

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

Artillery

Item number: 13/126/9

Title: 15th Australian Light Trench Mortar
Battery

March 1917



AWM4-13/126/9

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ORIGINAL.

~~DUPLICATE.~~

~~TRIPLICATE.~~

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

15th A L I M Bty

FOR

March 1917

Signature of Officer compiling.....

Signature of Officer Commanding.....

DATE

Mar 1st
1917

Quiet day on both sides. Enemy artillery activity below normal. At 4.30 pm two detachments of this Battery took up position in "Mucky Way" at N. 15. D. 6. 7. covering a reconnoitering patrol which had gone out from our lines to examine enemy wire in vicinity of N. 16. E. 3. 95. At 10 pm the sub section opened fire on enemy trench at N. 16. E. 3. 95 the patrol having reported that an enemy machine gun was operating from this point. Forty rounds were fired with good effect. Enemy retaliated with a few "pineapple" bombs which did no damage.

W. E. F.

Mar 2nd
1917.

Enemy artillery quiet. During the day the detachments in the front line improved existing emplacements and engaged on with the construction of an ammunition dump. The detachments at Chalk Cliffs brought forward 40 rounds of ammunition from dump at Chalk Cliffs to dump in "Mucky Way".

W. E. F.

Mar 3rd
1917.

Quiet day on both sides. The detachments in the front line cleared out and occupied a dug out in "Mucky Way". The detachments at Chalk Cliffs were employed in fusing ammunition which had been forwarded to their dump from Brigade dump.

W. E. F.

Mar 4th
1917.

Quiet day on both sides. Continued the work of forwarding ammunition to front line, and the improvement of dumps.

W. E. F.



DATE

MAR. 5TH
1914.

Enemy artillery very quiet. There is now no apparent movement in enemy trenches and no targets are offered for trench mortar. Our detachments are employed in forwarding ammunition to new dumps in "Sticky Way".

H. E. F.

MAR. 6TH
1914.

Quiet day on both sides. Our Brigade front having been further extended to the left, we have attached a mobile gun to the Headquarters of the left Company. The Lt. Col. in charge of the detachment to act under the instructions of the O.C. line.

H. E. F.

MAR. 4TH
1914.

At 11.30 pm enemy was heard working in trench in vicinity of N. 16. A. 2. 1/2. We fired 20 rounds on this point with good effect.

H. E. F.

MAR. 8TH
1914.

With the exception of enemy snipers who were unusually busy today, it was a very quiet day. A number of posts and stumps were observed on top of enemy trench at the point at which we fired last night.

H. E. F.

MAR. 9TH
1914.

At 9 pm one detachment of this Battery opened fire on enemy trench at N. 16. A. 2. 1/2. at which point movement had been observed late in the afternoon. We fired 40 rounds in vicinity of this point.

DATE

MAR. 9TH

Continued



At 11 pm one of our Patrols was bombed and sniped at from a strong post in enemy line at N. 16. C. 4. 9. We immediately opened fire on this point. We fired 10 rounds

47. E. 7

At 3.30 am a flare was fired from this post. we immediately fired another 10 rounds into it.

MAR. 10TH

at 9 pm we fired 15 rounds 5 of which were air bursts on enemy trench at N. 16. C. 4. 9. from which point an enemy sniper had been a lot of sniping the more sniping was done from this point during the night.

47. E. 7

MAR. 11TH

At 10 am enemy fired a few pineapples into our front line. They appeared to come from about N. 16. 4. 5. 1. at which point we immediately fired 40 rounds. Enemy mortars and snipers fired again from this direction. At 11 pm 40 rounds were fired at a machine gun position at N. 16. C. 2. 8.

47. E. 7

MAR. 12TH

Quiet day on both sides. During the day our detachments in front line and Chalk Cliffs forwarded 90 rounds of ammunition to dump in front line.

47. E. 7

MAR. 13TH

Continued the work of forwarding ammunition to front line and improving front line dump.

47. E. 7

Date

MAR. 14THMAR. 15THMAR. 16THMAR. 17THMAR. 18THMAR. 19TH

Quiet day on both sides. Enemy artillery activity during the past few days has been practically nil. no movement can be seen in their trenches and no targets are presenting themselves.

Particularly quiet day. No enemy movement visible in trenches opposite our Brigade front.

at 11 pm our left mobile detachment accompanied a strong fighting patrol from the left Batt. the objective being Tell trench. The patrol however found the enemy wire too great an obstacle and returned to Barley trench.

Early this morning our Brigade occupied Tell and Atom trenches. Our front line detachments - the position being consolidated - moved forward and established themselves in Fire trench.

Our advanced guards yesterday afternoon pushed forward to beyond REINCOURT and are still advancing. owing to the rapidity of this forward movement and the lack of targets for trench mortars. This Battery was this morning instructed to remain with the rear guard (Stewart's Force)

Our detachments in Fire trench and Chalk Cliffs were

W. E. F.

W. E. F.

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W. E. F.

DATE

MAR. 19th

employed today in carrying all of our forward ammunition back to Black Cliffs. On completion of this work our front line detachments were withdrawn from fire trench to Reserve Reserve.

4x E. 4

MAR. 21st

acting under instructions from C.O. "Stewarts Force" the Battery today moved to FLEERS.

4x E. 4

All available N.C.O.'s and men of the Battery under Lieut Cokerill were today employed on construction of road through GOBOECOURT.

4x E. 4

MAR. 22nd

"Stewarts Force" moved to the forward area today. Our Battery moving to PREMICOURT.

4x E. 4

MAR. 23rd

Battery was employed today in cleaning up and improving Billets occupied by the Battery.

4x E. 4

MAR. 24th

Two mobile detachments under Lieut Gamble moved today to our outpost line near BEAUMETZ. The remainder of the Battery being engaged cleaning and fusing ammunition and forwarding same to LEBUCQUIERE at which place we established our forward dump.

4x E. 4

MAR. 25th

The Battery was today engaged on works of fusing and forwarding ammunition to forward dump.

4x E. 4

DATE

MAR. 26
27

Continued the work of fusing and forwarding ammunition to LEGUEQUIERE. Our detachments in Outpost line have not been able to fire owing to lack of targets.

48.8.4

MAR. 29th

The Battery moved to Bellets in BEAULENCOURT. This morning. The remainder of the day being spent in clearing up and improving Bellets.

48.8.4

MAR. 30th

This morning was devoted to a thorough belt inspection. The afternoon being spent in improvement of Bellets.

48.8.4

MAR. 31st

A syllabus of training has been drawn up by the Officers of the Battery, and this morning the Battery started on a thorough refresher course. Gun drill being the main item of the mornings work. The afternoon was spent in still further improving Bellets.

48.8.4