

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

Artillery

Item number: 13/123/25

Title: 10th Australian Light Trench Mortar
Battery

July 1918



AWM4-13/123/25

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
DUPLICATE.
TRIPLICATE.

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

10th Aust. Light Trench Mortar Battery

FOR

JULY

1918

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.

JULY, 1918.

(Erase heading not required.)

10th Australian Light Trench Mortar Battery.

168

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
QUERRIEU	1st to 10th		Training consisted of dummy firing, practice with new magnesium smoke and flare bomb. 2 gun teams took part in field operation with tanks, using new flare bomb to direct tanks to supposed enemy machine gun positions. Practice Brigade "Stand to". Brigade Sports and much swimming and cricket was indulged in. Enemy planes were very active at night, dropping many bombs. Weather very fine and warm. STRENGTH 4 Offs., 61 O. Ranks.	REFERENCE MAP 1/20,000 62 D SW 1/20,000 62 D SE 1/40,000 62 D 1/40,000 62 E
FOUILLOY	11th		Dull windy day. Marched out of Querrieu and proceeded to Hamel sector, relieving the 4th and 13th A.L.T.M. Batteries, on the right and left sectors respectively. B.O. 117 of 9/7/18. 6 gun teams in position between Vaire Wood and Somme River. STRENGTH, 4 Offs., 61 O. Ranks.	1/40,000 62 D 1/20,000 62 D SE 1/20,000 62 D SW
"	12th to 14th		Clear days with good deal of good visibility. During this time registration was carried out on S.O.S. lines by all the guns in position. Ammunition dumps were arranged and the ammunition was carried to allotted positions. Necessary alterations to gun pits were made and teams made themselves generally comfortable. Line slightly advanced. Days very quiet. STRENGTH - 4 Offs., 59 O. Ranks. LOCATION OF HEADQUARTERS - Dugout, south of Fouilloy, near Corbie.	ditto
"	15th	1525	Bright morning, dull towards afternoon. In conjunction with minor operation by the right battalion, two guns opened fire on enemy position at P.21.B.9.8. and P.16.C.20.15., firing at the rate of 2 rounds per minute.	ditto
		1530	Both guns lifted barrage to 150 yards, increasing rate of fire to 10 rounds per gun per minute for two minutes whilst another gun traversed road from P.16.C.10.00 to P.22.A.12.50, firing 12 rounds. At signal from the advance party two short bursts of 15 and 10 rounds each were fired. Total rounds fired during operation - 97. - STRENGTH 4 Offs., 59 O. Ranks. CASUALTY - Wounded - No. 256 Pte. Robertson, W.	
"	16th	0445	Hot steamy day. Heavy thunderstorm in morning, clearer later. 1 gun fired 8 rounds on to enemy road at P.22.A.17.55 in reply to a signal from advanced posts.	
		2330	1 gun fired 30 rounds on to enemy wood and road from P.16.C.80.15 to road at P.22.A.15.73. Enemy quiet - STRENGTH - 4 Offs., 59 O. Ranks. CASUALTY - Killed - No. 736 Pte. Spinks, C.L., (40th Battn)	ditto

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.

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

JULY, 1918.

(Erase heading not required.) 10th Aust. Light Trench Mortar Battery

168

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HAMEL and to	17th	0100	One gun fired 30 rounds on to enemy wood and road from P.16.C.80.15 to road at P.22.A.15.73. Shoot unobserved. STRENGTH - 4 Offs., 60 O. Ranks.	REFERENCE MAP 1/40,000 62 D 1/20,000 62 D SE 1/20,000 62 D SW
	18th and 19th		Both days fine and bright, good visibility. No firing took place. Men engaged in carrying ammunition to right and left sectors, and making preparations for forthcoming operation. Enemy artillery active over sector. SICK - 2 O. Ranks, evacuated. STRENGTH - 4 Offs., 62 O. Ranks.	ditto
	20th		Bright and clear. During the night in retaliation to enemy pineapple gun at P.16.D.2.9 10 rounds were fired at intervals of three minutes from position at P.16.C.15.90. Total rounds fired 30. STRENGTH, 40 Off., 60 O. Ranks.	ditto
	21st		Dull. Quiet day. In retaliation to enemy pineapple fire 10 rounds were fired on to P.16.D.2.9. STRENGTH - 4 Off., 60 O. Ranks.	ditto
	22nd	2330	Bright, visibility good. Shoots were carried out on enemy positions at P.16.C.78.13, P.16.C.89.62, P.16.C.99.64. Total rounds fired 100. Enemy plane brought down one of our balloons at about 14.30. Enemy gas shelling active near Hamlet. STRENGTH - 4 Off., 60 O. Ranks.	ditto
	23rd	0300	Dull and rainy. Day quiet. Shoot on same targets as previous day was carried out, 100 rounds being expended. SICK 1 O. Rank, evacuated. CRIMES 1 O. R. -STRENGTH, 4 Off., 59 O. Rs.	ditto
	24th to 31st		Careful registration was carried out on to all known and suspected M.G. emplacements, and during this period much time was spent in making sound preparations for forthcoming operations. Much shooting was carried out on to enemy positions with considerable damage and harassing fire. Ammm. dumps near the line replenished. During each night intermittent fire on to enemy position was carried out also on to enemy M.Gs. opening fire on to our lines. During each day 1 scout plane was engaged in bombing Approche wood. The enemy effective M.G. fire on this plane was prevented by the fire from our guns which had been previously registered on to these enemy M.G. positions. Whilst operating in this sector the disposition of the battery was	ditto

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.

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

JULY, 1918

(Erase heading not required.)

10th Aust. Light Trench Mortar Battery

168

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HAMEL to	24th 31st		<p>as follows:- Headquarters near Corbie, Q.M. Store and Nucleus at Bussu Line ration party and cooks at Mouscopse, and 6 gun teams in the line. Relief of gun teams was carried out every 7 days. EVACUATION - sick - 5 O. Ranks. Leave - 1 O. Rank, England. T.M.School, 3 O.Rs. STRENGTH 5 Offs., 61 O. Ranks.</p> <p>-----</p>	<p><u>MAP REFERENCE.</u></p>

ev