

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

Artillery

Item number: 13/126/24

Title: 15th Australian Light Trench Mortar
Battery

June 1918



AWM4-13/126/24

Original

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.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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

(Erase heading not required.)

Volume 6. Page 1.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	June,	1918.		
BOIS de MAI	1st		Weather fine. At 1 p.m. the Battery moved to wood at G.6.D.9-6. Trench shelters were drawn and bivouacs constructed. 8 Other Ranks marched in from Brigade Nucleus.	
	2nd		Weather fine. Battery attended Brigade Church Parade. One Other Rank rejoined from G.H.Q. Light Trench Mortar School.	
	3rd		Weather fine. Training commenced this morning. Parade hours have been fixed at 7.30 a.m. till 11 a.m. with recreational training for one and a half hours in the afternoon. 3 N.C.O's from Battery are attending the Brigade School.	
	4th		Weather fine. Morning training parades as usual. During the afternoon 50% of Battery received partyphoid inoculation. Remainder were engaged on work at Brigade Headquarters.	
	5th		Weather fine. Carried on with training as per syllabus. In the afternoon personnel of Battery route marched to QUERRIEU PONDS for swimming parade.	
	6th		Weatherfine. Half of Battery at work on Brigade Headquarters. Remainder given holiday on account of inoculation.	
	7th		Weather fine. Half Battery on working party. Remainder given a holiday to recover from effects of inoculation. Three Officers from Battery reconnoitred 2nd Australian Divisional Sector and roads leading thereto. 2/Lieut. W.J.TANNER attached from 57th Battalion, vice Lieut. L.F.MORRIS, resumed regimental duty.	

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

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Volume 6. Page 2.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	June,	1918.		
BOIS de MAI	8th		Weather fine. Carried on with training as laid down in syllabus. Practice with live ammunition was also carried out. Shooting was exceptionally good, in one case target was demolished with second round.	
			Men were granted leave to attend their respective battalion's sports during the afternoon.	
	9th		Weather fine. Battery attended Brigade Church Parade for C. of E.. R.C's. attended Church at CARDONNETTE. Remaining half of Battery inoculated.	
	10th		Weather showery. Brigade Sports meeting held near ALDONVILLE and was a great success, notwithstanding the unfavorable weather conditions.	
	11th		Weather fine. Usual parades. Two Officers from Battery visited Headquarters of 6th A.L.T.M.B. at HEILLY in order to obtain their dispositions and information relating to their sector. Two Other Ranks marched in from hospital via 5th Divisional Reinforcement Wing.	
	12th		During the morning section competitions were held in drill, physical training and "Coming into action". No. 3 Section were the winners of the aggregate. All Officers attended an address by the Brigadier in the afternoon.	
	13th		Weather fine. Usual training parades. O.C. Battery reconnoitred whole of 6th Australian Infantry Brigade Sector and made arrangements for relief of 6th A.L.T.M.B.	
	14th		Weather fine. Usual training parades. Bathing parade at CARDONNETTE Baths. Lieut. R.D. CHALMERS	

APPENDIX

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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

(Erase heading not required.)

Volume 6. Page 3.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	June	1918.		
BOIS de MAI	14th		and 1 Other Rank marched out to G.H.Q. Light Trench Mortar School. 1 Other Rank marched out to 5th Army Light Trench Mortar School. 1 Other Rank evacuator to Field Ambulance. 1 Other Rank marched out on leave. 4 Other Ranks marched out to 5th Australian Divisional Nucleus.	
HEILLY	15th		Weather fine. Battery marched out of BOIS DE MAI at 10.30 a.m. and proceeded to HEILLY via QUERRIEU and LA HOUSSEY, reaching destination at 2.30 p. m. The 6th Australian Light Trench Mortar Battery were relieved in front system during the evening. Relief was accomplished without incident and was completed at 8.30.p.m. Dispositions are as follows: <div>Headquarters HEILLY CHATEAU.) Adv. Headquarters. D.29.D. 40-20.) One Mortar K.1.D.25-40.) Sheet 62 D N.E. 1/20,000 One Mortar K.1.D.25-45.) One Mortar K.1.C.60-50.) One Mortar E.19.D.25-25.) One Mortar E.19.D.30-35.) Three Mortars in Reserve at Headquarters. Transport Lines in FRESH COPSE C.26.B.5-1. (Sheet 62 D. N.W.)</div>	
	16th		Weather fine. During the early morning registrations were effected on various targets. Ammunition was checked over and cleaned and improvements effected to accommodation. 300 Rounds of ammunition taken forward from Brigade Dump. Casualties Nil. Expenditure of Ammunition - 9 rounds.	
	17th		Weather fine. During the early morning our mortars were very active, the following targets	

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APPENDIX. LXXII

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APPENDIX. LXXII
3

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Volume 6.

(Erase heading not required.)

Page 4.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HEILLY	June, 1918.			
	18th		being engaged: Enemy M.G's at E.20.B.0-3. and K.2.C.65-50. Enemy working party dispersed at E.20.A.5-3. Enemy post at K.1.D.9-1. Expenditure for 24 hours 112 rounds. Casualties Nil.	
	19th		Weather fine. Enemy Artillery active during early morning. Our mortars maintained the usual activity, successfully engaging the following targets. : Enemy Machine Guns at E.20.C.25-85. Posts at K.2.A.2-5., K.2.A.0-0., K.2.C.0-8., Posts in Sunken Road at K.2.C.1-7. A working party was dispersed at K.7.B.95-70. Expenditure of ammunition for 24 hours - 78 rounds. Casualties Nil.	
	19th		Operations: During the night the following targets were engaged: Bank at K.2.A.50-60., Enemy Trench at K.2.A.25-30. , K.2.A.00-00., E.19.B.70-15. Enemy Machine Gun at K.2.C.00-80. Suspected enemy Listening Post at E.26.A.25-65. Expenditure of ammunition - 63 rounds. Casualties Nil. 1 O.R. marched in from Base.	
	20th		Operations: From 6 p.m. to 6.25 p.m. registrations were effected on enemy trench at E.19.B.70-00 and E.19.B.70-15. At E.19.B.70-00. a direct hit was obtained on a Bosche who was observing from the trench. At 12 midnight the battery carried out a programme in connection with a minor operation by 58th Battalion firing from Zero to Zero plus 16 minutes. Expenditure of ammunition - 200 rounds. Casualties Nil.	

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APPENDIX LXXII 4

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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

(Erase heading not required.)

Volume 6. Page 5.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	June, 1918.			
HEILLY	21st		Operations: Registrations were effected on targets preparatory to operations: Works: Preparing offensive emplacements. Preparing and transporting ammunition into position. Ammunition expended - 15 rounds. Casualties Nil. Capt. KEYS ceased to be seconded and resumed Regimental Duty with 57th Battalion.	
	22nd		At about 10.30 p.m. harrassing fire was opened up by the enemy artillery and TREUX area and forward were shelled very much above normal. This hindered our ammunition carrying party but an ample supply was got forward. Shelling died down to normal at 11 p.m.	
	22nd		At 12.15 a.m. a 3 minute bombardment of enemy trench was carried out by 8 guns, from K.2.A.30-60. to K.2.C.10-70. At 12.18 a.m. 4 guns switched to each flank and formed blocks, searching and traversing outwards from K.2.A.30-60. to K.2.C.10-70. respectively, on right for 15 minutes and left till cease fire was given at 13 minutes by raiding party. Ammunition expended - 580 rounds. Casualties 1 Other Rank slightly wounded. 1 Other Rank marched out on English Leave.	
	23rd		Operations: Enemy trench from K.2.A.40-70. to K.2.C.20-50. was engaged by bursts of fire at irregular intervals to catch working parties repairing damage done by last nights bombardment. Enemy Machine Gun engaged at K.2.A.10-20. and E.20.C.50-95. Emeny post at E.19.B.70-15. to E.19.B.70-20. Reconnaissance made in view of future operation. Ammunition for same brought forward.	

APPENDIX.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Volume 6. Page 6.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	June, 1918.			
HEILLY.	23rd		Ammunition expended - 80 rounds. Casualties Nil.	
	24th		Operations: Enemy targets engaged: Trench from K.1.B.90-20. to the right. Machine Gun at K.1.B.90-20. silenced. Bank at K.7.B.99-70. Working parties in E.20.C. dispersed. Positions sited and ammunition brought forward in preparation for future operations. Ammunition expended - 100 rounds. Casualties Nil.	
	25th		Operations: A five minute shoot in conjunction with 6" Newtons was carried out at 10.20 p.m. on enemy trench from E.19.B.90-00. to E.19.B.70-30. by two guns. A third gun at same time brought fire to bear on enemy post at E.20.A.10-10. Our Infantry report splendid result and enemy withdrawal along sap from post. Enemy retaliation slight. Other targets engaged were: K.8.A.10-80. , K.1.B.90-20., K.2.A.30-50., and K.1.B.90-20. at 4 a.m. Ammunition expended - 120 rounds. Casualties Nil. At 9 p.m. an a dirigible balloon was seen passing across our front in a S.E. direction. Unknown whether ours or enemy. Enemy artillery above normal above normal at intervals during the day and night and a little gas noted in front line system.	
	26th		Operations: Targets successfully engaged are as under:	

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APPENDIX. LXXV 6

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C. 2118.

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

(Erase heading not required.)

Volume 6. Page 7.

Place	Date June,	Hour 1918.	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HEILLY	26th		Working Party at E.19.B.70-00. (good results). Machine Guns at K.2.A.20-40 and K.8.A.20-65. Enemy trench at K.2.C.25-40. and K.8.A.35-95. Works: Ammunition carried forward and gun emplacements prepared. Enemy unusually quiet. A fire apparently caused by a flare burnt for about an hour in the vicinity of an old house in VILLE sur ANCRE. Trace of Gas reported from Right Battalion front line system. Ammunition expended - 50 rounds. Casualties Nil. 2 Other Ranks marched in from 5th A.D.R.W.	
	27th		2/Lieut. W.J.TANNER seconded for duty from 57th Battalion A.I.F. List No. 345 of 18.6.18. Operations: Registration was carried out by three guns at C.C.S. (Ref. E.19.D.25-90.) on enemy trench at E.19.B.70-20. in preparation for raid. Other targets engaged during the night were Bank at K.7.B.80-65. and K.7.B.60-30. Machine Gun and trench at K.2.A.00-20. Enemy Artillery quiet on Left Battalion front but fairly active on Right Battalion front. Ammunition expended - 50 rounds. Casualties Nil.	
	28th		Targets engaged: E.19.B.70-00. to E.19.B.70-10. Strong Post at E.20.C.10-35. Bank at K.2.A.50-50. Enemy artillery very quiet during the night on whole sector. Machine Gun Fire and sniping normal. Emplacements and ammunition prepared. Morning very foggy. Ammunition expended - 25 rounds. Casualties Nil.	

APPENDIX

7

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Volume 6. Page 8.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	June,	1918.		
HEILLY	29th		Targets engaged: Machine Gun at K.7.B.80-65. Bank at K.2.A.50-50. Enemy artillery fairly active with H.E. and Gas Shells. Registration shoots by Stokes on Left Battalion Sector. Ammunition expended - 40 rounds. Casualties Nil.	
	30th		At 1.15 a.m. July 1st. a minor operation was carried out by 58th Battalion. Enemy trench at E.19.B.70-00. to E.19.B.70-10. was raided and two prisoners captured. 750 rounds expended in bombardment and barrage. Enemy retaliation feeble. Casualties - Nil.	
			Sgd. H.S. McColl Lieut. O.C. 15th Australian L.T.M. Battery.	

APPENDIX

8