

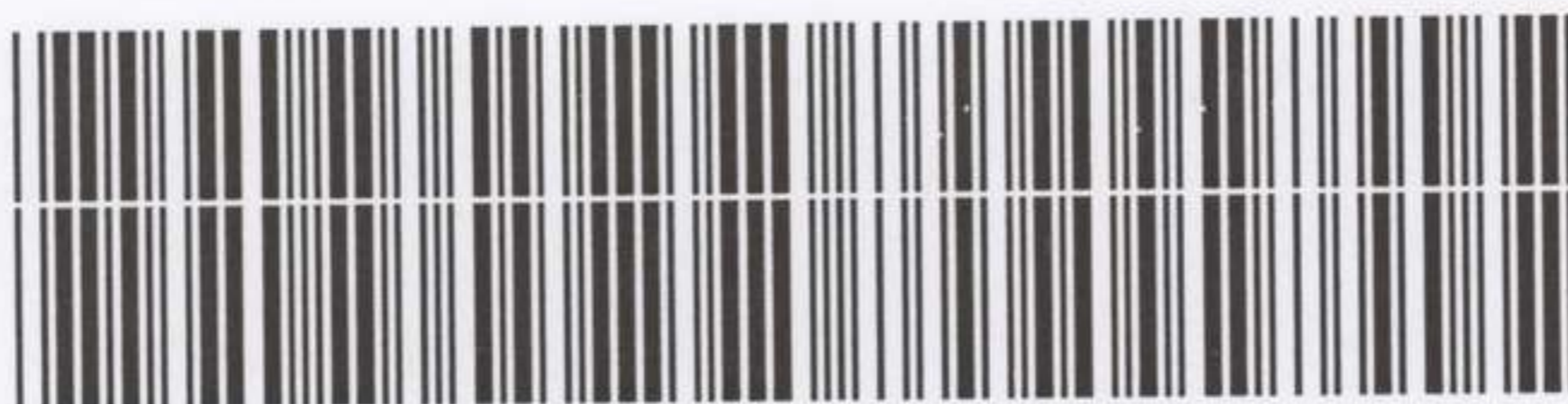
**AWM4**  
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,**  
**1914-18 War**

Artillery

**Item number:** 13/120/5

**Title:** 7th Australian Light Trench Mortar  
Battery

August 1918



AWM4-13/120/5

000-12/17-8723

**CONFIDENTIAL.**

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

*Completed*

115

Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

OF

*7<sup>TH</sup> AUSTRALIAN LIGHT TRENCH MORTAR BATTERY.*

FOR

*AUGUST 1918.*

Signature of Officer compiling *F. Brand, Capt.*

Signature of Officer Commanding *F. Brand, Capt.*

7<sup>th</sup> Australian Light Trench Mortar Bty.

## War Diary for Month of August 1918.

- Aug. 2<sup>nd</sup> 1918 ~~my~~ Brigade moved into Reserve, the Battery taking over H.Q. vacated by 6<sup>th</sup> A.L.T.M.B. Append 1.
- " 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Reconnaissance and preparation of positions for mortars assisting in preliminary bombardment and in attack on 8<sup>th</sup>
- " 7<sup>th</sup> Proposed operation fully explained to all ranks and Battery moved to position of assembly, getting into position by 2 o'clock on the morning of 8<sup>th</sup>.
- " 8<sup>th</sup> Attack by corps. see appendices 2 & 3. - Passed the night in vicinity of 1<sup>st</sup> objective near MARCELCAVE.
- " 9<sup>th</sup> Moved up to CRUCIFIX at W. 5. C. 20. 55. and later took part in an attack. Appendices 4 & 5.
- " 10<sup>th</sup> H.Q.s moved to front line at X. 10. a. 60. 70. in preparation for attack by Brigade on 11<sup>th</sup>.
- " 11<sup>th</sup> Attack by Brigade - Appendices 6 & 7.
- " 11<sup>th</sup> H.Q.s returned to CRUCIFIX at W. 5. C. 20. 55. and Battery relieved in line by 6<sup>th</sup> A.L.T.M.B. Appendix 8.
- " 12<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> In Reserve in vicinity of CRUCIFIX. (W. 5. C. 20. 55).
- 17<sup>th</sup> Battery relieved by 96<sup>th</sup> L. T. M. Battery and on relief embussed for BUSSY. Appendix 9.

The period under review was a particularly strenuous one as, since coming into this Sector, the Division has completed 52 days in the line, which included many operations, culminating in the big attack stretching over 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> insts. During the whole of this trying period the officers and men of the Battery carried out their duties in a most gratifying manner, that cannot be too highly spoken of.

In the attack of the 8<sup>th</sup> inst, ammunition for the mortars was for the first time carried forward on Tanks, and dumped at convenient positions at the objective, only a few rounds being carried forward with the mortars. - This proved very satisfactory.

In the attack on the 9<sup>th</sup> inst, mortars (two to a mule) and ammunition (15 rounds to a mule) were taken forward for the first time on mules, with the advancing Infantry. It was possible to take the mules well forward, thus saved a large number of men being used for carrying ammunition & mortars. For the period of the big advance 12 pack horses were attached to the Unit, for use as required, and proved most satisfactory for working ammunition & mortars forward.

The disadvantage of being without Transport was particularly emphasised during this period. On many occasions Q.M.s store had to be moved forward & great difficulty was always experienced in getting the necessary Transport, as Battalions had their transport always fully employed. One limber would be of inestimable value.

115

It is only when the whole of the Battery is on the move that extra Transport would be needed.

Casualties up to and including 17<sup>th</sup> inst. see Append. 10.  
Material captured and sent in. Appendix 11.

18<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup>.

Bathing, Refitting + Recreation.

22<sup>nd</sup>. Inspection by G.O.C. Brigade, who expressed himself as "extremely pleased" with the way in which the men turned out.

27<sup>th</sup>. Battery moved into Divisional Reserve, App. 12 + 13.

28<sup>th</sup>. Moved forward to L34d 8-8, Append. 14.

29<sup>th</sup>. Attack by Brigade, with the River Somme as objective. Append. 15 + 16.

30<sup>th</sup>. Brigade to attempt crossing of Somme Canal + River, Append. 17.

31<sup>st</sup>. Moved to CLERY-SUR-SOMME in support to 5<sup>th</sup> + 6<sup>th</sup> A I Bdes. Append. 18.

For Casualties from 18<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> August 1918 see Append. No. 19.

Awards. For the operation on 11<sup>th</sup> August 1918 a Military Medal was awarded to No. 1133, LANCECORPORAL LIPSCOMBE GW.

General. During the month under review the health of the men of the Unit has been excellent, very few men being evacuated.

The spirit shown by all ranks during the month was all that could be desired, keenness and confidence showing themselves on all occasions.

In the Field.

7<sup>th</sup> September 1918.

F. Brand, Capt.  
O/C 7<sup>th</sup> ALTMB

# WAR DIARY

OF

7<sup>th</sup>. Aust. Light Trench Mortar Battery

FOR

August 1918.

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

- | No. | Subject.  |
|-----|---|
| 1.  | Brigade moves to Div. Reserve near Villers Bretonneux         |
| 2.  | Brigade takes part in Big Advance, 8/8/18.                    |
| 3.  | Report on Operations for 8/8/18.                              |
| 4.  | Brigade attacks East of Harbonnières, 9/8/18.                 |
| 5.  | Report on Operations for 9/8/18.                              |
| 6.  | Brigade attacks East of Framerville, 11/8/18.                 |
| 7.  | Report on Operations for 11/8/18.                             |
| 8.  | Battery relieved by 6 <sup>th</sup> ALTMB, 11/8/18.           |
| 9.  | Battery relieved by 9 <sup>th</sup> TMB, 17/8/18.             |
| 10. | Casualties, 1 <sup>st</sup> to 17 <sup>th</sup> August 1918.  |
| 11. | Captured Trophies for August 1918.                            |
| 12. | Battery moves to Div. Reserve near Abbecourt, 27/8/18.        |
| 13. | Amendment to No 12.   |
| 14. | Moved forward to L34d 8-8, 28/8/18.                           |
| 15. | Brigade attack, with River Somme, as its objective, 29/8/18.  |
| 16. | Report on Operations, 29/8/18.                                |
| 17. | Brigade attempts crossing of Somme, 30/8/18.                  |
| 18. | Brigade moves to Div. Reserve at Clergy on Somme, 31/8/18.    |
| 19. | Casualties, 18 <sup>th</sup> to 31 <sup>st</sup> August 1918. |

L Brand. Capt.

Op 7<sup>th</sup> ALTMB

In the Field

7<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1918.

**"A" Form.**  
**MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.**

Army Form C. 2121.  
(In pads of 100.)

No. of Message.....

Prefix.....	Code.....	m.	Words.	Charge.	This message is on a/c of:	Recd. at.....	m.
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.				Sent		Service.	Date.....
				At.....	m.	From.....	
				To.....		By.....	
				By.....	(Signature of "Franking Officer.")		

TO *Officer in Charge*  
*Records*  
*3rd Echelon*

Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	<b>AAA</b>
* <i>TM 99.</i>	<i>8/9/15</i>		

*I am enclosing herewith*  
*Original + Duplicate of*  
*this Unit's War Diary for*  
*the month of August 1915*  
*Kindly acknowledge receipt.*

From *7th ALTMB*

Place

Time

*The above may be forwarded as now corrected.* **(Z)** *F Brand. App.*

Censor. Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.

\* This line, except **AAA**, should be erased if not required.  
Wt. W 3253/P511. 500,000 Pads. 1/18. B. & S. Ltd. (E2389.)

Order No. 23.

Headquarters

Reference Maps Sheets 62<sup>D</sup> SE. & S.W. 1/20,000

Aug 1<sup>st</sup> 1918

1. The Southern and Northern Divisional Boundaries will be readjusted on the night 2/3<sup>rd</sup> August 1918 to run as follows:-
  - (a) Southern Divisional Boundary - from front line at V.1. b. 6.6. along north side of railway to O.35. a. 7.0., thence west along grid line through O.34 cent. to N.32. cent. - M.30. c. 6.0. - M.29. d. 0.0. - M.20. b. 0.5.
  - (b) Northern Divisional Boundary - from front line at P.21. b. 1.3. - QUARRY CROSSING P.20. a. 6.4. along south side of road to O.11. d. 5.2., O.10. b. 8.0., O.9. a. 7.4., O.3. c. 2.2., O.2. c. 2.2., O.7. a. 2.7., N.12. b. 9.0., N.7. a. 0.0., M.4. c. 7.0.,
2. To effect this the following re-distribution of troops will take place:-
  - (a) The 6<sup>th</sup> A.I. Bde will hand over to the 4<sup>th</sup> A.I. Bde that portion of the front between the present Southern Divisional boundary and V.1. b. 6.6. on the night 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> August. 1918.
  - (b) At the same time the 6<sup>th</sup> A.I. Bde will take over from the 5<sup>th</sup> A.I. Bde. the remainder of the present divisional front, and will take over from the 10<sup>th</sup> A.I. Bde that portion of the front between our present northern boundary and P.21. b. 1.3.
3. On being relieved, the 5<sup>th</sup> A.I. Brigade will move back to Reserve positions with battalions distributed in the SYDNEY System, BLANGY System, and GLISY-BLANGY Switch, with Brigade H.Q. at GLISY. Units of the 5<sup>th</sup> A.I. Bde will be occupying that portion of the BLANGY system now occupied by the 7<sup>th</sup> A.I. Bde.
4. The 7<sup>th</sup> A.I. Brigade will move on the night 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Aug. 1918. to positions in close support to the 6<sup>th</sup> A.I. Brigade.
5. All packs will be collected and dumped at Q.M. store which will remain at present location in LA-MOTTE. (N. 14. d. 4. 7.)

6. Men will carry 100 rounds S.A.A. and 2 bombs per man.
7. All Trench Stores etc will be handed over on relief. In cases where no Unit relieves, Trench Stores etc will be collected and stored at QM's store.
8. All billets will be left in a clean and tidy condition and a certificate to this effect obtained.
9. The 7<sup>th</sup> A.L.T.M.B. will take over accomodation vacated by 6<sup>th</sup> A.L.T.M.B. at O.27.C.1.4. and will move from present billets at 6.P.M.  
Dress:- Battle Order with one blanket per man.
10. Brigade H.Qs will close at GLISY at 9.P.M on August 2<sup>nd</sup> and will open at the same hour at O.25.C.6.4.

F. Brand, Capt.

BC. 7<sup>th</sup> A.L.T.M. Bty.

1<sup>st</sup> August. 1918.



7<sup>th</sup> Aust. Light Trench Mortar Battery.

## APPENDIX 2

Order No 24

Reference Maps 62<sup>nd</sup> SE & SW. 1/20,000. +  
 Brigade Order No 211. of 5. 8. 18.

Headquarters.

August 7<sup>th</sup> 1918INTENTION

- (a) At a date and hour to be notified later the 7<sup>th</sup> A.I. Bde will carry out an attack.
- (b) The 4<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Brigade is on our Right and the 5<sup>th</sup> A.I. Bde is on our Left. The 6<sup>th</sup> A.I. Bde will be in Support.
- (c) The objective of the 7<sup>th</sup> A.I. Bde from the Railway line inclusive at V.11. a. 50.75, to P.36. a. 55.00. Boundaries are shown in yellow on maps issued to Units.
- (d) The attack will be carried out by.
  - (1) 26<sup>th</sup> Bn "A" Bn on the Right.
  - (2) 28<sup>th</sup> Bn "B" Bn in the Centre.
  - (3) 27<sup>th</sup> Bn "C" " on the Left.
  - (4) 25<sup>th</sup> Bn "D" " in Support.
- (e) At zero + 4 hours the 5<sup>th</sup> Aust. Division, 15<sup>th</sup> A.I. Bde on the Right and 8<sup>th</sup> A.I. Bde on the Left. will pass through the 2<sup>nd</sup> Aust Division and attack RED and BLUE lines.
- (f) Tanks will co-operate with the Infantry.

ACTION OF 7<sup>th</sup> A.L.T.M.B.(a) Preliminary

From zero to zero + 3, four mortars will open fire on selected targets as under:-

Two emplaced at P.31. d. 25.45 will fire on JAFFA TRENCH from approx. V.1. b. 90.80. to P.32. c. 30.40

Two emplaced at P.31. b. 85.45 will fire on Enemy Strong Point at P.32. b. 05.10.

(b) In Assault.

Eight mortars, four from P.31. d. 25.45. and four from P.31. b. 85.45. with Infantry carrying party of two per mortar will advance in rear of attacking Infantry.

These will be controlled as under:-

Nos 1, 2, 3, & 4. under LIEUT. G. J. RODGER with 26<sup>th</sup> Bn on the Right.

Nos 5 & 6 under CPL. W. J. RYAN. with 28<sup>th</sup> Bn in the Centre.

Nos 7 & 8. under SGT. M. McEVOR. with 27<sup>th</sup> Bn on the left.

(c) On Consolidation.

(1) On reaching the objective the four mortars under LIEUT. G. J. RODGER. will act as follows:-

Order N°24 (Cont)

## APPENDIX

Two mortars will be emplaced to cover approaches along road through V. 11. a. & b. North of Railway line and Railway Cutting at inter-section of Green line.

Two mortars will cover Railway Bridges at V. 4. d. 15.15 and V. 4. d. 60.00. On the capture of MARCELCAVE. being assured these latter two mortars. will move up to cover parts of the Green line in the same Psn sector.

(2) The two under CPL. RYAN. will be emplaced to cover in front of the Green line in the Centre Psn sector.

(3) The two under SGT. McEVoy. will be emplaced to cover exits from WARFUSEE. and to the front.

(d) Ammunition.

8 rounds will be carried forward with each mortar a carrying party from 25<sup>th</sup> Psn being provided for this purpose.

Additional ammunition will be brought up on tanks and dumped at the following locations:-

V. 5. c. 5. 5. CROSS-ROADS V. 5. a. 50.70. and P. 35. d. 50.60.

DRESS, ETC.

Battle Order with 100 rounds S.A.A. and two bombs per man.

Men will carry 48 hours rations and two water bottles each.

3.

Headquarters.

For the operation Battery Headquarters will be in trench at O. 36. d. 80.75. and at zero + 90 H.Q. will move forward to a position to be selected in the vicinity of V. 4. b. 2.0.

4.

Synchronisation.

Watches will be synchronised at 10 hours and 4 hours before zero, with Brigade H.Q. but will not be synchronised over the phone.

August. 7<sup>th</sup> 1918

F. Brand, Capt.  
OC. 7<sup>th</sup> A.L.T.M. Bty.

7<sup>th</sup> Aust Light Trench Mortar Battery

APPENDIX 3

To H.Q. 7<sup>th</sup> A.I. Bde

Report on Operation on 8<sup>th</sup> August 1918.

Preliminary Mortars were emplaced as under:-

Two at P. 31. d. 30. 45. fired from zero to zero + 3 minutes on JAFFA TRENCH from approx V. 1. b. 90. 70. to P. 32. c. 40. 40. expending 60 rounds

Two at P. 31. b. 85. 40 fired on Strong Point at P. 32. b. 00. 15 from zero to zero + 3.

In Assault. Eight mortars went over in the assault and took with them 8 rounds per mortar (carried by 2 Infantrymen). The guns were carried by the crews.

Consolidation. On reaching Green line mortars were emplaced as under:-

Two at V. 5. c. 45. 50.

Two at V. 4. d. 50. 50.

Two at V. 5. b. 05. 90.

Two at P. 35. b. 75. 10.

It was found that it was rather a task on the men to have to carry their mortars such a long distance.

Everything passed off splendidly and, as always with the men of this Unit I cannot speak too highly of their conduct.

Casualties

36 men and an officer went over with the waves as well as 26 men attached to us from 25<sup>th</sup> Bn and I am pleased to report that casualties were NIL.

In conclusion I would like to express my appreciation of the manner in which the platoon attached to us from the 25<sup>th</sup> Bn carried out the work it was asked to do.

F. Brand, Capt

OC. 7<sup>th</sup> A.L.T.M. Bty.

Aug. 8<sup>th</sup> 1918

7<sup>th</sup> Australian Light Trench Mortar Battery

APPENDIX 4

Order No 25Reference Map Sheet 62<sup>D</sup> SE. 1-20,000

Headquarters:

August 9<sup>th</sup> 1918

1. The 7<sup>th</sup> A. I. Bde in conjunction with the 5<sup>th</sup> A. I. Bde on the left and the 2<sup>nd</sup> A. I. Bde on the right will carry out an attack on the enemy's positions in front of the AMIENS LINE. - zero hour 4.30 P.M.

2. Action of 7<sup>th</sup> A. L. T. M. B.

The 7<sup>th</sup> A. L. T. M. B. will send over with the 25<sup>th</sup> Bn, two (2) mortars to co-operate, under instructions from the C.O. of that Bn.

Lieut W. L. MILLER will be in charge of the two (2) mortars, which will be carried forward as far as possible on a mule.

15 rounds per gun, also on mules will be taken forward at the same time.

On reaching the objective mortars will be emplaced as best suits the situation.

F. Brand, Capt.

OC 7<sup>th</sup> A. L. T. M. Bty.

August 9<sup>th</sup> 1918.

7<sup>th</sup> Australian Light Trench Mortar BatteryReport on Operation August 9<sup>th</sup> 1918

The 7<sup>th</sup> A. I. Bde with a two Battalion front, 25<sup>th</sup> on the Right and 27<sup>th</sup> on the Left attacked the enemy with the object of advancing their front, on the afternoon of 9<sup>th</sup> August 1918. at 4.30 PM.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> A. I. Bde were operating on our Right and the 5<sup>th</sup> A. I. Bde on our Left

Two mortars under Lieut W. L. MILLER were allotted to 25<sup>th</sup> Bde and advanced under the orders of the C. O. of that Bde.

Ammunition and mortars were carried forward as far as possible on mules, 15 rounds on each of two mules and the two mortars on one mule.

They were then picked up by an Infantry party and moved up to the objective where they were emplaced at X. 15. G. 50. 40. with 15 rounds per mortar. Later more ammunition was worked forward.

Before daylight next day two mortars were pushed up and emplaced with 27<sup>th</sup> Bde on the Left at X. 3. d. 50. 10.

The operation was successful and the conduct of the men taking part in it was all that could be desired.

There were no casualties.

August. 10<sup>th</sup> 1918.

F. Brand, Capt.  
OC. 7<sup>th</sup> A. L. T. M. Bty.

7<sup>th</sup> Australian Light Trench Mortar Battery **APPENDIX 6**

Order No 26

Headquarters

Reference Map Sheet 62<sup>d</sup> SE. 1-20,000

August 10<sup>th</sup> 1918

1. Intention.

On 11<sup>th</sup> August 1918, the 7<sup>th</sup> A. I. Bde with the 5<sup>th</sup> A. I. Bde on the left and the 3<sup>rd</sup> A. I. Bde on the Right, will advance its line to a North and South line from X.11.C.00. to X.5.A.0.0.

2. Formation for Attack.

The attack will be carried out by the 26<sup>th</sup> Bn. on the Right and the 28<sup>th</sup> Bn on the left, 25<sup>th</sup> Bn will be Right Support Bn, and 27<sup>th</sup> Bn the left Support Bn.

3. Zero hour

zero hour is 4.0.am.

4. Action of 7<sup>th</sup> A. L. T. M. Bty.

(a) Preliminary.

Two (2) mortars emplaced at X.16.a.7.3. will fire from zero to zero + 3 minutes on Copse at approx. X.16.b.8.2.

(b) In Assault.

Four (4) mortars will go forward with the assaulting Infantry as follows:-

Two (2) with 26<sup>th</sup> Bn on the Right under Lieut W. L. MILLER.

Two (2) with 28<sup>th</sup> Bn on the left under Cpl W. J. RYAN.

(c) Consolidation.

On reaching objectives, mortars will be emplaced to the best advantage on the new front.

(d) Carrying Parties.

(1) A Party of 12 men from 25<sup>th</sup> Bn has been allotted to the two (2) mortars on the Right under Lieut W. L. MILLER. These will report at Gun positions at X.16.a.7.3. at zero hour minus thirty (30) minutes.

(2) A second carrying party of 12 men

Order No 26 (cont)

## APPENDIX 6

from 27<sup>th</sup> Bn has been allotted to the two (2) mortars under Cpl W. J. RYAN. These men will be with Cpl Ryan at the jumping off line at X.10.a.6.7. at zero hour.

5. Synchronisation.

Watches will be synchronised with Bns making the assault two (2) hours before zero.

6. Headquarters.

For the operation Battery H.Q. will be established with 28<sup>th</sup> Bn at X.10.a.60.70.

August. 10<sup>th</sup> 1918.

F. Brand, Capt.  
OC. 7<sup>th</sup> A.L.T. M. Bty.

7<sup>th</sup> Australian Light Trench Mortar BatteryReport on Operation. 11<sup>th</sup> August. 1918

1. The 7<sup>th</sup> A.I. Bde with the 5<sup>th</sup> A.I. Bde on the left and the 3<sup>rd</sup> A.I. Bde on the Right carried out an operation on the enemy's lines on the morning of 11<sup>th</sup> August 1918. zero hour being 4.0. am.
2. The objective of the 7<sup>th</sup> A.I. Bde was a North and South line along the grid from X.11.C.00. to X.5.A.00.
3. The 7<sup>th</sup> A.L.T.M. B assisted as follows:-
  - (a) Preliminary.  
Two mortars emplaced at X.11.A.7.3 fired from zero to zero + 3 on COPSE. at approx X.16.B.8.2 - 50 rounds were fired.
  - (b) In Assault.  
Four mortars took part in the assault - two going over with the 26<sup>th</sup> Bn on the Right and two with 28<sup>th</sup> Bn on the left
  - (c) Consolidation.  
The two mortars with 28<sup>th</sup> Bn went forward and were emplaced at X.4.d.6.6. reaching there with 9 rounds per mortar. This was quickly increased (within half an hour) to 60 rounds per mortar.  
The other two mortars unfortunately got lost in the thick fog and did not get into position  
I would like to express my appreciation of the good work done by both carrying parties, one from 25<sup>th</sup> Bn and the other from 27<sup>th</sup> Bn  
In conclusion I would again like to say how pleased I was with the conduct of my own men

F. Brand, Capt.

OC 7<sup>th</sup> A.L.T.M. Bty.August. 12<sup>th</sup> 1918.



7<sup>th</sup> Australian Light Trench Mortar Battery

APPENDIX

8

Order No 27.

Reference Map Sheet 62<sup>D</sup> SE. 1:20,000 Headquarters  
August 11<sup>th</sup> 1918

1. The 6<sup>th</sup> A. I. Bde will relieve the 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> A. I. Bdes on the night of 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> August 1918
2. The 6<sup>th</sup> A. L. T. M. B. will take over from the 7<sup>th</sup> A. L. T. M. B. the two mortars at present in the line
3. Guides will meet the relieving Unit at PIGEON HOUSE, HARBONNIERRES at 8. A.M.
4. On relief the 7<sup>th</sup> A. L. T. M. B. will return to bivouacs in vicinity of CRUCIFIX at W. H. d. 8. 7.

F. Brand, Capt.

OC. 7<sup>th</sup> A. L. T. M. B.

August 11<sup>th</sup> 1918

7<sup>th</sup> Aust. Light Trench Mortar Battery APPENDIX 9

Order No 28

Headquarters  
August 17<sup>th</sup> 1918

Reference Map Sheet 62<sup>D</sup> SE. 120.000.

1. The 7<sup>th</sup> A.I. Bde in Reserve, is being relieved on the night 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> August, 1918. by the 96<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade.
2. The 7<sup>th</sup> A.L.T.M. Bty is being relieved by the 96<sup>th</sup> L.T.M. Bty.
3. Q.M.S. will move under arrangements made by Capt. F.C. LITTLE, M.C. with Brigade Mobile Echelon at 3 PM.  
The eight mortars and all cooking utensils with the exception of two dishes will be moved at the same time. These parties will move by road.
4. The remainder of the Battery will embuss at W. 3.a.6.3. facing N.W. at 10.35 PM. for BUSSY.
5. Battle stores will not be handed over to relieving units.
6. On completion of move Battery Headquarters will be at Billet No 72 (near the church) BUSSY.

F. Brand, Capt.

OC. 7<sup>th</sup> A.L.T.M. Bty.

August 17<sup>th</sup> 1918.

app N<sup>o</sup> 107

7<sup>th</sup> Aust. Light Trench Mortar Battery

List of Casualties, 1<sup>st</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> August 1918.

DATE	N <sup>o</sup>	RANK	NAME	REMARKS
11. 8. 18.	3207.	CPL.	RYAN, W J.	WOUNDED. M.G. BULLET.
11. 8. 18.	1617.	PTE.	BARTLETT T.	WOUNDED. M.G. BULLET.
11. 8. 18.	4755	L.CPL. (acting CPL)	ROBERTS, R. MM.	MISSING.
11. 8. 18.	1685	PTE.	RIDLEY, W D. MM (att'd from 28 <sup>th</sup> Batty)	MISSING.
17. 8. 18.	5954	PTE.	JAMESON, A V. (att'd from 26 <sup>th</sup> Batty)	WOUNDED. SHELL FIRE.
In the Field. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sept 1918.				L Brand, Capt. O/c 7 <sup>th</sup> ALTM B

7<sup>th</sup> Aust. Light Trench Mortar Battery

CAPTURED MACHINE GUNS, TRENCH MORTARS AND STORES (OTHER THAN GUNS, HOWITZERS, ETC)

112

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.
DESCRIPTION OF STORES.	REGISTERED N <sup>o</sup> . (IF ANY.)	MARKINGS ON STORES (IF ANY)	BY WHOM CLAIMED	PARTICULARS OF DESPATCH TO BASE			REMARKS.	REFERENCE OF RETURN, FIRST REPORTING CAPTURE
				RAILHEAD	DATE	TRUCK N <sup>o</sup> .		
ONE (1) GERMAN HEAVY MACHINE GUN.	6543.	6543. a. D. W. 06.	7 <sup>th</sup> Aust. L. T. M. Battery	Kirkpatrick, W.O.	2 <sup>nd</sup> D.A.D.O.S.	Australian Corps, 12/8/18.		TM 94. of Aug. 16 <sup>th</sup> 1918.
FLARE PISTOL.	N <sup>o</sup> 3924.	DAPAG 3924.	Do.					} TM 94. of } Aug. 16 <sup>th</sup> 1918.
PERESCOPE	N <sup>o</sup> 4642.	SF.09. N <sup>o</sup> 4642.	Do.					

In the Field  
August 1918.

F Brand, Capt.  
of 7<sup>th</sup> ALTMB

APPENDIX

app. No. 11  
18

4<sup>th</sup> Aust. Light Trench Mortar Battery, app. 12. 19

115

Order No. 29

26<sup>th</sup> August 1918

APPENDIX 12

Reference Map: Sheets 625 and 620. 1/40,000.

1. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Aust. Div. less Artillery, will relieve the 1<sup>st</sup> Aust. Div. less Artillery in "C" Division sector and area on the night 26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> August 1918.

2. The forward Div. boundaries will be:  
On the North. The Somme Canal inclusive to 2<sup>nd</sup> Aust. Division

On the South. The Grid line East & West between Squares R12 and 18.

3(a) The 6<sup>th</sup> A/Bae will take over the Div. front on the night 26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> August 1918.

(b) The 5<sup>th</sup> A/Bae will move into Support Brigade area, squares Q12 & 18, R17 & 13, on the night 26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> August 1918.

(c) The 7<sup>th</sup> A/Bae Group will move by bus to the Reserve Brigade area, on the night 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> August 1918.

4(a) The 7<sup>th</sup> ALTMB will embus at 6.3 pm, Lieut. Miller reporting to Lieut. Dowling, Embussing Officer, at the embussing point at NSd 70 at 5.30 pm.

(b) Debussing point, head of column at Q2066-4.

5. The Battery will move to bivouacs in the bank at Q21 a 7-1.

6. Cpl. Quinn and one other will report to Lieut. G. Harry at Debussing point Q2066-4 at 11.0 am, 27<sup>th</sup> instant, and will meet the Battery on its arrival at debussing point and will guide it to billets.

#### 7. Administrative

(a) Tents. The tents in possession of the Battery will be returned to the Area Commandant and receipts obtained.

(b) Baggage. Packs and blankets will be collected, together with officers' valises and all spare gear and will be sent to the Pack store in La Neuville (near Corbie) by 12 noon, 27<sup>th</sup> instant. Two lumberers will

PTO

Report at Pelt's Store at 9.30 am for this purpose  
 Pte Benton will be pack guard.

(c) Ammunition. Before moving off men will be equipped with 100 rounds SAA and 2 bombs per man.

(d) Pack Horses. 12 packhorses have been allotted to the Battery for carrying guns and ammunition and will move with Mobile Echelon.

(e) Guns. Four mules will report to Pelt's Store at 1.0 pm. These will be loaded with guns and will move with Mobile Echelon.

(f) Pelt's Store. A half lumber has been allotted to us for moving the Pelt's gear and will report at his store at 1.0 pm.

(g) Handcarts. Eight handcarts are being sent to the Pack Store. The remaining two will move with Pelt by road and will carry Cooks' gear.

8. Billets. Billets will be left in a clean & sanitary condition and a certificate to this effect obtained from the Town Akaji.

9. Headquarters. Brigade Headquarters will close at Bussey at 7.30 pm, 27<sup>th</sup> instant, and open at the same hour at Aborcourt, Q16a 55-05.

F. Brand, Capt.  
 O/c 7<sup>th</sup> ALTM Battery

In the Field.

26<sup>th</sup> August 1918.

115<sup>th</sup> Aust. Light Trench Mortar BatteryAmendment to Order No. 29 27<sup>th</sup> Aug. 1918.

1. Owing to the rapid advance of the front line certain alterations will be made in the move of the 7<sup>th</sup> A I Bde Group to the Forward Area today.
2. The 7<sup>th</sup> ALTMB will embuss at the same point and time as laid down before, but debussing point will be Cross Roads in G ex B, where Battery will be met by guides.
3. Billets will be taken over from the 5<sup>th</sup> ALTMB at R7d 7-7 (approx).
4. Cpl Quinn will meet Lieut. Harry at 5<sup>th</sup> A I Bde HQ at R7d 4-5, 27<sup>th</sup> August 1918 at 11 am, and will arrange to guide the Battery to its billets.
5. Brigade HQ will open at R7d 4-5 at 7.30 pm, 27<sup>th</sup> Aug. 1918.

In the Field.

27<sup>th</sup> August 1918.

F. Brand Capt.

C/O 7<sup>th</sup> ALTMB

7<sup>th</sup> Aust. Light Trench Mortar Battery

Order No. 30.

28<sup>th</sup> August 18

Reference Map, Sheets 62<sup>0</sup> & 62<sup>c</sup>, 1:40,000.

1. The 7<sup>th</sup> AI Brigade group will move up into positions vacated by 5<sup>th</sup> AI Bde.
2. The 7<sup>th</sup> ALTMB will take over the positions vacated by the 5<sup>th</sup> ALTMB at approx L34 d 8-8.
3. Brigade HQ will open at L34 Central at 4.30pm.
4. Above for all other units will be completed by 5pm.

In the Field,

F. Brand, Capt.  
op/c 7<sup>th</sup> ALTMB

28<sup>th</sup> August 1918.



1st Aust. Light Trench Mortar Battery **APPENDIX 15**

Order No. 31

28th August 1918.

Reference Map, Sheet 62 c. 1-40,000.

1. (a) The 2nd Aust. Division will advance the line to the River Somme tomorrow morning, 29th August 1918, with the object of covering the crossings.

The 7th A.I. Brigade will attack on the right, and the 5th A.I. Brigade on the left (19th Battalion).

The right boundary of the Brigade will be the Divisional boundary between squares M12 + M18.

The left Brigade boundary will be an East + West grid line between squares H19 + H25.

The 8th A.I. Bde will be on the right of this Brigade and is continuing its advance to the Somme.

(b) The 26th, 28th, and 27th Battalions will pass through the 6th A.I. Brigade's front line at 7.30 am. The 6th A.I. Bde intend to capture and occupy the general line along the enemy trench system running North + South through H26 + H32, including HERBECOURT, N2, N7b + c, tonight, 28th - 29th August 1918.

The 8th A.I. Brigade intend to capture ASSEVILLERS tonight.

2. The attack will be made by three (3) Battalions in line, - 26th Batta on the right, 28th Batta in the Centre and the 27th Batta on the left, with the 25th Battalion in Reserve.

Inter Battalion boundaries will be -

115<sup>v</sup>

Between 26<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> Battns an East & West line drawn through Cross Roads at H200-6, passing south of FLAUCOURT  
Between 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> Battalions, an East & West line through H32 Central, passing North of FLAUCOURT.

3. (a) French mortars will be attached to Battalions as under:-

- Two under Lieut. Stewart to 27<sup>th</sup> Battn.
- Two under Sgt. Powell to 26<sup>th</sup> Battn.
- Two under Cpl Quinn to 28<sup>th</sup> Battn.

Those in charge of these subsections will report in good time to the C.Os of their respective Battalions and will come under their orders.

Three mules will accompany each party, carrying 2 mortars and 15 rounds per mortar.

(b) The remaining two mortars will be held in Reserve at Battery HQ. Mules are also available for these.

4. Battery HQ for the commencement of operations will be at G30 a 1-0.

5. Brigade HQ will be established at G30 a 1-0 at 6.30 am.

F. Brand: Capt.  
O/c 7<sup>th</sup> ALTMB.

In the Field.  
28<sup>th</sup> August 1918.

115  
7. Aust. Light Trench Mortar Battery.

Reference Maps: Sheets 62° NW + 62° SW  
1 - 20,000.

30th August 1918.

Report on Operations, 29th August 1918.

On 29th instant the 2nd Aust. Div. continued its advance, its objective being the River Somme, near PERONNE.

The Northern Boundary of the Division was the River Somme and its Southern Boundary, the Grid Line East + West Line between M10 and M16, M11 + M17, etc.

The attack was carried out by the 5th A/Bde on the north and the 7th A/Bde on the south. The Boundary between 5th and 7th A/Bdes is an East + West line between H19 and 25, 20 and 26, etc.

The 5th A/Bde is operating on the Right of the 7th A/Bde.

For the operation mortars were attached and came under the orders of Attacking Battalions, as under:-

Two under SGT. POWELL to the 26th Bathn on the Right.

Two under CPL. QUINN to the 28th Bathn in the Centre.

Two under LIEUT. STEWART to the 27th Bathn on the Left.

The remaining two mortars were held in reserve at Battery Headquarters which were established at G30a 1-0, for the operation.

These subsections were attached to Battalions in time to move off with them and thenceforth came under the orders of the Battalions to which they were attached. Here hour was 7.30 am.

In all instances mortars and amm. were taken forward on mules, - two guns to a mule, and 15 rounds per mule.

All crews reached their objectives with the Batters, but those under Lieut. Stewart were unfortunate in having two casualties, and also a mule knocked.

This made it necessary to carry the two guns a distance of 5000 yards. In spite of this the crews got into position in good time.

Mortars reached their objectives with all their ammunition, namely, 15 rounds per gun, and later in the day a further 20 rounds per mortar was worked on to the guns.

Battery HQ were moved forward and at 12 noon were established in FLAUCOURT at H4 20-5.

Casualties

Killed	1	Other Rank.
Wounded	1	Other Rank.

30th August 1918.

F. Brand, Capt.  
of 7th ALTMB.

4<sup>th</sup> Aust. Light Trench Mortar Battery  
115 Order N<sup>o</sup>. 32  
Reference Map, Sheets 62<sup>c</sup> NW + SW, 1-20,000.

app. 17 27

APPENDIX 17

29<sup>th</sup> August 1918

1. On the morning of 30<sup>th</sup> August 1918 the village of DOINOT and the trench system S.W. of this village will be captured by the 7<sup>th</sup> AIBde. The trench system includes trenches in squares 010 b+d, 011, 04 b+d, 05, 06 a+c and 035 and the village of DOINOT.
2. The 26<sup>th</sup> Batta will cross by foot bridges constructed by the 7<sup>th</sup> Field Coy Aust Engrs at 5 am or before if possible the Canal + Soume River.  
The 28<sup>th</sup> Batta will follow closely the 26<sup>th</sup> Batta and take over the defence of the trench system south of a line running East + West between I35 + O5.  
The 27<sup>th</sup> Batta will extend its Right flank holding the West bank of the Canal within the Brigade boundary by posts, covering crossings, Bridges, etc.  
The 25<sup>th</sup> Batta will be in Reserve in present positions in vicinity of N6.
3. Trench Mortars will remain as at present.

F Brand, Capt.  
ofc 7<sup>th</sup> A L T M B.

In the Field.

29<sup>th</sup> August 1918.

31<sup>st</sup> August 1918.

Order No. 33.

Reference Map: Sheet 62° SW, 1-20,000.

1. (a) The 5<sup>th</sup> A/Bde is taking up a position ST. DENIS in I22 b Central - Mt. St. QUENTIN and FEUILLACOURT, with the intention of pushing forward to I24 Central.
- (b) The 6<sup>th</sup> A/Bde is proceeding to clear up the situation in I14, I20 and I26.
- (c) The 14<sup>th</sup> A/Bde is to seize the high ground in I35, O5, and O11.
2. The 7<sup>th</sup> A/Bde group will move to Squares I17 and I13 today.
3. The 7<sup>th</sup> ALTMB will move to a position in I7a.
4. The 25<sup>th</sup> + 27<sup>th</sup> Batteries will cross the Somme at the Bridge at OMMIECOURT-LES-CLERY. The remainder of the Brigade group will cross the Somme River at FEUILLEURES. All Transport of the Brigade group will cross at FEUILLEURES. The 14<sup>th</sup> A/Bde will cross the River at OMMIECOURT-LES-CLERY. The 6<sup>th</sup> A/Bde will cross the River at FEUILLEURES.
5. The 7<sup>th</sup> A/Bde will not cross the river until the 6<sup>th</sup> + 14<sup>th</sup> A/Bdes have crossed.
6. The 7<sup>th</sup> ALTMB will cross the River at FEUILLEURES at 3.45 pm, moving off from present location in FLACOURT at 2.15 pm.
7. Brigade Forward Station will be established at H1267-3.

In the Field

31<sup>st</sup> August 1918.

F. Brand, Capt.

O/c 7<sup>th</sup> A.L.T.M.B.

app. N<sup>o</sup>: 19<sup>E</sup>

14<sup>th</sup>. Aust. Light Trench Mortar Battery.

List of casualties, 18<sup>th</sup>. to 31<sup>st</sup>. August 1918.

DATE	N <sup>o</sup> :	RANK.	NAME	REMARKS.
29. 8. 18.	5677	PTE.	WALTER W.C.G.	KILLED IN ACTION (SHELL)
29. 8. 18.	6280	PTE.	MARQUESS F.V. (taken from 26 <sup>th</sup> . Battery)	WOUNDED (SHELL)

In the Field.  
2<sup>nd</sup>. Sept 1918.

L. Brand, Capt.  
Op. 7<sup>th</sup>. AL TMB

Appendix

19

29