

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

Artillery

Item number: 13/120/1

Title: 7th Australian Light Trench Mortar
Battery

April 1918



AWM4-13/120/1

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~~DUPLICATE.~~

~~TRIPLICATE.~~

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

7th A.L.I. M Bty

FOR

April 1918.

Signature of Officer compiling.....

Signature of Officer Commanding.....

118

7th Aust. Light Trench Mortar Battery.

War Diary for Month of April.

APRIL

- 2ND Battery relieved by 74th & 75th Trench Mortar Batteries at NIEPPE. & moved to BULFORD CAMP. (Appendix N^o 1.)
- 3RD Move by bus to METELEN. (append. N^o 2.)
- 4th Embarked CAESTRE. for unknown destination (append. N^o 3)
- 5th Move from AMIENS (ST. ROCHE.) to ALLONVILLE.
- 6th Kits dumped - Move to CORBIE. (append. 4)
- 7th Move to BAIZIEUX. Relieved 12th A.L.T.M. Bty (in reserve) thence to line relieving 13th A.L.T.M. Bty. (Append. 5)
- 9th Two additional mortars placed on left sector of B'de front.
- 10th to } Holding the line, accompanied by intermittent shooting
- 21st } at selected targets.
- 22ND Two mortars in BUIRE. relieved by 10th A.L.T.M. Bty. (Append. N^o 6.)
- 23RD Nucleus personnel exchanged. (append N^o 7)
- 26th Two mortars taken over from 6th A.L.T.M. Bty in new part of B'de front (appendix 8a) Minor operation in conjunction with Artillery & 6 inch mortars (append N^o 8.) Result very satisfactory.
- 28th One mortar blown up by 8 inch shell. - 200 rounds 3" rendered unserviceable - no casualties.
- 29th Minor operation in conjunction with Artillery and 6 inch Stokes mortars (append 9.) Shooting reported very effective.
- 30th Relieved in line by 55th Trench Mortar Bty. and on relief moved to MONTIGNY (append 10.)

During the period in the line from 7th to 30th April 1918, in all 650 rounds were fired on to selected targets with good effect.



F Brand. Capt.
C/C Battery.

WAR DIARY

OF

7th Aust. Light Trench Mortar Bty

FOR

April. 1918.

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1.	Move to BULFORD CAMP.
2.	Move to METEREN.
3.	Emtrained at CAESTE, FOR X.
4.	Move from ALLONVILLE.
5.	Move to BAIZIEUX.
6.	Relief by 10 th A.L.T.M.B of two mortars in line.
7.	Relief of Nucleus Personnel.
8.	Minor operation. 6" & 3" Stokes.
8A.	Relief. Mortars taken over from 6" A.L.T.M.B.
9.	Minor Operation. 6" & 3" Stokes.
10A.	Relief by 55 th T.M.B. & move to MONTIGNY.

7TH AUSTRALIAN LIGHT TRENCH MORTAR BATTERY.	
No.	
Date	7 th May 1918.

F. Brand, Capt.
O/c Battery

118
 7th Aust Light Trench Mortar Battery
 Routine Orders by Capt. F. Brand

240

2-4-18

The Battery will move to Bulford
 camp today.

Carts will be loaded ready to
 move out at 6 P.M. 4 men will
 be detailed for the purpose of
 hauling the carts.

The remainder of the men in
 line will follow later on being
 relieved.

The Battery is being relieved today
 by the 74th & 75th T.M. Battery.

The 74th Bty will relieve the four
 mortars on the left sector and
 the 75th Bty the two mortars on
 the right sector.

On relief the Unit will move
 as above.

F. Brand Capt
 O/C. Battery



7th Aus Light Trench Mortar Battery
 Routine Orders by Capt F. Brand

241

3.4.18

Move

The Battery (less men detailed
 for the hauling of hand carts)
 will be embussed at NEUVE EGLISE
 for METEREN at 7.25 am. today

Hand carts will be ready to move
 out at 7.30 am. and proceed to
 METEREN in charge of Lieut G. J.
 Rodgers.

Dress. For men embussing:

Full Marching Order

For men on hand carts:
 Fighting order packs may be
 carried on the hand carts

F. Brand Capt
 O.C. Battery



7th Aust. Light. Trench Mortar Bty
 Routine Orders by Capt F. Brand. 3

242.

Move.

1. The Battery will move to CAESTRE today to Tentrain for X.
2. Hand carts will be at entraining station 3 hours before the hour of the departure of the train i.e. 3.25 PM. For this purpose it will be necessary for hand carts to be ready to move out at 10.30 am. Men detailed to haul carts will carry fighting order.
3. The remainder of the Battery will fall in at 12.30 PM (Full marching order)
4. Rations. The unexpended portion of the day's ration and 24 hours ration will be carried on the man - water bottles will be filled.

F. Brand, Capt.
 C/c Battery.



1st Aus Light Trench Mortar Battery
 Routine Orders by Capt *F. Brand*

243

6.4.18

The Battery (less Nucleus Personnel) already detailed will be prepared to move from ALLONVILLE at 2 P.M. today.

Nine Handcarts will be ready loaded to hitch on to M. Cunsinbar at 1-30 P.M. to be towed as far as LA NEUVILLE. - from here they will be man handled to new destination. The remaining carts will stop with Nucleus Personnel.

Two men will be detailed to proceed with each cart being towed.

The remainder of the men will proceed to new destination by march route following in rear of M. G. Transport, in charge of Lieut. Meiller.

Nucleus Personnel will remain at ALLONVILLE and await further orders.

F. Brand, Capt
 O.C. Battery



7th Aust. Light Trench Mortar Bty
Routine Orders by Capt J. Brand
244. 7.4.18.

Move.

The Battery will move
from present Billets to BAIZIEUX
today.

Hand carts will be loaded
ready to move out at 11.30 and
proceed to M. Gun ~~the~~ LA NEUVILLE.
to hitch behind their limbo for a
tow. Two men will be detailed
to proceed with the handcarts.

The remainder of the battery
will be ready to move out
at 12 NOON.

Lieut Miller and an MCO will
proceed ahead to prepare billets
for the Battery, and arrange
to take over from 12th A.L.T.M. Bty.

On taking over from the 12th
Bty, the two crews already detailed
will proceed to the line and
take over from the 13th Bty.

Advanced Headquarters at
BRESLE Wood will also be taken
over,

Ord. 244 (Cont)

Two crews with guns to be detailed
will remain at Headquarters (advanced)
to be ready at any moment to
proceed to the line if required.

The remaining 4 guns & crews
will remain at BAIZIEUX at O.M.
Sgt Cpl Evans in Charge.

J. Brand, Capt
C of Battery

7th Aust. Light Trench Mortar ~~Battery~~
 Routine Orders by Capt. F. Brand
 227. 21-4-18

Relief

The 10th A.L.T.M. Bty is
 relieving the two mortars of this
 Battery as under:-

No 1 D 30. b. 05-05.

No 2 D 30. b. 05-15.

on the night 22nd & 23rd April
 1918.

On relief the two crews from
 these mortars will return to QMS
 store BAIZIEUX.

The two mortars will be
 brought out & left at Battery
 H.Q. at D. 7d. 9.2.

F. Brand, Capt.

C/c 7th A.L.T.M. Bty.



(No 7th Battery) 23/4/18

7th Aust. Light Trench Mortar Battery

Routine Orders by Capt. F. Brand

230. 23/4/18.

Relief of Nucleus personnel
"No 7 ABTN."

Relief will take place today of the men of this Battery, at present at No 7 ABTN. BEAUCOURT.

Lieut. G. J. RODGER with the 22 other ranks in his charge will report to Q.M.S. store at 2 PM today from thence to Battery H.Q. at approx. D.7 d.9.2. with sufficient number of men to relieve those present at H.Q.

At 2.30 PM. Lieut. W. L. MILLER, will march out from Q.M.S. store with 22 other ranks and proceed by march route to BEAUCOURT, reporting on arrival to O/C 7th A.Btn.

F. Brand, Capt.
O/C Battery.



7th Aus. Light. Trench. Mortar. Battery

Routine Orders by Capt F. Brand

Operation Order No 11 (Copy) 26.4.18

- ① The Battery will carry out a minor operation in conjunction with Artillery and 6 inch Stokes Mortars today the object in view to destroy dugouts and strong points.
- ② Task table attached
- ③ Zero hour is 2.30 am. 26th April 1918
- ④ Watches will be synchronised by Phone at 9.0 P.M. from night group Artillery Lt Gns.

F. Brand, Capt
O. C. Battery

Task Table

Zero to Zero plus 6 - L. T. M. Battery & 6" Newton Mortars on road E13d 50.62. E13d. 90 00. 13" Battery will search & sweep all roads, tracks & banks in E. 14 S.

14" Pty on road E13d. 50.62. - E13.6. 90.00.

Zero to Zero plus 2. - 15" Pty on road E13d 50.62. - E13.6. 90.00.

Zero plus 2 to Zero plus 6. 15" Pty will search back 100 yards each minute.

Zero plus 6 to Zero plus 60. All fire will cease

Zero plus 60 to Zero 65. The above programme will be repeated as for the First Five minutes

Rates of Fire 7th A.L.T.M. Pty - Zero to Zero plus 6. - 3 rounds per mortar per minute. Zero plus 60. - to Zero plus 65 - 4 rounds per mortar per minute.

F. Brand, Capt.
O. C. Battery

7th Aust. Light Trench Mortar Bty
 Routine Orders. by Capt D. Brand
 230A. 26.4.18

Re Bide Order N^o 172.

1. On the night of 26th - 27th April 1918
 the Battery will take over from
 the 6th A.L.T.M. Bty their two mortars
 at approx. E. 7. d. 20.00.

Lieut G. J. Rodger will carry
 out the relief and will, on
 completion take over charge of those
 two mortars together with the other
 two at E. 13. a. 25.50.

D. Brand, Capt
 C/C Battery



7th Aust. Light Trench Mortar Battery.
 Routine Orders. by Capt F. Brand.
 231. A. 29. 4. 18.

1. A minor operation will be carried out by this Battery with two mortars, in conjunction with 6 inch Newton mortars under cover of Artillery on the 30th April 1918. for the purpose of destroying dugouts and machine gun positions.
2. The Right Group Artillery will cover the fire of the trench mortars by firing on roads and tracks in E 14 c & d. & E 20. a & b.
3. Watches will be synchronised by 'phone from Right Group Artillery H.Q.R.S. at 9 PM, 29/4/18.
4. Zero hour will be 2 AM on 29th/4/18
5. Rate of fire for the two mortars 10 rounds per minute.
6. Target E 13 d. 50.20.

F. Brand, Capt.
 C/c Battery.



7th Aust. Light Trench Mortar Battery
Routine Orders by Capt V. Brand.

231.

10.
Move.

The Battery is being relieved on the night 30th April - 1st May 1918 by the 55th T.M. Bty (English) and will on relief move back to the MONTIENY. area.

Handcarts (9) will be loaded ready to move off from QM's store BAIZIEUX at 7.30 AM. The majority of the personnel will accompany the carts, which will be lightly loaded and manhandled.

Transport Two (2) G.S. Limbered wagons are available to assist in the move the first of which will report to Ord Room at 7 PM. Four mortars & O.R gear will be loaded on this limber which will move off at 7.30 PM. The second limber will report to O. Room at 11 PM. and Cpl Hall and one man will remain behind to load & accompany this limber, which will have the four mortars brought out of the line.

On relief the four crews in the line will return to QM's

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store and will move off for the new area when relief is complete.

The two men in BRESLE on Well-Demolition work, will be relieved and will also report to QM's store. Cpl Ryan has gone ahead to new area & will meet parties on their arrival and conduct them to their billets.

Two bombs per man will be collected & handed over to relieving unit & receipts obtained for same.

Two petrol tins for water will be carried on each cart.

V. Brand, Capt.
C/O Battery.

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Appendix 10