

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

Artillery

Item number: 13/124/10

Title: 11th Australian Light Trench Mortar
Battery

October 1917



AWM4-13/124/10

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Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

11th A L Y M Bty.

FOR

October 1917

Signature of Officer compiling

Signature of Officer Commanding

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

1731

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.

(Erase heading not required.)

11th Bn. L. B.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Poperinghe	29/9/17		Preparing for operation Reconnaissance of Ground by officers & N.C.O's. Enemy bombed camp 1 killed - 2 wounded.	
"	30/9/17		Church Parade D.O.	
"	1/10/17		Reconnaissance of Ground for operation Organization for the attack.	
"	2/10/17		Marched up to Resting Area prior to Approach march. Organized ammunition for the attack.	
"	3/10/17		<p>Formation for attack. It was decided that six guns could effectively cover the Brigade frontage which was about 650 yds even allowing for 1 gun to become a casualty. The ammunition difficulty was appreciated from the start and this no. of guns could easily fire the amount possible to convey forward.</p> <p>The organization was as follows. Each half Battery with 3 guns under 1 officer. Each gun team consisted of 4 Battery personnel with six men from 4th Bn. carrying behind each gun. Twenty men from the 4th Bn. were organized in carrying parties under an officer to establish dumps forward as the advance proceeded. The Right $\frac{1}{2}$ Battery advanced with the assaulting Infantry from the commencement of the attack. The left $\frac{1}{2}$ Battery ^{would take} part in the preliminary bombardment at zero hours firing on the Zannebake station where machine guns were located. The sling method of firing was to be adopted. The amount of ammunition taken over by each gun was 32 rounds loads were carried as follows - No 1 - 10 rounds carried by sling. No 2 - Base plate cleaning rod and 2 shells. No 3 - four shells (smoke). Remaining members 4 rounds each in sand bags. Great difficulty was experienced by ammunition dump not being sufficient for forward.</p>	

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11th Bn Ch Bn

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Ypres.	4/10/17	6 AM.	<p>Zero hour attack commenced. The Right $\frac{1}{2}$ Battery followed the assaulting Infantry as they leapfrogged thro'. Left $\frac{1}{2}$ Bty moved across to clear enemy barrage and took their position behind the West Btn. The whole Battery then went forward. A few casualties had been sustained and all guns were kept in action. It had previously been marked ordered that when final objective was reached guns would be consolidated in groups about 300 yds in rear of the Blue Line but it was decided by the $\frac{1}{2}$ Battery Command on the spot that from this line the difficulties of observation prevented prompt action against counter-attacks. So guns were moved forward and consolidated at points from 50 to 100 yds in rear of Blue Line. A gun from each Half-Battery was taken forward to the front line and fired on groups of the enemy that could be seen approaching by means of communication trenches and folds in the ground. Right $\frac{1}{2}$ Battery dispersed groups of enemy on the north edge of Daisy Wood. Left $\frac{1}{2}$ Battery cleared the cemetery and a post within the vicinity of Dyke Col. maintaining the ammunition supply again very difficult. Ammunition being fired as soon as it arrived and S.O.S reserves could not be built up. The carrying party furnished from the Battalion were depleted from 20 to 11. Owing to casualties and evacuations sick. Remaining men were not of sufficient physique or fitness and to stand the strain and men had to be taken off gun teams to build up the ammunition supply. By nightfall each gun had about 30 rounds reserved for S.O.S. action. S.O.S signals were responded to during the night but to save ammunition guns only fired until the artillery barrage had completely dropped.</p>	

WAR DIARY

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173

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11th Rh Bty

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Ypres	5/10/17		The day was generally quiet the enemy appeared to be devoting his attention to locating our most forward position. Guns were again moved forward during the day and harassed the enemy on his attempt to establish posts. The original carrying party was now decreased to six. But owing to improved tracks the ammunition requirements were completed and a good forward dump established at Daring Crossing. Battery was relieved at 8pm and they moved out and arrived at the Ypres Asylum at 7 AM.	
Do	6/10/17		at 7 AM the Battery had breakfast at the asylum & Route marched back to the Brandhoek area and were billeted in Dorouto camp. at 4 PM all ranks were bathed.	
Dorouto Camp	7/10/17		All Ranks Rested.	
Do	8/10/17		Reorganization. Battery moved up by Route March bivouaced west of the Freizeberg Ridge.	
	9/10/17		Reconnaissance of front line made. It was found that front line previously occupied would again be taken over. As no definite information could be obtained from our opposite numbers it was decided to approach with the Infantry Battalion (4th & 42nd) in fighting formation. Which was done. Great difficulty was experienced in this march. Half Battalion reported themselves in position at 7 AM next morning.	

3

WAR DIARY

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1173

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11th A.K. 2nd Bty

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Ypres	10/10/17		Half Batteries in position 7 AM situation obscure 9th & 10th Brigades commenced approach during the evening.	
	11/10/17		9th & 10th Bdes approach completed and attack commenced. Battery withdrawn to Boethoek in support.	
	12/10/17		Rested in support.	
	13/10/17		at 4 pm the Battery moved forward with 44 3rd Bty to take over the line held. Line taken up was slightly in advance of that previously occupied. Five guns were mounted up in 3 groups of 2.	
	14/10/17		Ammunition supply was made up in the early morning from our previous dump at Daring crossing and two other dumps one at Peine House and the other at Hamburg. Probably been intended for use in the attack by the 9th & 10th A.K. 2nd Bty's. The situation was very obscure no enemy could be seen closer than 800 yds and he was frequently seen to shell points 300 or 400 yds in front of our most forward positions consequently no shooting could be done.	

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11th ALD Ltr Bk

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	<i>15/10/17</i>		<i>Relieved by 9th ALD in Bk. and returned to support position Boethock</i>	
	<i>16/10/17</i>		<i>In support.</i>	
	<i>17/10/17</i>		<i>In support Bombarded with Gas shells few casualties</i>	
	<i>18/10/17</i>		<i>In support</i>	
	<i>19/10/17</i>		<i>In supported Large Quantity of Gas shells thrown by enemy.</i>	
	<i>20/10/17</i>		<i>In support.</i>	
	<i>21/10/17</i>		<i>Relief was commenced at 5 pm. and troops moved back to Warran area arriving at 11 pm <i>Warran</i></i>	
	<i>22/10/17</i>		<i>Route was commenced back to Warran area in Reserve members not engaged in last operation moved by train from Asylum at 7.3 am detraining at Wizeles at 2 pm and marched to billets at Plouy. Operation troops were conveyed by train starting at 9 am reaching Ouse Warran at 4 pm and marched into billets at Plouy.</i>	
	<i>23/10/17</i>		<i>Day was spent in Reorganization & repairs to billets</i>	
	<i>24/10/17</i>		<i>Troops Rested.</i>	

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173

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11th Art Bde

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<i>Plouy</i>	<i>25/10/17</i>		<i>Training commenced.</i>	
<i>"</i>	<i>26/10/17</i>		<i>Training</i>	
<i>Plouy</i>	<i>27/10/17</i>		<i>Training</i>	
<i>do</i>	<i>28/10/17</i>		<i>Church Parade</i>	
<i>do</i>	<i>29/10/17</i>		<i>Training Singing</i>	
<i>do</i>	<i>30/10/17</i>		<i>Training</i>	
<i>do</i>	<i>31/10/17</i>		<i>Training</i>	
<i>do</i>	<i>1/11/17</i>		<i>Training</i>	
<i>do</i>	<i>2/11/17</i>		<i>Training + Inoculation of</i>	
<i>do</i>	<i>3/11/17</i>		<i>Route march</i>	
<i>do</i>	<i>4/11/17</i>		<i>Church Parade 1 Hour ceremony at Brill</i>	
<i>do</i>	<i>5/11/17</i>		<i>Training at Brill at Brill</i>	
<i>do</i>	<i>6/11/17</i>		<i>Brigade Route march.</i>	
<i>do</i>	<i>7/11/17</i>		<i>Training.</i>	