

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

Artillery

Item number: 13/123/26

Title: 10th Australian Light Trench Mortar
Battery

August 1918



AWM4-13/123/26

CONFIDENTIAL.

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Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

10th Aust. Light Trench Mortar Battery

FOR

AUGUST

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.

AUGUST, 1918.

(Erase heading not required.)

10th Aust. Light Trench Mortar Battery

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HAMEL	1st			
"	6th		Same as from period from 24th to 31st July, 1918.	
"	7th		Fine day, foggy at night.. Situation normal. Y night for operation. During this night our fighting patrols had gained complete mastery of No Man's Land and had located all posts and M.G. positions held by the enemy along the front, and it was arranged that battery would deal with these positions during the forthcoming operation. SICK - evacuated - O.R. - STRENGTH - 5 Offs., 60 O. Ranks.	
"	8th		Fine and hot. Slight haze.	
"		0420	Zero hour for offensive. At this time our artillery, M.Gs., and our Mortars opened fire in one well-timed and terrific burst. Battery for this operation had 8 guns in action, 2 guns having been brought in on the night previous.	
"		0430	Battery co-operated with artillery engaging enemy positions in Approche Wood and covering advance of infantry.	ditto
"		1100	Battery guns were withdrawn to advance H.Q. in Vaire Wood where they were joined by the Battery nucleus. Ger	
CERISY VALLEY		1645	Battery moved from Headquarters and marched via Warfusse - Abancourt to Lena wood, Country over which the infantry advanced earlier in the day and had been captured from the enemy. LOCATION OF HEADQUARTERS - Lena Wood. STRENGTH - 5 Off., 60 O. Ranks.	
"	9th		Very warm, clear with good visibility. During the morning forward positions were reconnoitred by Battery Officers and N.C.O's. Remainder of the personnel constructed bivouac in vicinity of Lena Wood. STRENGTH - 5 Off., 60 O.Rs. CRIMES - 1 O.R. (England)	ditto
"	10th		Hot with good visibility.	
"		1400	C.O. Battery was present at conference at Brigade where verbal instructions were issued him for the capture of the spur on the west of CHUIGNOLLES between main Amiens-St. Quentin road and the Somme.	
LA FLAQUE		1600	4 guns WERE attached to 39th Battalion with a supply of ammunition and marched forward in rear of column along Amiens-St. Quentin Road. At checking point at 0.30.C.5.5 enemy planes were active and by bombing inflicted casualties both on personnel and transport. The road was continually shelled by the enemy during approach march.	

REFERENCE MAP.

1/40,000 62 D
1/20,000 62 D SE
1/20, 00062 D SW

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AUGUST, 1918

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10th Aust. Light Trench Mortar Battery

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LA FLAQUE 10th (cont'd).			thus preventing the original scheme from being carried out. Subsequently brigade ordered parties to dig in, this making the line to run approximately from Q.27.D. to R.26.A. Our guns with Brigade Machine Guns covered this new line from selected positions. CASUALTIES - killed 1814 Pte. Ritchie J. - Wounded - 575 Pte. Edwards E. STRENGTH - 5 Offs., 61 O. Ranks. LOCATION OF H.Q. - Enemy Gas. C. station at O. 30.C.5.5.	REFERENCE MAP. 1/20,000 62 D SE 1/20,000 62 D SW 1/40,000 62 D
	11th		Warm and cloudy. Poor visibility. The above positions were held during this day. Day quiet. At night 60 rounds of ammunition were carried up to section H.Q. Enemy shelling and bombing severe, particularly at night. Burial - Pte. Ritchie buried by 37th Bn. padre at 6 p.m. at position Q.30.c.3.3 STRENGTH - 5 Offs., 59 O. Ranks.	ditto
CERISY VALLEY	12th	2200	Battery remained in position till night but no firing was ordered. Situation normal. STRENGTH - 5 Offs., 56 O. Ranks. Battery was relieved by the 50th T.M. Battery and marched to bivouac at Lena wood. Enemy shelled the track with H. V.	ditto
LENA WOOD to	13th to 19th		Battery remained at this position for this period. Training consisted of L.T.M. drill, bathing parades in the Somme, ordinary Infantry Drill, enemy particularly active at night with bombing planes. Whilst battery was engaged in these areas the dispositions were as follows:- Battery H. Q. in positions named with complete guns and crew. Q.M. Store at Billets in Corbie, and nucleus at Corbie. Sick, 1 O.R. evacuated. PROMOTIONS - 1 Lieut. Leave - 1 O. R. to England. STRENGTH - 5 Off., 54 O. Ranks.	ditto
SAILLY LAURETTE	20th	1830	Weather hot. Marched out of Lena Wood and proceeded to dugouts in old German Front line in Sailly Laurette (In Div. reserve) Men dug in. STRENGTH 5 Offs., 54 O. Ranks	ditto
and	21st and 22nd.		Both days fine and warm. During this time guns and equipment were inspected and mens kits prepared for forthcoming operations. Captain Munday, Lieut. Cheeseman and 12 men marched back to billets at Corbie as Battery nucleus. Sick - 1 O.R. CRIMES - 1 O.R. (England). STRENGTH - 5 Off., 53 O. Ranks.	ditto

(10349) W4 W3300/P713 750,000 3/18 E 688 Forms/C2118/16

WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

AUGUST, 1918 (Erase heading not required.) 10th Aust. Light Trench Mortar Battery.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SAILLY LAURETTE	23rd	1930	Bright and warm with good visibility. Battery marched out of line at Sailly Laurette and moved forward to Rendezvous in front of Bray under the command of Lieut. Cahill who was acting C.O. for operation. 8 guns in co-operation with 40th Bn. STRENGTH - 5 Offs., 52 O. Ranks. LOCATION OF H. Q. in front of Bray - L. 14.d	REFERENCE MAPS 1/40,000 62 D 1/20,000 62 D SE 1/20,000 62 D SW
BRAY	24th	0100	Clear and warm. Visibility good. Zero hour for operation. At this time 6 guns with 3 platoons of the 40th Bn. moved forward under orders to mop up bray after infantry had captured same. Lt. Bridie was in charge of Nos. 1 and 2 guns, Sergt. Oliver in charge of 3 & 4 guns., Lt. Fidler in charge of Nos. 5 & 6 guns. 2 guns remained in Reserve at Battery Headquarters. During the advance and shortly after Zero No. 2 gun was put out of action by one of our 18 pounders, the base of the gun being shot away whilst being carried by a member of this gun crew. The man had a remarkable escape only suffering from slight shock. During the advance through Bray the right and centre platoons were held up by enemy M.G. fire at L. 16. C.75.75. These guns were engaged by No. 1 gun and promptly put out of action a direct hit being obtained on one and many casualties caused through the enemy crews. Lt. Bridie then took up his position at L.16.c.2.3. with No. 1 gun covering the ground in front. Sergt. Oliver took up his position at L.15.d.3.5. with No. 3 & 4 guns at Lt. Fidler his with Nos. 5 & 6 guns at L.15.b.4.7. During the morning the members of No. 1 gun captured 6 prisoners and 3 enemy M. Gs. which had been giving trouble and with whom they had to deal. In the night Nos. 3 & 4 guns moved to new position at Railway Line Bray at L.16.c. One gun was brought from Battery H. Qs. at Bray to replace damaged one.	ditto
"	25th	0230	Weather mild and clear- Again in conjunction with "D" Coy. of 40th Bn. Nos. 1 and 2, 5 & 6 guns moved forward to and established positions as follows:- Nos. 1 & 2 at Yakko Copse at L.23.d.central., Nos. 5 & 6 guns at L.17.c.6.6 Nos. 3 & 4 guns after carrying ammunition to Nos. 5 & 6 guns took up their position with Nos. 1 & 2 guns at Yakko Copse. During this advance guns were not called on. - STRENGTH -5 Offs., 52 O.Rs.	ditto
"	26th	1400	Battery H. Q. left position at Bray and moved forward to Chateau woods near Sussane at G.7.d.6.6. About 1700 all guns joined Bty. H.Q. to await for orders.	

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172

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AUGUST, 1918

10th Aust. L.T.M. Battery

Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BRAY - SUZANNE	26th	2100	Nos. 1 & 2 guns moved forward with 39th Bn., Nos. 5 & 6 guns with 37th Bn. and Nos. 3 & 4 with Coy. of 38th Bn attached to 37th Bn.	REFERENCE MAPS 1/40,000 62 D
		2300	15 rounds were fired by No. 2 gun from G.9 a.8.4. on to 120 millimetre wood at G.9.b.9.6.	1/20,000 62 D SE 1/20,000 62 D SW
		2400	6 guns moved forward with mopping up companies of 37th Battn through G.9.10 & 16. No opposition was met with. During these operations the work of the gun teams was noticed to be exceedingly heavy owing to the shortage of ammunition carriers.	
			LOCATION OF H. Q. - CHATEAU WOODS., SUZANNE, G.7.d.6.6.	
BRAY	27th		During this day Nos. 1, 2, 5, and 6 guns were withdrawn and moved back to L.17. c.3.6. with Battery, near Bray. Nos. 3 & 4 guns dug-in remained in line in charge of "D" Coy. C.O. 38th Bn at Royal Dragoon Wood.	
			STRENGTH - 5 Offs., 52 O. Ranks. LOCATION OF H.Q. - BRAY	
VAUX	28th		Battery H. Q. and all guns moved forward to Dugouts at Vaux Woods at G.3.d.8.7. On night Nos. 3 and 4 guns were relieved from 38th Bn. and reported to Vaux wood. Battery was handed over by Lt. Cahill to Capt. Munday. Lt. Fidler was relieved by Lt. Cheeseman from Nucleus and Lt. Brydie by Lt. Cahill. On this night Lt. Cheeseman in charge of 4 guns moved forward with 38th Battn to co-operate in the mopping up of Curlu. Very small opposition was met with. Lt. Cheeseman's position with 38th Bn. was established at H.2.c. Curlu.	
CURLU -HEM	29th	1000	Battery H. Q. with remainder of gun teams moved forward to Wormwood Scrub, Hem. at H.3.c.7.7.	
		1200	4 guns under Lt. Cheeseman reported to Bty. H.Q. LOCATION OF H.Q. - WORMWOOD SCRUB - HEM. CASUALTIES - Wounded - No. 1643 Cpl. Dunn R.H. & No.2406 Cpl. Cooper E.G.E. SICK 1 O.R.	ditto
CLERY SUR SOMME	30th	0300	2 guns under Lt. Cahill and 2 guns under Lt. Cheeseman moved forward with 37th Battn. to left of Clery-sur-Somme at H.5.c.5.1. At 04.30 these guns again moved forward with same Battalion to H.6.a.4.4. but were not required to fire. At 09.30 the 2 guns under Lt. Cheeseman were ordered to move to Clery Copse to engage active enemy machine guns. - CASUALTIES - Lt. Cahill T.K. - killed.	

5

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10th A.L.T.M. Battery

AUGUST 1918

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	REFERENCE MAP
CLERY SUR SOMME	/30th		The two guns under Lt. Cahill remained in reserve at H.6.a.4.4. The former 2 guns at 10,00 opened fire on the opposing machine guns with good results, dispersing the enemy and silencing the guns.	1/40,000 62 D 1/20,000 62 D SE 1/20,000 62 D SW
		1400	This machine gun post again gave considerable trouble and was again dealt with causing the enemy many casualties and the remainder of the crews to fly back in disorder and leave their guns and the positions clear.	
		2000	These 2 guns were withdrawn to H.6.a.4.4. and remained with the 2 reserve guns to await further orders.	
	31st	0730	Lt. Cheeseman moved forward with 2 guns to support 39th Bn to C.26.c.4.8. but were not required and did not fire. CASUALTIES - T/Capt. Munday J.J. (accd. injured) 1694 L/Cpl McErvale J.L. (wounded) STRENGTH - 1 Off., 51 O. Ranks SICK 1 O. R. LEAVE - England - 1 Off., SCHOOL - 1 Off. 1 (w) to England	

172

6