

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

Artillery

Item number: 13/123/5

Title: 10th Australian Light Trench Mortar
Battery

December 1916



AWM4-13/123/5

CONFIDENTIAL.

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DUPLICATE.
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Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

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Signature of Officer compiling.....

Signature of Officer Commanding.....

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.

DECEMBER, 1916.

(Erase heading not required.)

10th Australian Light Trench Mortar Battery.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ARMENTIERES.	1st	0900	<p>Section Officers and N.C.O's shown round the gun emplacements by Officers and N.C.O's. of the 2nd N.Z.L.T.M. Battery. The Nos. 1 remained in the trenches. C. O. took up quarters in HOUPINES Cotton Factory from C. O. 2nd. N. Z. L. T. M. Battery, and resumed tour of Brigade front under guidance of C.O., 2nd N. Z. Battery.</p> <p><u>LOCATION OF HEADQUARTERS.</u> Cotton Factory, HOUPINES.</p> <p><u>STRENGTH.</u> 5 Officers, 60 other ranks.</p>	<p><u>MAP REFERENCE.</u></p> <p>HAZEBROUCK 1/100000 5a, Ed. 2 1/10,000 36 N.W. 2</p>
HOUPINES.	2nd		<p>Relieved 2nd N. Z. L. T. M. Battery, with remainder of gun teams. The distribution of battery was:- Right-half No. 1 Section, with 4 guns in right sub-sector; 3 guns in defensive positions, and one gun in reserve at Section Headquarters.</p> <p>Right-half of No. 2 Section with 4 guns in left sub-sector, 2 guns in defensive positions, 2 guns in reserve at Section Headquarters.</p> <p>Remainder of Battery in Billets, ARMENTIERES.</p> <p><u>STRENGTH.</u> 5 Officers, 50 other ranks.</p> <p><u>SICK.</u> 1 other rank.</p> <p><u>LOCATION OF HEADQUARTERS.</u> Cotton Factory, HOUPINES.</p>	<p>ditto.</p>
	3rd	0830	<p>C. O. visited guns in right sub-sector with Engineer Officer and made arrangements for improving existing gun emplacements, ammunition recesses and dugouts, and constructing one new defensive position.</p> <p><u>STRENGTH.</u> 5 Officers, 59 O.Ranks.</p> <p><u>LOCATION OF HEADQUARTERS.</u> Cotton Factory, HOUPINES.</p>	<p>ditto.</p>

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HOUPLINES	4th	0830	C. O. visited each gun in left sub-sector with Engineer Officer and made arrangements for improving existing gun positions, ammunition recesses and dugouts and constructing two new defensive positions.	<u>MAP REFERENCE</u> <u>HAZEBROUCK</u> 1/100,000 5a Ed.2 1/10,000 36N.W.2.
		2300	Gas released from our trenches <u>LOCATION OF HEADQUARTERS.</u> <u>Cotton Factory, HOUPLINES.</u> <u>STRENGTH.</u> <u>5 Offs., 58 Other ranks.</u> <u>SICK.</u> <u>1 Other rank.</u>	
"	5th	1545	12 rounds fired from C.28.b. on E.P. C.29.a.	ditto
		1900 & 2325	Gas alarms sounded. No gas. <u>STRENGTH</u> <u>5 Offs., 59 other ranks</u> <u>LOCATION OF HEADQUARTERS.</u> <u>Cotton Factory, HOUPLINES.</u>	
"	6th	1630	15 rounds fired from C.17.c.3.9. on to E.Kitchen at C.17.c.7.10 <u>STRENGTH.</u> <u>5 offs., 58 Other ranks.</u> <u>SICK.</u> <u>1 Other rank.</u> <u>LOCATION OF HEADQUARTERS.</u> <u>Cotton Factory, HOUPLINES.</u>	ditto
"	7th		Day quiet. Light retaliation to artillery fire by us. New work on defensive positions proceeded with. <u>STRENGTH</u> <u>5 offs., 58 other ranks.</u>	ditto
"	8th		Day quiet. New work proceeded with. <u>STRENGTH - 5 offs., 58 other ranks.</u>	ditto

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HOUPLINES	9th	1300	300 shells fired. On right No. 1 gun fired from 'I' gap on to E.G.E. at C.29.a.7.2.. No. 2 gun fired from C.2.a. on to E. Cookhouse. No. 3 gun near Timaru Road fired on E. Working Party E.M.G. at C.29.a.4.2. On the left section a bombardment took place on C.17.c.8.7. to C.17.c.88.48 and on c.7.9. Results on this day were good. Light enemy retaliation. Small enemy raid repulsed at 2.45 a.m. 8/9th. Relief of sections in line by sections in billets at ARMENTIERES. LOCATION OF HEADQUARTERS. Cotton Factory, HOUPLINES. STRENGTH. 5 offs., 58 other ranks.	MAP REFERENCE HAZEBROUCK 1/100,000 5a Ed.2 1/10,000 36 N.W.2
"	10th		Construction of new positions continued, Day quiet. STRENGTH. 5 offs., 58 other ranks. LOCATION OF HEADQUARTERS. Cotton Factory, HOUPLINES.	ditto
"	11th		116 shells were fired on selected targets at C.29.a. and C.23.c. and C 17.c. Much damage was done to enemy's positions. Enemy retaliated heavily. STRENGTH. 5 Offs., 57 Other ranks. SICK. 1 Other rank. LOCATION OF HEADQUARTERS. Cotton Factory, HOUPLINES.	ditto
"	12th		12 shots fired along enemy parapet about C.29.a.53.35. Direct hits observed. E. patrols 6.20 p.m. attempted to enter our lines - Driven off with loss. STRENGTH 5 offs., 57 other ranks. LOCATION OF HEADQUARTERS. Cotton Factory, HOUPLINES.	ditto
"	13th		Day quiet on both sectors. STRENGTH - 5 offs., 56 Other ranks. SICK, 1. LOCATION OF HEADQUARTERS - Cotton Factory, HOUPLINES.	ditto

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HOUPLINES.	14th		Slight shelling by enemy. New trench work proceeded with. Reserve section in ARMENTIERES instructed in gas. <u>STRENGTH</u> 5 offs., 56 other ranks. <u>LOCATION OF HEADQUARTERS.</u> Cotton Factory, HOUPLINES.	MAP REFEREN CE HAZEBROUCK 1/100,000 5a Ed 2 1/10,000 36 NW2
"	15th	1500	On right sector fired from 'H' & 'I' Gap on to E.P. C.29.a.4. On 'L' sector fired on to E.M.G. and Cookhouse at C.17.a.45.35 and E.F.L. at C.17.a.25.30. Effective shooting reported. <u>Strength</u> 5 offs., 54 other ranks. <u>SICK.</u> 2 Other ranks <u>LOCATION OF HEADQUARTERS.</u> Cotton Factory, HOUPLINES.	ditto
"	16th	0900	Section relief. Day on R. & L. Sector quiet. <u>STRENGTH</u> 5 offs., 55 Other ranks. <u>LOCATION OF HEADQUARTERS</u> Cotton Factory, HOUPLINES.	ditto
"	17th		New work in line proceeded with. Day quiet. <u>STRENGTH</u> - 5 offs., 56 O.Rs.	ditto
"	18th		Shell recesses off Australia Avenue completed. <u>STRENGTH</u> - 5 Offs., 56 O. Rs.	ditto
"	19th		New defensive positions improving - <u>STRENGTH</u> - 5 offs., 57 O.Rs.	ditto
"	20th	1430 1500	30 shots fired from C.17.c. on to C.17.a.65.35 with good results. On R. sector a shoot was arranged on to enemy targets at C.29.a and C.29.c. Minenwerfer retaliation. <u>STRENGTH</u> - 5 Offs., 58 O. Rs.	ditto

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
				MAP REFERENCE. HAZEBROUCK 1/100,000 5a Ed.2 1/10,000 36 N.W.2
HOUPLINES	21st	1100	Section relief - STRENGTH - 5 Offs., 58 O. Rs.	
"	22nd		Satisfactory progress of the new work. - STRENGTH - 5 Offs., 58 O.Rs.	
"	23rd		Firing from R. Sector M. Gap took place on to C.23.c.75.65. Minenwerfer retaliation. - STRENGTH - 5 offs., 56 O.Rs.	ditto
"	24th		On right sub-sector 1 gun fired from extreme right of M Gap on to C.23.c.87, firing 6 rounds and retiring after drawing enemy fire. One gun from L Gap opened fire on E.T.M. firing from C.23.c.8.7. On L.Subsector firing took place from O Gap on to E. Parapet at C.17.c.9.5. Enemy's retaliation to shots silenced by our artillery. STRENGTH - 5 offs., 58 O. Rs.	ditto
"	25th		36 shots were fired from S.87 in the vicinity of Gap N on to enemy's trench at C.17.c.9.2. to 9.4. with good results. Enemy retaliated with rifle grenades. (Brigade raid on enemy trenches showed much damage done by T.M's). STRENGTH - 5 Offs., 58 O. Rs.	ditto
"	26th		No firing - Enemy very quiet. - STRENGTH, 5 Offs., 58 O. Rs.	ditto
"	27th	1300	5 guns fired 40 rounds each on to targets at C.29.c.50.75, C.29.a.4.2., C.17.c.7.9., C.17.a.6.1., and C.17.c.95.30., respectively. Results good. STRENGTH - 5 Offs., 59 Other ranks.	ditto
"	28th	0900	Section relief. 2 guns Right sector fired 60 rounds each on to C.29.c.65.55 and C.29.a.35.10. Shrapnell retaliation but no damage. STRENGTH - 5 Offs., 59 O.Rs.	ditto
"	29th	1410	3 guns fired 40 rounds per gun on to C.29.a.05., C29.a.65.10, enfilading sap -1420at C.23.c.9.2. and C.23.c.80.76., C.23.c.9.8., C.23.a.7.1., C.17.a.0.7, C.17 central and C.17.75.75. 1445)3 guns fired 40 rounds per gun on to C.29.a.65.55. -1455) 1515 3 guns fired 40 rounds per gun on to C.29.a.35.10. Considerable damage done -1525 to enemy's parapet and wire.	ditto

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HOUPLINES	29th	1525-1555	3 guns fired 40 rounds per gun on to C.17.c.85.65. and C.17.c.75.90. No retaliation followed. - STRENGTH - 5 Offs., 59 O. Rs.,	MAP REFERENCE. HAZEBROUCK 1/100,000 5a Ed.2 1/10,000 36 NW. 2
"	30th 31st		No firing - day quiet. Sandbags emplacements completed, also concrete floors and recesses for baseplates in defensive positions at Wessex Av., Spain Av., and S.87. - STRENGTH - 5 offs., 57 O. Rs. - SICK - 2 O. Rs.	ditto