

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

Artillery

**Item number:** 13/110/8

**Title:** 6th Australian Medium Trench Mortar  
Battery

September 1918



AWM4-13/110/8

Original

War Diary

of

6<sup>th</sup> Aust Med T.M. Battery

A.I.F.

8TH AUSTRALIAN  
MEDIUM TRENCH  
MORTAR BATTERY.  
No. ....  
Date 30-9-18

138

Signature of Officer Compiling records

Prewer  
O.C. T.M. BATTERY

# WAR DIARY

or

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

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.

6TH AUSTRALIAN  
MEDIUM TRENCH  
MORTAR BATTERY.

No. ....

Date 30-9-18

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| Place                       | Date                      | Hour            | Summary of Events and Information  | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Field                       | 13 <sup>th</sup> Aug 1918 |                 | <p>A position for the Light Mortar was had been located at the previous day and ammunition had been carried to the position. Owing to an advance of the Infantry this gun was out of range, so a fresh position was picked at and the gun carried forward. Whilst putting the finishing touches to the gun emplacement etc Lieut Gardner M.C. and Sgt McDonald were killed in the gun pit and Cpl Stapleton seriously wounded, this N.C.O. was being carried by two Gunners to A.D.S. but a hostile shell fell, killing Cpl Stapleton and Lvr Johnston also wounding Lvr Callaghan. During the earlier part of the day Cpl McClellan and Lvr Stallard were wounded whilst carrying ammunition. Battery Headquarters situated at (Sheet 62° H30 (b) Central) Weather wet.</p> |                                      |
| Sheet 62° H30<br>to Central |                           | 2 <sup>nd</sup> | <p>Burying party was sent to bring back the bodies of the men killed in the line the previous day and were buried at (Sheet 62° B20 (40.40)). Personnel and guns were withdrawn from the line to billets at Curlew (Sheet 62° H30 (b) Central) One O.R. to England on leave (Lvr Corner) Weather still wet.</p>  |                                      |
|                             |                           | 3 <sup>rd</sup> | <p>Parade at 10 A.M. Guns and equipment being cleaned. Weather fine.</p>   |                                      |
| Sheet 62° L27<br>61.5.      |                           | 4 <sup>th</sup> | <p>Received orders to move. Battery proceeded back to Bray (Sheet 62° L27 (1.5)) and established themselves in old Billets. Weather still fine.</p>  |                                      |

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| Place                                  | Date    | Hour | Summary of Events and Information   | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|--|---------|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Field                                  | 5-9-18  |      | Parade at 9-30 A.M. Light Minenwerfer Guns were returned to Gun Park. 1 N.C.O. to Paris on leave (Gnr McNally) Weather still fine.  |                                      |
| Slat 62 <sup>c</sup> G. 12<br>B 90-90. | 6-9-18  |      | Battery was attached to D.A.C. and moved forward to D.A.C. Headquarters situated at Heny (Slat 62 <sup>c</sup> G. 12 B 90. 90) Transport for guns, stores etc was supplied partly by D.A.C. and also by captured German wagons belonging to French Mortars. Arrived at destination at 11 p.M. |                                      |
|  | 7-9-18  |      | Parade at 10 A.M. Standing by waiting orders. Weather still fine. Strength of Bty. 4 Officers 15 N.C.O.'s 38 OR's   |                                      |
| Slat 62 <sup>c</sup> 130<br>B 90-30    | 8-9-18  |      | Proceeded with stores, guns etc through Demone to wood at (Slat 62 <sup>c</sup> 130 B 90. 30) North of Dingt. Vicinity bombed heavily during night. Weather still fine. 1 OR. to England on leave (Gnr Clarence).   |                                      |
|  | 9-9-18  |      | Still located in wood. Change in weather (squally and wet). 3 N.C.O.'s and 17 OR's reported to 2 <sup>nd</sup> Section 3 D.A.C. for duty. 1 OR. to England on leave (Gnr Burke)   |                                      |
|  | 10-9-18 |      | Parade at 9-30 A.M. Training of Reinforcements & Signallers occupying the day   |                                      |
|  | 11-9-18 |      | Parade at 9-30 A.M. 1 N.C.O. and 10 OR's reported to 2 <sup>nd</sup> Section 3 <sup>rd</sup> D.A.C. for duty. Squally weather continuing with at times heavy showers. Training of Reinforcements & Signallers taking up the remainder of the day  |                                      |
|  | 12-9-18 |      | Parade at 9-30 A.M. Training of Reinforcements & Signallers taking up the remainder of the day  |                                      |
|  | 13-9-18 |      | Parade at 9-30 A.M. Weather squally with light showers at intervals. Demonstration to Brigade Major with 6 <sup>th</sup> French Mortar. Training of Reinforcements & Signallers taking up the remainder of the day.   |                                      |

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## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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MORTAR BATTERY.

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No. ....  
Date 30-9-18

| Place  | Date    | Hour | Summary of Events and Information   | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|--------|---------|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Shield | 14-9-18 |      | Parade at 9-30 A.M. Vicinity bombed heavily during night, two Gothas being brought down. Weather fine. Strength of Battery 4 Officers 15 N.C.O.'s and 38 O.R.'s.  |                                      |
|        | 15-9-18 |      | Parade at 9-30 A.M. 1 Officer 1 N.C.O. and 1 O.R. left for 7th I.A. Brigade to be instructed in Artillery work, gunnery etc. 7 N.C.O.'s and 14 O.R.'s proceeded to 8th I.A. Brigade to be instructed in Artillery work, gunnery etc. Two O.R.'s taken on strength of Battery (Sms Barnett and Borland) from 3rd D.A.C. Weather still fine.  |                                      |
|        | 16-9-18 |      | Parade at 9-30 A.M. Training on the 6 <sup>in</sup> French Mortar took up the remainder of the day. 1 N.C.O. from Paris leave (Sgt Mc Nally) Weather still fine.  |                                      |
|        | 17-9-18 |      | Parade at 9-30 A.M. Training on the 6 <sup>in</sup> French Mortar taking up the remainder of the day. (Signaller) 1 N.C.O. and 5 O.R.'s reported to D.A.H.Q. for instruction in signalling. 1 O.R. reported to D.A.C. Headquarters as runner. Rained heavily during the night, but fine during the day.   |                                      |
|        | 18-9-18 |      | Parade at 9-30 A.M. Instruction etc on the 6 <sup>in</sup> French Mortar taking up the remainder of the day. Rained during the night, but fine during the day.  |                                      |
|        | 19-9-18 |      | Parade at 9-30 A.M. Instruction etc on the 6 <sup>in</sup> French Mortar. Demonstration shoot with 6 <sup>in</sup> French Mortar using Dummy rounds, both saper and mobile bed being used. The C.R.A. was present to see the shoot, which took place at 5 p.m. 1 O.R. returned from English leave (Sms Comer) taken on strength from A.G.S.D. 1 O.R. (Sms Fletcher) 1 N.C.O. evacuated to Hospital sick (Sgt Mc Nally J.W.) |                                      |

2449 Wt. W14957/M90 750,000 1/16 J.B.C. &amp; A. Forms/C.2118/12.

O.C. T.M. BATTERY.

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# WAR DIARY

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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MEDIUM TRENCH  
MORTAR BATTERY.

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Date 30-9-18

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| Place      | Date    | Hour | Summary of Events and Information   | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|------------|---------|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Field      | 20-9-18 |      | Parade at 9-30 A.M. Instructional drill with 6" Trench Mortar. Shoot with 6" T.M. using Noble bed and Dummy rounds at 5 p.M. Weather fine.  |                                      |
|            | 21-9-18 |      | Parade at 9-30 A.M. Instructional drill with 6" Trench Mortar taking up the remainder of the day. Weather squally with showers at intervals. Strength of Battery 3 Officers 14 N.C.O.s and 40 OR.s.   |                                      |
|            | 22-9-18 |      | Parade at 10-30 A.M. Weather fine during the first half of the day, but rained during the latter half.  |                                      |
|            | 23-9-18 |      | Parade at 10-30 A.M. and at 2 p.M. Returned German Wagons to D.P.D.O.S. Weather cloudy.   |                                      |
|            | 24-9-18 |      | Parade at 9-30 A.M. Weather fine during the day but rained a little during the night.   |                                      |
|            | 25-9-18 |      | Parade at 9-30 A.M. Weather fine. Training of Reinforcements Signaller occupying the day.   |                                      |
|            | 26-9-18 |      | Parade at 9-30 A.M. Weather still fine. Training of Reinforcements Signaller occupying the day.   |                                      |
|            | 27-9-18 |      | Parade at 9-30 A.M. All Offs. N.C.O.s and OR.s were withdrawn from 7th and 8th Field Artillery Brigades. Rained a little during the night but was fine during the day.  |                                      |
| E21d 10.80 | 28-9-18 |      | Parade at 8-30 A.M. Battery moved forward to (E21d 10.80) - Arrived at destination about 2 p.M. Here billeted in old tin huts etc. Standing by awaiting orders. Weather fine.   |                                      |
|            | 29-9-18 |      | Parade at 7-30 A.M. 3 Offs 8 N.C.O.s and 30 OR.s proceeded up the line with the intention of manning captured enemy guns. When within about a hundred yards of our own front line a hostile shell fell amongst them killing Cpl James. Eric Fletcher & Nectonway also wounding Capt Sheehan Pts. byke Pdr Barnes and Eric Ingham, Mercer, Hurst and Scott. Weather squally. |                                      |

2449 Wt. W14957/M90 750,000 1/16 J.B.C. & A. Forms/C.2118/12.

*[Signature]*  
O.C. T.M. BATTERY.

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WAR DIARY

— or —  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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6TH AUSTRALIAN  
MEDIUM TRENCH  
MORTAR BATTERY.

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No. ....

Date 30-9-18

Remarks and  
references to  
Appendices

| Place                         | Date           | Hour | Summary of Events and Information   | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|-------------------------------|----------------|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| <p>Field<br/>(F16C 70.20)</p> | <p>30-9-18</p> |      | <p>Parade at 2 p. M. Burial party proceeded to line to bury the men killed the previous day.<br/>New buried at (F16C 70.20) by Captain Stokes. 3<sup>rd</sup> Asst Pioneers.</p> <p>Throughout the month the health of Battery has been excellent, although suffering very heavily as regards casualties, the moral is still high. During the month no trench-mortar work has been carried out, the personnel during most of the time being away attached to Field Batteries, where they gave satisfaction in every respect. The Reinforcements received are of good stamp &amp; keen. <del>and</del> Clothing &amp; equipment in A1 order.</p> |                                      |

*[Signature]*  
O.G. T.M. BATTERY

6TH AUSTRALIAN  
MEDIUM TRENCH  
MORTAR BATTERY.

No. ....  
Date 30-9-18

*Original*

List of Appendices

- 1 Honours and Awards
- 2 Casualties
- 3 Taken on Strength.
- 4 Struck off Strength.
- 5 Promotions.

*Chewell*  
OC. T.M. BATTERY.



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Honours and Awards

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| 6TH AUSTRALIAN<br>MEDIUM TRENCH<br>MORTAR BATTERY. |        |
| No.  | .....  |
| Date.  | 3-9-18 |

"No 22286 Sgt. J. Sylvane 6th A.M. T.M. Battery awarded the Military Medal. For devotion to duty, courage, and initiative in the advance east of HAMEL. 8th August 1918 - in the initial attack kept mortars firing under heavy enemy shrapnel and later in day dealing with enemy strong points."

*J. Hewitt*  
 O.C. T.M. BATTERY.

6TH AUSTRALIAN  
MEDIUM TRENCH  
MORTAR BATTERY.

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No. ....  
Date 30-9-18.

2 Casualties

|                           |                  |         |
|---------------------------|------------------|---------|
| Lieut Gordinos J. (M.C.)  | Killed in action | 1-9-18  |
| 22528 Sgt McDonald J.F.S. | " "              | 1-9-18  |
| 478 Cpl Stapleton G.F.    | " "              | 1-9-18  |
| 19484 Gnr Johnston L.R.   | " "              | 1-9-18  |
| 22948 Cpl McAlpin W.M.    | G.S.W. Leg       | 1-9-18  |
| 32750 Gnr Stallard E.     | G.S.W. Face      | 1-9-18  |
| 19255 " Callaghan J.G.    | "                | 1-9-18  |
| 27985 Cpl James A.        | Killed in Action | 29-9-18 |
| 12659 Gnr Alister N.H.    | " "              | 29-9-18 |
| 35335 " Westmore E.       | " "              | 29-9-18 |
| 28977 Cpl Shuckler P.     | G.S.W. Right Arm | 29-9-18 |
| 229 Pdr Barnes G.E.       | " Back & Side    | 29-9-18 |
| 77 Pdr Dyke A.L.          | " Neck & Side    | 29-9-18 |
| 21112 Gnr Anguilar R.H.   | " Arms & Back    | 29-9-18 |
| 22527 " Moore G.W.        | " Stomach & Leg  | 29-9-18 |
| 37601 " Hurst L.          | " Head           | 29-9-18 |
| 1103 " Scott A.M.         | " Arm Hand & Leg | 29-9-18 |

*Premier*  
O.C. T.M. BATTERY.

APPENDIX 2



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3 Taken On Strength

6TH AUSTRALIAN  
MEDIUM TRENCH  
MORTAR BATTERY.

No. ....  
Date 30-9-18

|          |                |               |         |
|----------|----------------|---------------|---------|
| No 25415 | Sm Boland G.A. | from 3 D. AC. | 14-9-18 |
| " 38945  | " Bennett A.L. | " "           | 14-9-18 |
| " 18659  | " Metcher N.H. | " A.G.B.D.    | 17-9-18 |
| " 1103   | " Scott H.M.   | " "           | 23-9-18 |

*Heuvel*  
O.C. T.M. BATTERY.

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5. Promotions

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| 6TH AUSTRALIAN<br>MEDIUM TRENCH<br>MORTAR BATTERY. |         |
| No.  | .....   |
| Date   | 30-9-18 |

No 77 Sgts Byke H.L. to be sub Bdr to complete establishment to date from - 30-8-18

No 223 Bdr Andersons A.P.N. to be sub Cpl vice Cpl Stapleton killed in action. to date from - 1-9-18

22958 Srs Cpl Bdr Richards W.R. to be Bdr vice Bdr Andersons promoted to date from - 1-9-18

*Shewell*  
O.C. T.M. BATTERY.

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3rd Aust Div French Mortars

6-9-18

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Movement Order

Batteries are to be ready to move  
off at 5 p.m. today 6th inst, and join D.A.C  
H.Q. situated between CURLE and HEM.  
G. 12 N 90-90.

All stores to be taken

(Sgd) J. Maxwell Lt.

for D.J.M.D 3rd Aust Div

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3<sup>rd</sup> Aust Division Ind. MortarsField 7<sup>th</sup> Sept 1918

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Movement Orders

3<sup>rd</sup> Divisional T.M.F. will move with 3<sup>rd</sup> Div  
 D.A.C. to area 130, route - Clerf - Penone, & thence.  
 Starting point will be sheet 62. Hq A57.  
 Time for passing starting point 11.30 AM.

(Sgt) J. Stenell Lt

of B.L. No. 8 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Aust Div

3rd Aust Division

Field 27th Sep 1918

Movement Order

Batteries will move to (E 21 C 20.50)

Tomorrow 28th Sep 18.

Officers Commanding Batteries will move their batteries independently.

Transport 1 C.S. Wagon and 2 C.S. Lumbered Wagons will be at the disposal of each battery for the move.

Battery Commanders will arrange for an Officer per battery to move with first party and arrange allotment of bivouacs.

(Sgd) R. Roy Campbell Capt

D. J. M. B. 3rd Aust Division



28-9-18

To

O.C. 6<sup>th</sup>/AMTMB.

Batteries are to hold themselves  
in readiness to move to the vicinity of F22  
on 29<sup>th</sup> inst.

All surplus kits and 6<sup>in</sup> Mortars  
are to be parked under a guard at E 21 d 10-80.

Officers Commanding Batteries will  
make necessary arrangements as regards for  
guard.

(Sgd) A Roy Campbell Capt

D.I. 16. 8<sup>th</sup> Aust Division



3<sup>rd</sup> Aust Div French MortarsField28<sup>th</sup> Sept 1918Operation Order No 71Intentions.

The enemies position on the HINDENBURG LINE is to be attacked by the Australian Corps, with the object of effecting a "break through".

3<sup>rd</sup> day and hour will be communicated later.

The 27<sup>th</sup> AMERICAN division is to attack on the left divisional front.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> AUSTRALIAN division is to pass through the 27<sup>th</sup> AMERICAN division to seize the RED LINE.

French

Mortars are to follow up behind the 30<sup>th</sup> AMERICAN division to locate and form a guard over captured enemy field guns.

They will also use the guns in engaging enemy targets if the Officers in charge is certain that the firing will be with safety to our own troops. This must not be fired.

(Sgd) R Roy Campbell CaptD. J. M. O. 3<sup>rd</sup> Aust Division