

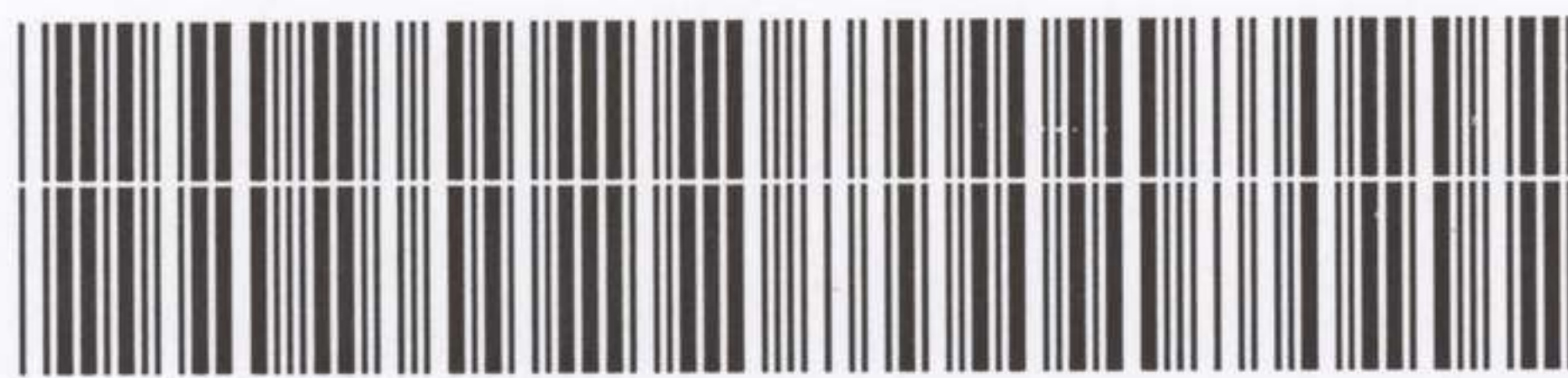
**AWM4**  
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,**  
**1914-18 War**

Artillery

**Item number:** 13/126/25

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

July 1918



AWM4-13/126/25



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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Volume 6  
Sheet 16

(Erase heading not required.)

15.12.18

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field.	July 1 <sup>st</sup> / <sub>2</sub> <sup>nd</sup> 1918.	6 AM	<p>Ref 62<sup>D</sup> NE 120000</p> <p>At the request of 60<sup>th</sup> Bn a sniperspot on the right of their sector was engaged. A telephone was connected from a good O.P. and registrations were quickly effected, some brought to bear with good result. Other targets engaged were Enemy MG. at K8. A 40.40 trench at K8 a 30.50 Bank at K46 50.65.</p> <p>Night was very quiet. Morning clear. Ammunition expended. 40 rounds. Casualties Nil.</p> <p>2.7.18.</p>	<p>H. M. Coll Hunt O6 15.12.18</p>
Field.	July 3 <sup>rd</sup> / <sub>2</sub> <sup>nd</sup> 1918.	6 AM	<p>Enemy artillery reported as more active on left Bn front. Freezing gas used on same sector. Emplacements completed &amp; registrations effected. Targets engaged. Enemy pos at E20 c 20.45. Ammunition expended 30 rounds. Casualties Nil.</p> <p>Marched on from Base. 4 O.R. 58<sup>th</sup> Bn. 2<sup>nd</sup> a 2 brigade attached from 3.7.18.</p>	<p>H. M. Coll Hunt O6 15.12.18</p>

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Volume 6  
Sheet 17

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

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Field	3-4 <sup>th</sup> July 1918	6 AM	<p>Early part of night was quiet as regards ENEMY ARTILLERY and full advantage was taken, in getting Ammunition forward. EMBLACEMENTS were dug &amp; stocked. At 3-10 AM an operation was carried out by 59<sup>TH</sup> BTN. (2 COYS) assisted by 1 COY of 58<sup>TH</sup> BTN. 1 COY of 60<sup>TH</sup> BTN &amp; 1 PLATOON of 58<sup>TH</sup> BTN were available to repel counter-attack. The 8<sup>TH</sup> A.L.T.M.B. CO-OPERATED with 8 GUNS. The 16 GUNS of both BATTERIES being engaged. ENEMY retaliation on FRONT LINE slight. SUPPORTS receiving most Ammn Expended 1425 Rounds  Casualties 1. OR from 8<sup>TH</sup> A.L.T.M.B. (slightly wounded)  Marched out on PARIS leave 1 OR</p>	H.W.
Field	4-5 <sup>th</sup> July 1918	6 AM	<p>At 8.30 PM. ENEMY placed a very heavy bombardment of 5.9" on our old FRONT LINE &amp; BACK AREAS. All GUNS "STOOD TO!" S.O.S was fired from LEFT SECTOR &amp; our MORTARS replied LIEUT. J. C. MOORE. MC. BAR &amp; MM of 15<sup>TH</sup> ALTMB. &amp; LIEUT RANSON of 8<sup>TH</sup> ALTMB were killed during this period. There was intermittent heavy shelling by the ENEMY throughout the night. GAS. SHELLS being freely used. Other Targets Engaged, ENEMY POSTS K2 C 2.4 &amp; NW along TRENCH E 26 a 5/9 E 20 of 2.4  Ammn expended 505 rds  Casualties KILLED 2 OFFICERS  WOUNDED 1 O.R. (SLIGHT)</p>	H.W.

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or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Volume 6  
Sheet 18.

15 L.I.B. (Erase heading not required.)

REF SHEET 62.D.NE Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field.	July 5/6 18.	6 AM	In cooperation with 14th Bde Lewis Gunners, a hostile position was engaged at K 1 d 95.80. On the first shot being fired the occupants of enemy sniping post fled to the rear into the fire of the Lewis Gun placed with that object. Other targets engaged were enemy post & suspected MG. at E 20 c. 20. 60. Enemy working party at approx. E 20 c 30. 70. Result not known. Ammunition expended. 70 rounds. Casualties Nil. Marched from GHQ TMSchool. Lt Chalmer. 6 <sup>17</sup> . 18. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt A. J. Craigie. 53 <sup>rd</sup> Coy AIF list from leave: 1:0 P. 10 360. Lt. McColl 1:0 P. 15 L.I.B. Bty.	
Field	July 6/7 18.	6 AM	Enemy artillery very quiet. Our artillery very active. between hours of 3 am + 4 am. Enemy trench in bank at NW + SE of K 2 c 35. 80. was engaged by our mortars with good effect. Some of the enemy were dislodged from their post so enemy casualties may be assumed. Other targets engaged in the vicinity of E 20 c. 30. 60. Ammunition Expended. 35 Rounds. Casualties Nil. Marched in. from Base. 1 O Rank. 7. 8. 18. Lt. McColl 1:0 P. 15 L.I.B. Bty.	

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or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Volume. 6  
Sheet. 19.

15 A 2216 B

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Place	Date	Hour	Ref. 62 <sup>0</sup> NE. 420000. Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the field.	July 7/8 <sup>th</sup> 18		<p>Night quiet until midnight when our Artillery opened up a harassing fire on the enemy who retaliated with his guns and both sides then fairly active until 1.30 am.</p> <p>Work. Men carried on in making new offensive and defensive emplacements. Harassing fire of Stokes mortars was brought to bear on enemy positions near K2 c 05.80 with good effect. As cries were heard from this point that casualties were inflicted. Enemy working parties was also engaged in vicinity of E20 c 40.70.</p> <p>Other targets engaged: Banks in K2 a 5.5. Infantry report casualties to enemy in shoot on E20 c. 40.70.</p> <p>Amun<sup>n</sup> expended. 40 rounds. casualties. Nil.</p> <p>Field 8-7-18 6 AM</p>	

J. S. McColl Lieut  
O.C. 15 A 2216 B.



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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Volume 6 Sheet 20

15<sup>th</sup> A.L.T.M.B

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Field July 8/9/18			<p>Ref Sheet 62 D N.E 1/20000</p> <p>On our sector Artillery fire normal for the greater part of period until about 10 PM. From then till midnight our Artillery was active. Enemy retaliation weak. Thunderstorm</p> <p>As our Infantry had working parties on various parts of line we were not too aggressive. Work was carried out for Emplacements + Ammunition was prepared</p> <p>Targets engaged. Suspected MG (E20C2520) BANK at (K2a55)</p> <p>Ammunition Expended 20 Rounds</p> <p>Casualties Nil</p>	
Field July 9/10	9/7/18	6 AM	<p>Marched out from BDE School for duty at PARIS demonstration 1 OR</p> <p>Promotion. Lieut Col McColl Granted temporary Rank of Capt whilst Commanding</p> <p>Enemy Artillery very quiet. Slight trace of GAS reported from FRONT LINE. R BATTN</p> <p>Works. Emplacements were re-fitted + Ammunition got forward on LEFT BATTN sector + preparations were made to REGISTER later in the morning TELEPHONES being supplied by the BATTN in the line for that purpose</p> <p>Targets Engaged MG at (Kyb86) Enemy retaliated with L. MINENWERFER</p> <p>Ammunition Expended 10 rounds</p> <p>Casualties Nil</p>	
	10/4/18	6 AM	<p>Marched out To Austn Corps School. "STOKES MORTAR" course 3. OR</p> <p>" " " " " COOKERY COURSE 1. OR</p>	

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*H. S. B.*



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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

15<sup>th</sup> ALTMB

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Volume 6 Sheet 21

Place	Date	Hour	Ref Sheet 62 D. NE 1/20000 Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Field July 10/11/18			<p>Enemy Artillery activity normal during period. Between the hours of 12 midnight &amp; 1 AM our guns opened up a brisk fire</p> <p><u>Works</u> New EMPLACEMENTS were prepared &amp; Ammunition was got forward</p> <p><u>Registration</u> shoots were effected. One STOKES shell landing in ENEMY TRENCH &amp; wounding 5 men, one of them being carried away on stretcher the remainder escaping to rear</p> <p><u>Other Targets</u> engaged ENEMY MG (E19 b y3) result not known</p> <p><u>Ammunition</u> expended 50 rounds</p> <p><u>Casualties</u> Nil</p> <p><u>Marched in</u> to BDE SCHOOL from PARIS Demonstration (struck off) 1 OR</p> <p><u>Marched out</u> from BDE SCHOOL to AUSTN CORPS SCHOOL 1 OR</p> <p><u>Marched out</u> to 54<sup>th</sup> Batta 1 OR</p>	
	11-7-18	6 AM	<p><u>Promotions</u> Lieut LtS McColl granted temporary rank of Captain whilst Commanding 15<sup>th</sup> A.L.T.M.B. 8-7-18</p> <p><u>Seconded</u> from 58<sup>th</sup> Batta for Duty AIF ORDERS LIST N<sup>o</sup> 356 16/7/18</p>	
			<p><u>Pay-day</u></p>	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

15<sup>th</sup> ALTMB

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Volume 6 Sheet 22

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Field July 11/12-1918			<p>Ref Sheet 62<sup>D</sup> NE 1/2000</p> <p>Enemy Artillery normal during the most of period. Rain fell during the night in scattered showers</p> <p>In early part of evening 8 STOKES MORTARS were laid &amp; Ammunition was prepared for proposed minor operation</p> <p><u>Operations</u> At 12-15 AM in Cooperation with Artillery, Machine Guns &amp; Medium Mortars fire was brought to bear on Enemy positions in (E 20 c) &amp; (26 a). Our task was to bombard the portion of trench to be raided for 2 minutes. Afterwards forming a Block 100 yds to left of Raiders &amp; engaging other possible sources of danger to Raiders on immediate left. Raiding Party all reported our Barrage as excellent</p> <p><u>Ammunition Expended</u> 650 Rounds</p> <p><u>Casualties</u> Nil</p> <p><u>Marched in</u> 1 OR (From Bde School)</p>	<p>H. H. B.</p>
Field July 12-13 1918		12-7-18 6 AM	<p>Conditions normal until about 9 PM. when one of our BOMBING PLANES loosed about 4 BOMBS on ENEMY in vicinity of QUARRY (E 14 c). Between 10 &amp; 11 PM Enemy Artillery shelled back area roads of Right Batta Sector</p> <p>Between the hours of 11-30 &amp; 12-30 an ENEMY PLANE crossed the lines &amp; dropped Bombs in the direction of BUIRE.</p> <p>Quick to Infantry Relief little shooting was done</p> <p><u>Target Engaged</u> ENEMY POSTS (E 20 &amp; 89)</p> <p><u>Ammunition Expended</u> 20 Rounds</p> <p><u>Casualties</u> Nil</p> <p><u>Marched in</u> 1. O.R. (From 5<sup>th</sup> Army J. B. School) via 5<sup>th</sup> A. D. R. W</p>	<p>H. H. B.</p>

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

15<sup>th</sup> ALTMB

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Volume 6 Sheet 23

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Field July 13-14 1918			<p>Ref Sheet 62<sup>D</sup> NE 1/20000</p> <p>Artillery action on both sides below normal At 8.45 PM two of our observation balloons were brought down by Enemy action (Direction LAHOUSOYE) Targets engaged. Enemy Posts (E20C22) (K2C0545) (K2C14) (K2C2540) &amp; along BANK to suspected CAMOUFLAGED SAP. from (K2C5540) to (K2C5599) no visible results Ammunition expended 60 Rounds Casualties Nil Taken on Strength 1 OR (Marched out from Base) (H.H.B.)</p>	
Field July 14-15 1918	14-7-18	6 AM	<p>Enemy Artillery action a little above normal. Bursts of harassing fire over different parts of the sector during the night, including the ANCRE VALLEY SW of TREUX. At 12-15 AM it was reported that a PATROL had located an ENEMY working party in vicinity of E20C34 &amp; fire of our mortars was immediately brought to bear Other Targets engaged ENEMY MC &amp; BANK (Ky685-65) Ammunition expended 30 rounds Casualties Nil Marched out 1 OR (To Austr Corps Gas School) (H.H.B.)</p>	



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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

15<sup>th</sup> A.L.T.M.B

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Volume 6 Sheet 24

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Field July 15/16/1918			<p>Sheet 62 P.N.E 1/20000</p> <p>Our Artillery Active during period. Enemy Artillery below normal  On receiving information from the left line Coy Commander an  Enemy working party at (E 20 c 3.4) was fired on. Result not known  Other Targets engaged. ENEMY POST (E 19 b 4.4) ENEMY C.T. &amp; BANK (K 2 c 5.9)  ENEMY M.Gs. (K 4 b 80 65) &amp; (K 2 c 60 80) silenced  <u>Ammunition Expended</u> 80 rounds  <u>Casualties</u> Nil</p>	
Field July 16/14-1918	16-7-18	6 AM	<p>At 4-30 PM 16-7-18 it was reported to me that "STONES" SHELLS were  falling on TRENCH of LEFT COY RIGHT BATTN. I immediately got into  communication with my Officers in the FRONT LINE SYSTEM &amp; found that  none of our MORTARS had fired since 2-30 AM on 16<sup>th</sup>  Enemy Artillery Activity below normal.  As our PATROLS were reported as being out all night no shooting was  done from RIGHT BATTN FRONT  <u>Target Engaged</u> ENEMY WORKING PARTY reported at (E 20 c 3.4) Ground was  sighted in the vicinity at intervals during night  <u>Ammunition Expended</u> 50 rounds  <u>Casualties</u> Nil  <u>Marched out</u> 1 OR (On English leave)</p>	
	14-7-18	6 AM		

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15<sup>TH</sup> ALTMB (Erase heading not required.)

Volume 6 Sheet 25

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Field July 14/18/1918	18/4/18	7 AM	<p>Sheet 62° N.E. 1/20,000 &amp; 62° D N.W. 1/20,000</p> <p>Enemy Artillery very quiet during period. Nuclear Garrisons of 8<sup>th</sup> A.L.T.M.B. arrived during the day &amp; were made familiar. Sector. At 8.45 PM a heavy thunderstorm occurred. First party of relief arrived at 9. PM. Relief was complete at 12 midnight. Battery took over Camp of 8<sup>th</sup> Battery at Bois ESCARDONNEUSE (62° NW. 15613)</p> <p><u>Ammunition Expended Nil</u></p> <p><u>Casualties Nil</u></p>	H.W.
Field July 18/19/1918	19/4/18	6 AM	<p>Weather Fine Battery re-organised</p> <p>Afternoon spent in improving camp &amp; re-erecting bivouacs.</p> <p>Reserve T M EMPLACEMENTS in LAHOUSOYE SYSTEM (BONNAY SECTOR) were reconnoitred</p>	H.W.
Field July 19	20/4/18	1. AM	<p>Weather Fine. Shortages taken. Equipment Guns etc cleaned up. Shelters were improved &amp; re-erected.</p> <p>NCO<sup>s</sup> were shown their positions in defensive line</p> <p>Marched in from X<sup>th</sup> CORPS SCHOOL. 2992 Pk Travers P 145773</p> <p>1480 " Wilson S. 59684</p> <p>2933 " Lewis J. (574) 145124</p> <p>Pay</p> <p>Via 5<sup>th</sup> Div Pk King</p>	H.W.

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

Volume 6 Sheet 26

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Field July 20/21/1918	21/7/18	6 AM	Ref Sheet 62 <sup>D</sup> N.W Weather Fine. Fatigue party was sent to transport lines at (C 26 b 53) to re-erect horse lines. Battery improved gun-pits emplacements & Ammunition recesses in BONNAY SECTOR Marched in 2133 h/cpl Clarke to A. 46207 (From Cash Corps, Det.)	
Field July 21/22/1918	22/7/18	6 AM	Fatigue completed re-erecting. Battery Parade & training & practical work was carried out on positions near BONNAY.	
Field July 22/23/1918	23/7/18	6 AM	Weather breaks several heavy showers. Camp surroundings were improved Message was received that "STOKES PLATOON of H.Q Coy 130 <sup>th</sup> REGT U.S.A. Strength 2 OFFRS. 48 O.R. will report from 9-30 AM to morrow"	
Field July 23/24/1918	24/7/18	6 AM	Very heavy showers during 24 hours. USA PLATOON reported LT. P. McCULLOUGH. 2/LT C. SNERLY & 43 O.R. assistance was given American Troops in forming their camp Training was carried out Camp Oven was constructed	



WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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

Volume 6. Sheet 27

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Field July 24/25/1918	25/4/18	6 AM	Ref Sheet 62° N.W. & N.E. Very heavy showers during period	(H.W.)
Field July 25/26/1918	26/4/18	6 AM	Raining. Training was carried out between showers	(H.W.)
Field July 26/27/1918	27/4/18	6 AM	Raining, very heavy showers. Message was received to report to B/M. 8 <sup>th</sup> Bde. Instructions were received to co-operate with 8 <sup>th</sup> A.L.T.M.B. in minor operation + preparations were made accordingly Marched out 2133 1978 3140 5651 2273	(H.W.)
Field July 27/28/1918	28/4/18	6 AM	Weather still bad some very heavy showers. Day was spent in preparation. At 6 PM Battery moved into position through light showers. Gun emplacements were found to be in a very bad state owing to weather conditions. By hard work they were got ready + weather showed signs of clearing up. Positions all E of BRAY-CORBIE RD. Dispositions. Ref Sheet 62° NE H.O. (J14634) GUN EMPLACEMENTS at (K19636)(2) (K19643)(1) (K19685)(2) (K19668)(1) & 2 Coys attached to 8 <sup>th</sup> BATTERY. LEFT OF BRAY-CORBIE RD Marched out 3364 Cpl Miers J.H. 158825. 317 Pte Perthwell J.H. 208259. 3515 Pte Galvin J.G. 32716 (To Austr. Corps School)	(H.W.)

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

8<sup>th</sup> ALTMB

(Erase heading not required.)

Volume 6 Sheet 28

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Field July 28/29/1918	28/29/18	6 AM	<p>Ref Sheet 62° NE 1/2</p> <p>Night Clear &amp; mild, early part of night spent in preparing &amp; getting forward Ammunition. At 12-30 AM. (ZERO) fire was brought to bear on ENEMY TRENCHES &amp; WORKS ON RIGHT OF BRAY-CORBIE. RD by 4 MORTARS. Two MORTARS were attached to 32<sup>nd</sup> BATTN CPL GILMORE to D Coy &amp; CPL OLSEN to B Coy. Corporal Gilmore &amp; some of his carrying party were wounded &amp; this gun failed to get into position. Corporal Olsen with his Detachment &amp; carrying party got into position too. Both of these teams moved forward with the second wave of the Attack. Corporal Gilmore was wounded in crossing no-man's land &amp; his MORTAR was lost. 1 of his infantry carrying party was killed &amp; others wounded (number unknown). The remainder of the party attached themselves to the Infantry &amp; mopped up an Enemy M.C. crew by shooting at point blank range &amp; bayoneting. The machine gun firing until overwhelmed. The 2 Detachments attached to the 8<sup>th</sup> A.L.T.M.B were also instrumental in collecting prisoners.</p> <p><u>Ammunition Expended</u> 160 rounds (4 Guns 2 1/2 minute bombardment)</p> <p><u>Casualties</u> <u>Wounded</u> 2 O.R                      1 O.R assisting wounded not yet reported.                      1 Detachment attached to 8<sup>th</sup> ALTMB not yet reported.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">H. B. Cole</p>	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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

Volume 6 Sheet 29

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Field July 29/30/1918			<p>Ref Sheet 62<sup>D</sup> NE</p> <p>Weather Fine &amp; clear. Enemy shelling Front line heavily at intervals. Shelling of back Areas normal. Period spent in cleaning up.</p> <p>1 OR missing on previous day reported back</p> <p>1 Detachment reported back from 8<sup>th</sup> A.L.T.M.B</p> <p><u>Ammunition expended Nil</u></p> <p><u>Casualties Nil</u></p> <p><u>Struck off strength</u> 386 Cpl Gilmore W.S. 261423 (wounded in action 28-7-18)</p> <p>2436 Pte Williams H No 146882 (wounded in action SW. LEFT LEG (at front 59<sup>th</sup> Batta))</p> <p><u>Marched in</u> 1695 Pte Beehan W.W. 32755 } From Austn Corps School</p> <p>2452 " Phehan W. 59161 }</p> <p>3093 " Evans J.P. 46209 }</p> <p>American Platoon (S.M) rejoined unit H.S. McColl</p>	
Field July 30 <sup>th</sup> 1918	30/7/18	6.A.M.	<p>Weather Fine Enemy shelling normal. Preparations were made for relief. First party arrived at "Foir Escardonneuse" at 11 P.M. Last detachment reported at 6 A.M. Hot meal was ready for all on relief. Day spent in cleaning up &amp; preparation for move back.</p> <p><u>Evacuated to Field Ambulance</u> 5835<sup>A</sup> Pte Montefiore G 260483 (at front 60<sup>th</sup> Batta)</p> <p>31500 Pte Padulla A.T 205808 H.S. McColl</p>	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

15 ALTMB.

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Volume 7 Sheet 1.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks reference Append
Field. July 31 August		6 AM.	<p>Ref. Sheet. AMIENS</p> <p>At 10 AM. the battery embussed at La Houssaye and travel led to billets in HEM. arriving at 1. pm. The remainder of the day was spent in clearing up and preparing billets.</p> <p><u>Amusements.</u> Divisional concert Party gave a concert.</p>	

ASW

15.