

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

Artillery

Item number: 13/121/12

Title: 8th Australian Light Trench Mortar
Battery

October 1918



AWM4-13/121/12

Confidential

Original

Australian Imperial Force

War Diary

of

8th Australian Light Trench Mortar Battery

for

October 1918

Signature of Officer compiling W.M. I. Capt.

Signature of Officer commanding W.M. I. Capt.

Original

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1.10.18		Weather fine. Battery Headquarters at G 10. c 20. 25 No 1 + 2 guns on Right in position with 29th Battalion at H 19 central. 3rd guns on Left in position with 32nd Battalion at H 8. a 7-8. One of the guns with 29th Battalion blown up by enemy shell fire. Hostile Artillery very active, Hostile aircraft very quiet. Our Artillery and aircraft very active.	
	2.10.18		Weather fine. Battery H.Q.s. and guns still in same positions. Orders received to move to rear area and at 3.30 PM the battery moved from G 10 c. 20. 25 to L 5 b. 3. 4 and remained there for the night.	
	3.10.18		Weather fine Battery moved from L 5 b 3 4 and took up position at L 13 b. 2. 3. Nothing done by battery all day. Battery resting.	
	4.10.18		Weather fine Battery resting at L 13 b. 2. 3 no work done. Enemy shelled back area (slight) 2 off. Battery strength 2 off 42 OR including 1 officer on leave 4 ORanks on leave 2 ORank Detached 3 OR School. 5 OR attached. Total strength 2 officer 47 ORanks.	
	5.10.18		Weather fine nothing done by Battery Battery resting	
	6.10.18		Weather fine Battery standing by	
	7.10.18		Weather fine Battery waiting orders from Brigade to move back into rest area. Orders received for Battery to move to P	

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	7/10/18		to entrain. A hot meal was prepared at 5.0 pm prior to moving off on march route to Peronne at 6.0 pm. The route was taken through Rosieres, Marquas, Incourt, Bure, Boingt Flamcourt. Hot tea was supplied at Flamcourt and the men had a 2 hours good rest before moving off to entraining station at Peronne. Men were supplied with plenty of rations, tea and sugar for use on the journey.	
	8/10/18		Weather fine. On arriving at Visemont the battery moved by march route through Rambures, Le Manslay to Busmenard arriving in billets at 5.40 pm. A hot meal was prepared and men settled comfortably in various billets at BUSMENARD. ^{Le Manslay area} Le Manslay Ref. DIEPPE 100000.	
	9/10/18		Weather unsettled Battery cleaning up billets + resting	
	10/10/18		" " Battery resting	
	11/10/18		" " " " Battery strength 2 off 46 OR	{ 1 OR on leave 1 OR leave 1 OR Detached 3 OR school 5 OR attached.
	12/10/18		" " " "	
	13/10/18		Church Parade at Rambures cancelled owing to weather conditions.	

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	<i>Syllabus of Training from 14.10.18 to 19.10.18</i>						
			<i>9.0 AM to 10.0 AM</i>	<i>10.0 to 10.45 AM</i>	<i>11.0 AM to 12.0 NOON</i>	<i>AFTERNOON.</i>	
	<i>14.10.18</i>		<i>Inspection of Mortars Stores etc & P.I.</i>	<i>Gun Drill by Detachments</i>	<i>Lecture on Recent Operations.</i>		
	<i>15.10.18</i>		<i>P.I. & B.I.</i>	<i>Lecture on use of Natural cover when approaching a target.</i>	<i>Practice in advancing & Gun Drill</i>		
	<i>16.10.18</i>		<i>P.I. & Lecture on Ammunition & Types of Fuze.</i>	<i>Drill with S.B.Rs.</i>	<i>Detail by V.C.O.s of parts of Gun</i>		
	<i>17.10.18</i>		<i>Rifle Exercises & Squad Drill conducted by V.C.O.s.</i>	<i>Practice in advancing and use of Natural cover</i>	<i>Lecture on Musketry</i>		
	<i>18.10.18</i>		<i>P.I. & B.I.</i>	<i>Gun Drill by sub-sections</i>	<i>Drum Practice (Dummy Rd)</i>		
	<i>19.10.18</i>		<i>Lecture on Musketry</i>	<i>Range Practice</i>	<i>Range Practices.</i>		
	<i>20.10.18</i>		<i>Church Parade 11.0 AM. Rambouilles.</i>				

Recreational Training

8th AUSTRALIAN LIGHT TRENCH MORTAR BATTERY.
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	<i>Syllabus of Training from 21 10 18 to 26 10 18</i>					
	<i>21/10/18</i>		<i>9.0 AM</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>12.0 NOON.</i>	<i>AFTERNOON.</i>
	<i>21.10.18</i>		<i>Inspection of Bullets Kits Guns and Stores</i>	<i>P.T. & Route March</i>	<i>Battery Gun Drill</i>	
	<i>22/10/18</i>		<i>P.T and Route March</i>	<i>Rifle Exercises & Squad Drill</i>	<i>Lecture Ranging</i>	
	<i>23-10-18</i>		<i>Drum Practice (Dumming Rds. Ranging)</i>	<i>Inspection S.B.Rs Games Wearing Masks.</i>	<i>Lecture Gunnery.</i>	
	<i>24/10/18</i>		<i>P.T & B.F.</i>	<i>Marking Exercises lecture Calibration</i>	<i>Inspection by G.O.C.</i>	
	<i>25/10/18</i>		<i>Practice in approaching Targets under Fire</i>	<i>Lecture Gun Emplacements</i>	<i>Practice digging Emplacements</i>	
			<i>Battery Strength</i>	<i>2 off. 48 OR. including</i>	<i>1 off. on leave 2 OR leave 1 OR detached 8 OR school 4 OR attached</i>	
	<i>26/10/18</i>		<i>Battery Drill</i>	<i>P.T + B.F.</i>	<i>Lecture comparison of using mortar with our own.</i>	
	<i>27/10.18</i>		<i>Weather fine.</i>	<i>Church Parade.</i>	<i>Rambouilles.</i>	

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	<i>Syllabus of Training from 28.10.18 to 31st 10.18</i>			
			<i>9.0. AM. to 12.0. NOON.</i>	<i>2.0 PM to 2.0 PM.</i>
	<i>28.10.18</i>	<i>P.T. + B.F.</i>	<i>Route March</i>	<i>Squad Drill & Rifle Exercises</i>
				<i>Lecture trench Mortars in open warfare.</i>
	<i>29.10.18</i>		<i>Preparation of Range for Live Round Practice</i>	
	<i>30.10.18</i>		<i>Inspection by G.O.C. Division</i>	
	<i>31.10.18</i>	<i>P.T. + B.F.</i>	<i>Gun Drill wearing S.B.Rs. by Detachments, Sections & Batteries</i>	<i>Lecture on Gas.</i>

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Ammit, Capt