

AWM4

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

Artillery

Item number: 13/121/11

Title: 8th Australian Light Trench Mortar
Battery

September 1918



AWM4-13/121/11

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
~~DUPLICATE.~~
~~TRIPLICATE.~~

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

8th Australian Light Trench Mortar Battery

FOR

September 1918

Signature of Officer compiling

W. H. L. L.

Signature of Officer Commanding

W. H. L. L.

Original

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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282

Page 1.

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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1-9-18		Battery Head Quarters and Personnel still at N9 a 2.8 standing by in readiness to move at a moments notice. Visibility Good.	
	2-9-18.		Weather fair. Battery standing by in readiness. morning parade. instructions as regards the mining of dugouts etc by the enemy. Advance party went forward to reconnoitre new positions for battery. Orders received to be ready to move off in the early morning.	
	3-9-18.		Battery still N9 a 2.8. Weather fair Parade Physical Training. Orders received for battery to move forward. Advance party moved forward and located new positions. Battery fell in at 4.30 and moved off at 4.45 arriving at new positions in trenches at 11.30 c.8.8. at about 7 o'clock	
	4-9-18		Enemy artillery fairly active with Gas etc Enemy aircraft very active. Our artillery and aircraft very active weather	
	4-9-18		Weather mild After dinner the battery moved from 11.30. c.8.8. and took up position in the of Halle. Battery HQs located at I 19 b. 37.	
	5-9-18.		Four gun crews received orders to move into the line. Two crews under command of Lieut. Nagle and two crews under command of Lt. Thorsen	
			Weather fine. Lieut. Nagle and two crews on the right with 30 H. 8. 8. in position as follows. No. 1. I 23 a 7. 4 No. 2. I 17 c. 4. 4. with 50 rounds per gun	
			Lt. Thorsen and two crews on the left as follows. No. 3.	

8TH AUSTRALIAN
LIGHT TRENCH
MORTAR BATTERY.

No.
Date.

282

Original

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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Army Form C. 2118.

282

Page 2.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
8th AUSTRALIAN LIGHT TRENCH MORTAR BATTERY.	8.9.18 Contd		I 17 a 3.8. No. 4. I 17. a 40.75. with 50 rounds per gun. No 3 is laid on S.O.S. line at trenches. at I 17 b 40.45 and I 17 b 3.3. No 4. 5.0.5. line at trench at I 17 A A A c 65.55. Section Head Quarters situated at I 11 c 25.10. Enemy artillery very quiet until 3.30 AM, he then opened with occasional 8" & 77 ^s on Mt. St. Quentin also few 77 ^s on road in I 17.6. Enemy Machine guns very quiet. Enemy positions unknown. Large fires behind enemy lines as far as you can see North & South and well back to his rear. Enemy artillery seem to be firing at extreme range. Our Artillery and Aircraft fairly active. Casualties Nil Expenditure Nil. weather fine. Orders received for battery to move. Battery fell in at 9.0 AM. at I 19 b 3.7. and moved off. Taking route through. Braches, Barlens, Villers leandornel, Brie, Meaux, en chaussee. and took up position at P 28. c 95.75 in old huts of the 35 th Flying Squadron, arriving here at about 4.30 PM. Distance marched about 23 Kilos. Orders for two guns to move forward. Lieut. Nagle with right gun, Lieut. Thorsen with left gun weather fine. Two mortars in position as follows. Right mortar with 30 rounds of ammunition with 31 st B ⁿ at Q 29 c 9.8. Left mortar with 30 rounds of ammunition with 29 th B ⁿ at Q 17 c 90.95. Enemy shelled	
	6.9.18.			
	8.9.18.			

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WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Confidential
Page 3

Army Form C. 2118.

282

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	7.9.18		heavily at different intervals through the day with 5.9 ⁵ + 4.2 ⁵ . Light horse patrols reconnoitring the country. Our planes brought down one Hun plane and balloon on this sector today. Battery Head Quarters moved from P28 c95.75 and took up position near the village of Traignes at Q26 a 6.7 casualties Nil Expenditure Nil.	
	8.9.18		Weather unsettled. Left gun and Head Quarters moved to position at Q23 b. 8.7. Right gun to position at R25 central each gun with 25 rounds of ammunition. Enemy artillery very quiet. Hostile aircraft very active during night. Our artillery and aircraft very active all day. casualties + Expenditure Nil.	
	9.9.18		Weather unsettled. Mortars still in same positions. Enemy shelling very heavily with H.E. 4.2 ⁵ 77 ⁵ + Gas. no machine gun fire. Our artillery and aircraft very active. casualties + Expenditure Nil.	
	10.9.18		Weather unsettled. Two guns + crews in same positions in the line. No firing carried out by battery. Battery relieved by the 13 th AL TMB at 10.0 AM. Advance party moved out at 9.0 AM to locate new positions. Battery fell in at 2.0 PM and moved off to positions at P.19. b 75.35 arriving here at 5.30 PM.	

8th AUSTRALIAN LIGHT TRENCH MORTAR BATTERY.
No.
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Pages

282

XI

8TH AUSTRALIAN LIGHT TRENCH MORTAR BATTERY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	11.9.18		Weather unsettled. Parade 10.0 AM. fatigue dress. Cookhouses & shelters built. Battery was paid during the afternoon. Enemy aircraft very active during night. Battery strength. 3 officers 98 O.R.s 6 O. Ranks attached. 2. O.Ranks on leave 1. Sick 1. school 1 detached.	
	12.9.18		Weather wet. Parade 9.30 cleaning up of camp. Afternoon muster parade Reading of Orders etc. Recreational Training	
	13.9.18		Weather unsettled Parade 9.30 Drill Order Physical Training. Inspection by O.C. etc Afternoon devoted to Recreational Training	
	14.9.18		Weather fine Parade 10.0 Full marching order. Absences deficiencies taken Physical Training Afternoon Recreational Training. bucket match N.C.O.s versus Privates.	
	15.9.18		Weather fine. Parade 9.30. Inspection of Arms Physical Training & Squad Drill etc Afternoon bucket match against A. Coy. 31 st Batta which resulted in a win for the battery by 7 runs.	
	16.9.18		Weather fine Parade 9.0 Physical Training & Bayonet Fighting Gas Drill. Inspection Messes squad & gun drill. Afternoon Recreational Training & washing of lumber.	

11

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WAR DIARY

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Army Form C. 2118.

282

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Page 5.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	17.9.18.		Weather dull. Parade 9.0. Gun Drill by detachments with and without Gas masks Practical application in use of compass, Map Reading & Field Sketching for N.C.O.s Remainder of battery Physical Training & Bayonet Fighting, Lecture on Musketry, Afternoon Recreational Training	
	18.9.18.		Weather unsettled. Parade 9.0 Battery marched to 5 th Div Baths at Dought for bath and clean clothes. Afternoon Bucket Match against A. Coy 31 st Batt - Battery won easily. After tea match between two teams picked from battery.	
	19.9.18.		Weather dull. Parade 9.0 Battery marched to Gas Chamber to have helmets tested. Afternoon Recreational Training	
	20.9.18.		Weather fine. Parade 9.0 Lecture on responsibilities and duties for N.C.O.s. Remainder of battery Physical Training and Bayonet Fighting. Battery drill in use of natural cover etc. Afternoon. Recreational Training. After tea the members of the battery went to an entertainment given by the Kookaburras in the 5 th Pioneer B ⁿ camp I 34 a 7 5 and spent a very enjoyable evening. Battery strength 2 officers 39 other ranks. 7 other ranks attached 1 officer on leave. 2 other ranks on leave 1 school 1 detached. Total strength. 3 officers 43 other ranks.	
	21.9.18.		Weather fine Parade 9.0 Brigade Route March, Battery returned at 12.0 noon for dinner Afternoon Recreational Training	

8TH AUSTRALIAN LIGHT TRENCH MORT. BATTERY.

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5

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WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Confidential

Army Form C. 2118.

282

Page 6.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	22.9.18		Weather fine Parade 9.0 Church Parade 9.30 at 29 th Bn Parade Ground, Weather come up very wet Nothing done by Battery in the Afternoon	
	23.9.18		Weather unsettled Parade 9.30 inspection of arms and equipment Squad drill Lieut Nagle left for Australia, ^{embarked} embarked 18.10.14 Afternoon Recreational Training Battery was paid	
	24.9.18		Weather fine Parade 9.30 inspection of arms and gas equipment. Gun drill Afternoon Recreational Training	
	25.9.18		Weather fine Parade 9.30 Inspection Lecture on Field Sketching map reading etc. Physical Training + Gun Drill Afternoon Recreational Training	
	26.9.18		Weather fine Parade 9.30 Physical Training + Bayonet Fighting Inspection Gas masks Squad Drill Afternoon devoted to cricket etc	
	27.9.18		Weather fine Orders received from Brigade HQ to move forward. Cleaning up of camp and getting ready to move off. Advance party moved off to locate new positions Battery fell in at 5.0 PM and marched to starting point at 31 st Bn and moved from there to position at 6.13. to 2.3 arriving here at 12.0 midnight. Battery strength 2 officers 45 other ranks 5 other ranks attached 1 officer on leave 4 other ranks on leave 1 other rank detached	
	28.9.18		Weather unsettled Battery waiting orders to move forward.	

8TH AUSTRALIAN
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(282)

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Army Form C. 2118.

Confidential
Page 4

282

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	29/9/18		<p>Weather fine Battery received orders from Brigade HQ to move forward from L13623 at 6.0 AM. After an early breakfast, two guns moved off with the 29th Bⁿ & two guns with 32nd Bⁿ. The reserve guns and Battery HQ moved off with 30th Bⁿ to go forward through the 30th American Division. The Right Guns No 1 & 2 went into position at H 19 central. Left Guns No 3 to G.5 & 3.1 No 4. to G.5 & 4.9. Reserve guns and Battery HQ took up position at G 10 c 20.25. Enemy Artillery & machine guns very active all day. Our Artillery and aircraft very active. Casualties & Expenditure NIL.</p>	
	30/9/18		<p>Weather fine Left Guns in same positions Right Guns moved forward to H 8 d 7.5. Enemy shelling very heavily all day and night. No 2 gun and ammunition blown up by enemy shell fire. Enemy machine guns giving a lot of trouble on left. Our Artillery and Aircraft very active. 3 casualties. No 2150 Pte Stoate R.G. KILLED. No 662 Cpl Edeson W. & 1232 Pte Gasperino L.M. WOUNDED. Expenditure NIL.</p>	

8th AUSTRALIAN
LIGHT TRENCH
MORTAR BATTERY.

No.
Date

AM

BR Thorne Lieut

8th ALTB

7