as during the previous twenty four hours but detachments were employed on construction of offensive emplacements & carrying forward ammunition. Registrations were carried out on enemy trenches in vicinity of O.35 D.1 in casualties - Nil weather fine & warm.	
	13/3	11	Enemy artillery not so active. Detachments were employed on preparations for raid which is to take place during early hours of the morning. Weather fine. Heavy fog during night.	
..	14/3/18		Our brigade carried out two raids at 3.30 a.m. The first against RIFLE & JULY FARM B. & the other against enemy front line trenches between O.35 D.1 1st and O.35 D.15. 44 and second line trenches between O.36 C. 15 44 & O.36 D.20 20. Our detachments assisted in the latter operation by maintaining a steady fire on either side of the raid area to neutralize hostile M.G. fire	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Volume III
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15th Lt. J. M. B.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field	14/3/11	Continued	and prevent enemy reinforcements working along his trenches. Expenditure of ammunition - 240 rounds. Casualties - Nil. Weather foggy during early morning but fine during day. Lieut. W. C. Davis & eight C.R. marched out to schools.	
	15/3/11		Enemy artillery not so active. Battery was relieved during the evening by the 6 th Lt. J. M. B. Relief took place without incident & was completed by 9.30 p.m. Battery came back to receive a ROSSIGNOL CAMP, KENTON. Weather fine. One C.R. marched in from hospital & one C.R. from 7 Coy's School.	
	16/3/11		Weather fine. Kit inspection held & shortages taken. Clothing & equipment cleaned up. Nothing of particular interest.	
	17/3/11		Church parade at KENTON SCHOOL. Conference of C.O.s at Hyde Hdqrs. Weather fine.	

E.K.H.

WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Sheet A

15th 16th 17th 18th 19th

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the field	14/3/11		Weather fine. A party of officers & N.C.O.s, accompanied assembly positions laid down in Defence Scheme of Reserve Brigade. During the night an assembly of skeleton formation was carried out. No difficulty was experienced in getting into position. The C.R. marched out on English Road.	
	14/3/11		Weather broke this morning. Storming hard all day. Nothing of particular interest. The C.R. marched out on Paris Road.	
	20/3/11		Weather clearing. A detachment carried out. Morning. Lieut H.S. McCall, marched out on English Road. Two C.R.s marched out to Hyde C.O. School. Two C.R.s ceased to be attached from 60 th Bn & struck off strength. One C.R. marched up from 2 nd Bn, Musketry School.	
	21/3/11		Weather fine. Nothing of particular interest.	C.R.

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WAR DIARY

OR

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Sheet 2

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.

5th B.L.F.M.B.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field	22/3/18		Weather fine. Nothing of particular interest to note. P.O. transferred per 5 th B.L.F.M.B. One C.O. evacuated to D.R.S. One C.O. taken on strength from hospital.	
	23/3/18		Weather fine. Nothing of particular interest to note. One C.O. evacuated in front of tent.	
	24/3/18		Weather fine. Church parade held. Orders received to move to METEKEN area. Two C.O.s rejoined from Byde School. Two C.O.s transferred from 5 th B.L.F.M.B.	
	25/3/18		Marched out of KEMMEL at 10 a.m. Reached METEKEN at 3 p.m. place vacated by battery.	
	26/3/18		Surplus stores & baggage collected & taken to Div. Store at BLARINGHEM. Five C.O.s. marched in from 2 Corps School.	
	27/3/18		Marched out of METEKEN at 7.15 a.m. Reached CAESKA at 4 a.m. Entrenched at once. Train left at 10.35 a.m. Detachment at DOULLENT. Marched off.	C.M.B.

WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Sheet XI

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field	27/3/14	Continued	at 6.50 p.m. Arrived in LEADVILLE at 11.10 p.m. Secured good billets. Morn. completed march with no man falling out. Weather fine.	
	28/3/14		All establishments placed out of bounds & pocketed by battery. We L. B. evacuated to Field Amb. Weather fine.	
	29/3/14		Battery marched out to HEADVILLE at 7 a.m. Arrived at 4 p.m. & billeted. Lt Col G. Jones & four Co. HQs, arrived from West Coast School. Nucleus of protection machine Co. HQs. marched out to VANDERLIPS. Marched out of HEADVILLE at 10.30 p.m. Battery acted as escort to 2nd Echelon of brigade transport. March continued through the night.	
	30/3/14		Battery accompanying brigade transport, reached BENNIE & found remainder of brigade at 9 a.m. Battery detailed to maintain continuous patrols along RIVERBANK from BENNIE to LEADVILLE at 9.20 p.m. No casualties were met on loan to 11th Aust Inf Bn. Rainy steadily during 24 hours.	EK 16

WAR DIARY

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15th A.L.T.M.B. INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Volume III
Sheet I

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field	1/3/18		<p>Enemy fairly quiet during twenty four hours with the exception of a dummy raid put up on our left Centre Battalion front about 9.45 p.m. During the night several emplacements were constructed by our detachments. A few rounds were fired on enemy trenches at O.35.d.8.9. and U.5.d.80.25. for purposes of registration.</p> <p>Weather very rough and windy.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">E.K.K.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----oooo0oooo-----</p>	
	2/3/18		<p>Enemy fairly quiet during twenty four hours. During the night our detachments were employed on fuzing and storing ammunition in new emplacements and checking of registrations and lines of fire.</p> <p>Weather again very rough and windy.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">E.K.K.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----oooo0oooo-----</p>	
	3/3/18		<p>At 11.45 p.m. two raids were carried out on our brigade front: one on small salient at U.5.d.7.3 and the other on enemy trench on both sides of CINEMA ROAD at O.35.d.7.7.</p> <p>Battery co-operated with artillery in the bombardment of both sectors. Seven mortars were allotted to each sector, six being borrowed from the 8th L.T.M.B. for the purpose. The same programme of fire was used on both sectors. From zero to zero plus 2 the raid area was bombarded at the rate of fifteen rounds per mortar per minute. At zero plus 2 fire was</p> <p style="text-align: right;">E.K.K.</p>	

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WAR DIARY

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15th A.L.T.M.B.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Volume III
Sheet II

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field	3/3/18		<p>switched to each flank of raid area to form blocks in enemy trenches. Fire at the rate of three rounds per mortar per minute was maintained to zero plus fifteen. By this time raiding parties were returning to our trenches. Owing to the softness of ground and consequent sinking of base-plates some of our mortars were unable to complete the arranged programme. On the whole, however, the emplacements stood well. Our total expenditure was 719 rounds. Enemy's barrage was not placed until four minutes after zero, fairly heavy on the right, lighter on the left. Lasted about forty minutes. Our detachments had no casualties.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">E.K.K.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----oooo0oooo-----</p>	
	4/3/18		<p>Detachments were engaged on construction of defensive emplacements in support area. At about 2 a.m. our S.O.S. went up on right battalion front where enemy attempted to raid on of our posts. He was driven off by our Lewis Gunners and bombers. A heavy minenwerfer barrage was down to cover this attempted raid. Enemy's activity on this part of brigade sector is most marked. One O.R. rejoined from hospital.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">E.K.K.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----oooo0oooo-----</p>	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Volume III.
Sheet III

15th A.L.T.M.B.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field.	5/3/18		<p>Detachments carried on with construction of defensive emplacements. Enemy <i>minenwerfers</i> again active on right battalion front. Between 9.30 p.m. and 2 a.m. between 100 and 150 projectiles were dropped around our posts in U.5.c.</p> <p>On O.R. evacuated to Div Rest Station. Weather fine.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----oooo0oooo-----</p>	E.K.K.
	6/3/18		<p>Detachments were engaged on construction of new offensive emplacements and fuzing of ammunition. Three hundred rounds of ammunition were taken forward by fatigue parties to new emplacements. Enemy activity again normal. Weather fine.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----oooo0oooo-----</p>	E.K.K.
	7/3/18		<p>New offensive emplacements were completed and ammunition dumps established in anticipation of a shoot on enemy trenches. Enemy artillery a little more active than usual. Weather fine.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----oooo0oooo-----</p>	E.K.K.
	8/3/18		<p>During the night two shoots on enemy trenches in vicinity of U.6.c.15.85. at 9 p.m. and 12 midnight respectively, in conjunction with our artillery and machine guns, A total of three hundred and seventy rounds was fired. Enemy put up his S.O.S. and placed a fairly heavy barrage in rear of our picket line.</p> <p>One O.R. marched in from English leave. Two O.R's evacuated wounded. Weather fine.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----oooo0oooo-----</p>	E.K.K.

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WAR DIARY

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15th A.L.T.M.B. INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Volume III
Sheet IV

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field	9/3/18		<p>Enemy artillery more active than usual. Detachments were employed on construction of offensive emplacements and fuzing ammunition. Carrying parties took forward some four hundred rounds.</p> <p>Casualties: nil. Weather fine.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----000000000-----</p>	E.K.K.
	10/3/18		<p>Enemy artillery not nearly so active as during the previous twentyfour hours. During the night our detachments carried out registration on enemy trenches in vicinity of U.6.c.15.85. Weather fine. Casualties: nil. Expenditure of Ammunition: 24 rounds. One O.R. marched in from leave. One O.R. evacuated to C.C.S.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----000000000-----</p>	E.K.K.
	11/3/18		<p>Enemy artillery active but very scattered. At 10.30 p.m. our brigade carried out two raids, the one against enemy strong point at 0.29.a.95.25. and the other against enemy front line system between U.5.d.37.75 and U.6.c.13.95. Our detachments co-operated in the bombardment for the latter raid, eight guns firing on the raid area from zero to zero plus 2", then switching out, four to either flank, and maintaining a block on enemy trenches. Three prisoners were taken in each raid. Expenditure of ammunition : 450 rounds.</p> <p>Casualties: nil. O.R. evacuated sick and struck off the strength.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----000000000-----</p>	E.K.K.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

15th A.L.T.M.B.

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field	12/3/18		<p>Enemy artillery not as active as during the previous as during the previous twentyfour hours. Our detachments were employed on construction of offensive emplacements and carrying forward ammunition. Registrations were carried out enemy trenches in vicinity of 0.35.d.81.80. Casualties: nil. Weather fine and warm .</p> <p style="text-align: right;">E.K.K.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----000000000-----</p>	
	13/3/18		<p>Enemy artillery not so active. Detachments were employed on preparations for raid which is to take place during early hours of the morning. Weather fine. Heavy fog during night.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">E.K.K.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----000000000-----</p>	
	14/3/18		<p>Our brigade carried out two raids at 3.30 a.m. The first against RIFLE and JULY FARMS, and the other against enemy front line trenches between 0.35.d.81.80 and 0.35.d.75.99. and second line trenches between 0.36.c.15.98 and 0.36.a.20 .20. Our detachments assisted in the latter operation by maintaining a steady fire on either side of the raid area to neutralize hostile M.G.Fire, and prevent enemy reinforcements working along his trenches. Expenditure of ammunition: 240 rounds. Casualties: nil. Weather foggy during early morning but fine during day. Lieut.A.C.DAVIES and eight O.R's marched out to schools.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">E.K.K</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----000000000-----</p>	
	15/3/18		<p>Enemy artillery not so active. Battery was relieved during the evening by 8th L.T.M.B. Relief took place without incident and was completed by 9.30 p.m. Battery came back to reserve in</p> <p style="text-align: right;">E.K.K.</p>	

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15th A.L.T.M.B. INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Volume III
Sheet VI

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field	15-3-18		ROSSIGNOL CAMP, KEMMEL. Weather fine. One O.R. marched in from hospital and one O.R. from X Corps School. -----oooo0oooo-----	E.K.K.
	16/3/18		Weather fine. Kit inspection held and shortages taken. Clothing and equipment cleaned up. Nothing of particular interest. -----oooo0oooo-----	E.K.K.
	17/3/18		Church Parade at KEMMEL SCHOOL. Conference of C.O's at Brigade Headquarters. Weather fine. -----oooo0oooo-----	E.K.K.
	18/3/18		Weather fine. A party of Officers and N.C.O's reconnoitred assembly positions laid down in Defence Scheme of Reserve Brigade. During the night an assembly in skeleton formation was carried out. No difficulty was experienced in getting into position. One O.R. marched out on English Leave. -----oooo0oooo-----	E.K.K.
	19/3/18		Weather broke this morning. Raining hard all day. Nothing of particular interest. One O.R. marched out on PARIS Leave. -----oooo0oooo-----	E.K.K.

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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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15th A.L.T.M.B. INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Volume III
Sheet VII

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field	20/3/18		Weather clearing. Detachments carried out training . Lieut.H.S.McColl marched out on English leave. Two O.R's marched out to Brigade N.C.O.School. Two O.R's ceased to be attached from 60th Battalion and struck off strength. One O.R. marched in from Second Army Musketry School. E.K.K. -----000000000-----	
	21/3/18		Weather fine. Nothing of particular interest. E.K.K. -----000000000-----	
	22/3/18		Weather fine. Nothing of particular interest to note. 1 O.R. transferred from 59th Battalion One O.R. evacuated to D.R.S. One O.R. rejoined from hospital. E.K.K. -----000000000-----	
	23/3/18		Weather fine. Nothing of particular interest to note. One O.R. marched in from F.A. E.K.K. -----000000000-----	
	24/3/18		Weather fine.Church Parade held. Orders received to move to METEREN Area. Two O.R's marched in from Brigade School. Two O.R's marched in, transferred from 57th Bn. E.K.K. -----000000000-----	
	25/3/18		Marched out of KEMMEL at 10 a.m. reached METEREN at 3 p.m. where billets were occupied by battery. Two O.R.(drivers) two G.S.Limbered Wagons and four mules re-attached. E.K.K. -----000000000-----	

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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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15th A. L. T. M. B. INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Volume III
Sheet VIII

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field	26/3/18		Surplus baggage & stores collected and taken to Div. Store at BLARINGHEM. Five O.R.'s marched in from Xth Corps School. -----ooooo-----	E. K. K.
	27/3/18		Marched out of METEREN at 7.15 a.m.. Reached CAESTRE at 9 a.m. Entrained at once. Train left at 10.35 a.m. Detrained at DOULIENS. Marched off at 6.50 p.m. Arrived in LEALVILLERS at 11.10 p.m. Secured good billets. Mem completed march well; no man falling out. Weather fine. -----ooooo-----	E. K. K.
	28/3/18		Alle estaminets placed out of bounds and picketed by battery. One O.R. evacuated to Field Amblulance. Weather fine. -----ooooo-----	E. K. K.
	29/3/18		Battery marched out to HEDAUVILLE at 7 a.m. Arrived at 1 p.m. and billeted Lieut .A.C. Davies and four O.R.s marched in from Aust. Corps School. Nucleus of fourteen O.R.s. marched out to VAUCHELLES. Battery marched out of HEDAUVILLE at 10.30 p.m. Battery acted as escort to 2 Echelon of Brigade Transport. March continued through the night. -----ooooo-----	
	30/3/18		Battery accompanying Brigade Transport reached BONNAY and joined remainder of brigade at 5 a.m. Battery detailed to maintain continuous patrols along RIVER ANCRE from BONNAY to LA NEUVILLE -----ooooo-----	E. K. K.

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WAR DIARY

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.

15th A.L.T.M.B. INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Volume III
Sheet IX

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field	30/3/18		At 9.20 p.m. two mortars were sent on loan to 11th Aust. Inf. Brigade. Raining steadily during 24 hours. -----ooooo-----	E.K.K.
	31/3/18		Weather clearing up. Patrols were maintained along RIVER ANCRE during the twenty four hours. Nothing unusual to report. -----ooooo-----	E.K.K.

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