

AWM4

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

Artillery

Item number: 13/120/3

Title: 7th Australian Light Trench Mortar
Battery

June 1918



AWM4-13/120/3

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Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

7th A L I M Bty

FOR

June 1918

Signature of Officer compiling _____

Signature of Officer Commanding _____

118 7th Australian Light Trench Mortar Battery Original 1
War Diary for Month of June 1918.

- June. 1st to 4th Reconnaissance of RIGHT BDE Sector of Divisional Front.
 5th Relieved 5th A.L.T.M. Bty in R. BDE Sector of Div. Front (4 mortars in line, 2 in support & 2 in reserve) appendice n° 1.
 6th Brigade front reconnoitred and positions selected for 8 mortars for preliminary bombardment in proposed operation.
 7th & 8th Positions prepared and ammunition worked forward to new gun positions.
 9th Final preparations for operation, sighting of targets etc.
 10th All personnel taking part in operation in positions by 3 am. - Battery H.Q. moved to QUARRY at J2469-9 for the operation.
 9.45 PM. 240 hour for operation - Objective high ground to the south MORLAMCOURT - 8 mortars take part in preliminary bombardment and 4 of these follow the Infantry to their Objective. Append N° 2.
 11th Report received 2 AM that 4 mortars in position with good supplies of ammunition. - Battery H.Q. removed to J22400-5 as before.
 12th Four crews taking part in Advance relieved - Interviewed 6/0 20th Bty and agreed, on instructions from Bde to assist a raid by the 20th Bty with 6 mortars. Positions selected & prepared & sufficient ammunition for the raid worked up to the guns. Append N° 3.
 13th Guns laid on targets & preparations for raid completed - later:- Raid cancelled. Append N° 4.
 7th A.I. Bde extended the front to the north, taking over from 16th A.I. Bde that portion of the front between present line and K 7 ce
 7th A.L.T.M. Bty taking over one mortar at K 7 ce 8-7. from 16th A.L.T.M. Bty. - Advanced parties for 8th A.L.T.M. Bty arrived in anticipation of relief tomorrow.
 14th 8th A.I. Bde relieved 7th A.I. Bde in the line the 8th A.L.T.M. Bty taking over from the 7th A.L.T.M. Bty. Append N° 5.
 15th Relief completed 4 AM.
 During the period in the line from 5th to 15th inst: the work carried out by all ranks of the Bty before, during and after the operation is deserving of the highest praise. see report on operation dated 12th June. Append N° 6.
 For special work done during operation Military Medals were awarded to the following.
 No 1685. POF. RIDLEY W.D.
 " 4742 " GRIFFITHS. T.
 A German Granatwerfer or "Pineapple" bomb was captured during the operation by 2/Lieut M. J. Foster and his two crews, and was brought out along with 8 bombs for instructional purposes.
 15th Battery moved from Div Reserve to Corps Reserve in ALLONVILLE are. H. Qs at H.O. C. 55. Append N° 7.
 16th Nucleus Personnel rejoined Unit.
 17. 18. 19th Rest.
 20th Rifles inspected by Corps Armorer.
 21st G.O.C.'s Inspection - Appreciative memo sent to Bty, Append. N° 8.
 22nd Battery personnel inoculated by R.M.O. 2nd M.C. Bty. - TAB.
 25th Sports meeting for Bty. Events very keenly contested - 340 francs being subscribed by members of the Bty as prize money.
 Packs & blankets, except those of Nucleus Personnel dumped at ALLONVILLE.
 26th 7th A.I. Bde moved into Div Reserve in the BLANGY-TRONVILLE area in relief of 10th A.I. Bde, 7th A.L.T.M. Bty relieving 10th A.L.T.M. Bty. Nucleus personnel detached en route & moved to Bde Nucleus camp in Wood at N7a 80-65. Append. N° 9.
 27th 7th A.I. Bde relieved 11th A.I. Bde in the R. Sector of Div Front. 7th A.L.T.M. Bty relieving 11th A.L.T.M. Bty. Append N° 10.
 28th 29th 30th Registering and firing on selected targets, 100 rounds being fired with evident success as it brought forth retaliation in most cases.



L. Brand, Capt.
 G/C 7th A.L.T.M. Bty.

WAR DIARY

OF

7th Aust. L. T. M. Bty.

FOR

Month of June 1918

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1.	Relieved 5 th A.L.T.M. Bty in line.
2.	Attack by 7 th A.I. Bde between SAILLY-LAURETTE and MORLANCOURT.
3.	Preparations to assist with 6 mortars in a Raid by 20 th A.I. Btm.
4.	Raid Cancelled.
5.	Relieved by 8 th A.L.T.M. Bty.
6.	Report on Operation night 10/11 th June 1918.
7.	Battery moved to ALLONVILLE area into Corps Reserve.
8.	G.O.C's Appreciative Memo.
9.	Relieved 10 th A.I. Bde at BLANGY-TRONVILLE.
10.	Relieved 11 th A.I. Bde in line.



F. Brand. Capt.
C/O 7th A.L.T.M. Bty.

7th Aust. Light Trench Mortar Bty. **I.**

Order No 12.

4. 6. 18.

Ref. Map. 62 D. 1:40,000.

1. The 7th A.I. Bde will relieve the 5th A.I. Bde in the Right Bde sector of Div front on the 5th inst.
2. The 7th A.L.T. M. Bty will relieve the 5th A.L.T. M. Bty - 4 mortars in line, 2 in support & 2 in reserve.
3. Dress:- Men will move into the line in Battle Order with 100 rounds 3 A A and an extra two bombs.
4. For the move a limber will report to Bty H.Q. at 7 PM for conveying gear to QM store, which, on relief will be situated in QUARRY at I. 11. C. 10. 65.
5. On relief Bty H.Q.s will be at J. 22. d. 00. 05.

F. Brand, Capt
C/C Battery

7th Aust. Light Trench Mortar Battery.

2

Order No 13

9.6.18

Ref. Map. 62 D. N.E. 1/20,000.

- 1 (a) At 9.45 pm on the night 10/11th June 1918 an attack will be carried out by the 7th A.I. Bde. with the object of improving our position between SAILLY-LAURETTE & MORLANCOURT
- (b) In conjunction with this operation the 4th Aust. Div is pushing forward its left flank to join up with the right of our new front. The 6th A.I. Bde will also carry out two raids.
2. The objective for the Brigade is as follows:-
The high ground from the road junction (inclusive) at K.25.C.00.50. in a north easterly direction in front of road through K.19.d.30.00., K.19.d.40.60., K.19.b.80.40. cross roads at K.13.d.70.20. to the angle of the front line trench K.13.b.20.75.
3. The 7th A.L.T.M. Bty will co-operate, 8 mortars emplaced as under:-

Nos 142.	at J.24.d.55.10.
3.	" K.19.C.00.80.
4.	" K.19.C.05.95.
546.	" K.19.a.60.60.
748	" K.13.a.65.55.

will at zero hour open a hurricane barrage on posts within the 18 pdr barrage, lifting in front of the advancing Infantry until at extreme range when all mortars will cease fire.
4. For the preliminary bombardment mortars will be under control as follows:-

Nos 142	Sgt M ^c Evoy M.
344	Lieut A.H. Stewart D.C.M.
546.	Lieut M.J. Foster.
748.	Lieut W.L. Miller.
5. Immediately on ceasing fire, 4 mortars will move forward to the objective as under.

Nos 344.	under Lt A.H. Stewart D.C.M.
546.	" 2/Lt M.J. Foster.

Order No 13 (Cont.)

2

6. On reaching objective the mortars will be emplaced so as to be able to engage targets as follows:-
Enemy works at K.25.b.o.3. and K 20.c.1.4.
minenwerfer in K.20.a.4.4. BRAY-CORBIE road and
Trench in K 20.a.5.9. - Trench in K 14.c. and road
in K 7.d.
7. A carrying party from 26th Btn, of 1 Platoon
for each two mortars going forward will report
to Lieut: A.H. Stewart & M. J. Foster and will move
forward with them to objective.
8. On consolidation being assured the remaining
4 mortars will be dismounted and will remain
in reserve at Bty H.Q.s.
9. Battle Headquarters for the Bty will be
at J. 24.b. 90.90.

F. Brand, Apt.
C/c Battery.

7th Aust. Light Trench Mortar Bty
Order No. 14. 12. 6. 18. 3.

Ref. Map. 62 D.M.E. 1/20,000.

1. On a date & time to be notified later the 20th Bty will carry out a raid on enemy posts and trenches in K.7.d. and K.13.b.
2. Six mortars of this Battery will assist as under:-
 - (a) Two (2) at K.13.b. 60.65. will fire on strong points in and around K.13.b. 7.7. from zero to zero + 4.
 - (b) Two (2) at K.13.a. 60.60. will fire on the same point from zero to zero + 8.
 - (c) Two (2) at K.7.c. 50.05 will fire on enemy post at K.7.d. 50.80. from zero to zero + 4 and from zero to zero + 5 will switch on to trench running from K.13.b. 70.80 to K.7.d. 85.30.
3. Rates of fire:- As fast as possible
4. Lieut M. J. Foster will take charge of the two under (a) - Lieut A. H. Stewart the two under (b) & Sgt McEvoy the two under (c)

F. Brand, Capt.
C/C Battery

7th Aust. Light Trench Mortar Battery

Memo.

13. 6. 18.

4.

Reference Battery Order No 14

The Raid of 20th A. I. Bn +
the co-operation of the pipe mortars
of this Unit have been cancelled
unless otherwise notified

F. Brand, Capt.
C/O Battery.

7th Aust. Light Trench Mortar Battery

Order No 15.

14. 6. 18.

Ref. Map. 62 D. 1.40,000.

1. On the night 14th/15th June 1918 the 7th A.L.T.M. Bty will be relieved by the 8th A.L.T.M. Bty
2. Eight Mortars will be taken over from the relieving Unit and the eight mortars in the line handed over in exchange.
3. On relief the Bde will move into Div Reserve - This Unit will move to Wood at 626. d. 3. 6.
4. A G.S. Limbered Wagon will report to QM's store at I.H.C. 10.65 at 5 PM. to assist in moving and a half limber at 10 PM. to pick up the eight Mortars.

F Brand, Capt.

C/O Battery.

115

Report on Operation on Night 10/11th June 1918.

In connection with the attack by the 7th A.I. Bde on the night 10th-11th June 1918. I have to report as follows:-

On taking over from the 5th A.L.T.M. Bty on the night 5th-6th June 1918. four (4) mortars were emplaced on the Brigade front, but were not covering sufficient of the front to be effective in the preliminary bombardment. Steps were immediately taken to prepare positions for eight (8) mortars along the Bde front in such a position as to be able in the preliminary bombardment to deal with enemy posts etc, between our front line and the line of our 18 pounder barrage.

This was done and mortars emplaced as under:-

2	Mortars	at	J. 24. d. 55. 10.
1	"	at	K. 19. c. 00. 80.
1	"	at	K. 19. c. 05. 95.
2	"	at	K. 19. a. 60. 60.
2	"	at	K. 13. a. 65. 55.

Sufficient ammunition was worked up to these positions, the four positions taken over from the 5th A.L.T.M. Bty being meanwhile maintained as S.O.S. positions.

By 1.0 am on 10th June 1918. all crews were in position, and at zero hour (9.45 PM.) all (8) eight mortars opened a hurricane bombardment on enemy posts, playing for one (1) minute on points nearest our own line and gradually creeping ahead until at their extreme ranges.

500 rounds were expended during the preliminary bombardment.

When at extreme range all mortars ceased firing, and four (4) were immediately dismounted and with a carrying party of one platoon from the 26th Bn to each two mortars, moved forward close behind the assaulting Infantry, getting into positions in rear of final objective as under:-

113

2 Mortars at K19.c. 95.10, covering K25.b. 20.40 and K20.c. 10.40. with 120 rounds per mortar.

2 Mortars at K13.d. 30.80 covering the BRAY-CORBIE Road and trench in K20.a. 50.90. also trench in K14.c. - with 75 rounds per mortar.

On consolidation being assured, the other four (4) mortars were dismounted and brought back into Reserve at Battle H. Qrs at J 24.b. 90.90 as instructed.

There were no casualties among the crews of the four (4) mortars which accompanied the assault and up to date we have had only one casualty, one other rank wounded by shrapnel when at Battle H. Qrs.

I wish to express my appreciation of the splendid work done by all the officers and men of the Battery in the preparation of the positions, the preliminary bombardment and subsequent advance, and in particular to the work done by guides and runners notably N^{os} 5062 PTE PADEY.B.C, 1685 PTE RIDLEY.W.D. 4742. PTE GRIFFITHS.T. and 1691 PTE KEANEY.J.A.T. also N^o 4236 PTE. REEDMAN.E.W.

All hands worked hard and loyally and did everything in their power to make the work allotted to this Battery a success.

I must also express my appreciation of the assistance lent by the 26th Bty, both platoons doing excellent work in carrying ammunition up to the mortars.

F. Brand. Capt.
R/C 7th A.L.T.M. Bty.



7th Aust Light Trench Mortar Battery

Order No 16.

15. 6. 18.

Ref. Map. 62 D. 1/40,000.

1. (a) The 7th A.I. Bde. (less 26th Bty) will move by march route into Corps Reserve in the ALLONVILLE area on June 15th 1918.
 (b) The 26th Bty will remain in its position in the vicinity of FRECHENCOURT
2. The 7th A.L.T.M. Bty will move to BOIS-DE-MAIS (ALLONVILLE) taking over the camp vacated by the 15th A.L.T.M. Bty.
3. Lieut A.H. Stewart will go in advance for billeting & will take over from the 15th A.L.T.M. Bty.
4. Handcarts will be towed to their destination by the transport of the 27th Bty. Sgt McEvoy will be in charge & will report to T.O. 27th Bty at 1.30 pm. at I. 2. d. 40.30.
5. The remainder of the Bty will move off at 1.30 pm.
6. Com relief Bty H.Q. will be at H. 1. C. 5.5.

L. Brand, Capt.

C/C Battery.

7th Aust. Light Trench Mortar Battery

8.

Copy of Memo from G.O.C.

21-6-18.

To G/C 7th A.L.T.M. Bty

I wish to express to you, and through you to all ranks of your Battery, my pleasure and satisfaction at the very excellent turn-out this morning. Considering the long time you have had in the line, and the few days out, the whole turn-out was most creditable to all concerned. I need hardly repeat how proud I am of the work done by the Battery during the operations of 10/11th instant. You have vindicated fully the claim of the Light Trench Mortars to be an Infantry weapon in the attack of the utmost importance.

(SIGNED) EVAN A. WISDOM.

Brig. General.

Commanding 7th Australian Infantry Brigade.

Order No 17 (Cont)

7. Dress. The remainder of the Battery, with the exception of Nuclear Personnel will move out in Fighting Order.

8. Rations. - The unconsumed portion of the days ration will be carried on the man, in addition 24 hours emergency ration.

F. Brand, Capt.
B/C 7th A.L.T.M. Bty.

7th Aust. Light Trench Mortar Bty.

Order N° 17.

26.6.18.

Ref. Map. 62 D. 1:40,000.

1. The 7th A.I. Bde: will relieve the 10th A.I. Bde on the 26th June 1918.
 2. The 7th A.L.T.M. Bty will move to BLANGY-TROMVILLE and relieve the 10th A.L.T.M. Bty, billet N° 7, passing starting point, X Roads N.2.C.1.8 at 10.50 am.
 3. Route: - ALLONVILLE X ROADS. H.19.C.4.0 - X Roads N.2.C.1.8. - LAMOTTE. Bridge N.14. d. 9.3.
 4. Transport: - Handcarts will be at 27th Bth Transport lines at 7.15 am ready to hitch on for tow to new destination.
 5. Baggage: - Officers valises, guns and spare gear will be ready by 6.45 am to be loaded on to Chimber supplied by 27th Bth.
 6. Routine: -

Reveille	5.30 am
Breakfast	6.0 ✓
Baggage Ready	6.45 ✓
H. Cars Move Out.	7.5 ✓
Battery Move Out.	8.30 ✓
- 3 men will be detailed to accompany each Cart.

7th Aust. Light Trench Mortar Battery

Order No 18.

10

27/6/18

REF MAP. 62 D. 140'000

1. The 7th A.I. Bde will relieve the 11th A.I. Bde in the line on night 27/28th June 1918.
2. The 7th A.L.T.M. Bty will relieve the 11th A.L.T.M. Bty in line.
3. Two N.C.O's will go ahead in the morning and get in touch the Bty H.Q.s. of 11th A.L.T.M. Bty. at 0.27. C. 10.0.
4. 8 crews will be detailed. (4 for line - 4 Reserve.) These men will move out for their respective positions and take over from Bty being relieved, at 5 PM in charge of Lieut A.H. Stewart.
5. Battery Headquarters will be at 0.27. C. 10.40. QM store at BLANCY TRONVILLE. N. 22. C. 5.5.
6. All men not detailed for line or Reserve work will remain at N. 22. C. 5.5.
7. Transport for guns etc will be arranged with Bty being relieved.
F. Brana, Capt.