

AWM4

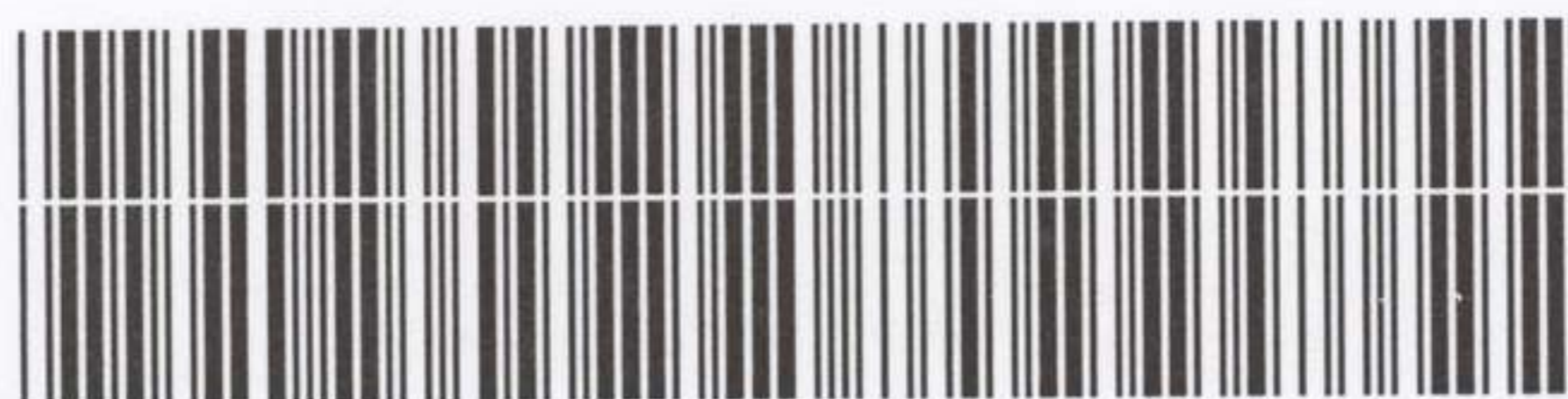
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War**

Artillery

Item number: 13/111/7

Title: 7th Australian Medium Trench Mortar
Battery

August 1918



AWM4-13/111/7

18,000-12/1 -8723

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
DUPLICATE.
TRIPLICATE.

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF
7th A.M. T.M. B.C.
~~AUGUST~~

FOR

AUGUST 1918

Signature of Officer compiling W. G. Manbarr

Signature of Officer Commanding W. G. Manbarr

7th A.M. T.M. B.L.

WAR DIARY

August, 1918.

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VILLERS BRETONNEUX. 036d 30.77 62 ^d . 1/40,000	1/8/18		27 Rounds fired on Basiliade Alley U11d 01.45 to U11d 65.90 7 Rounds on enemy post at U5d 44. 35 Rounds on ^{MGs at} CRUCIFIX at U6c.50.25. 25 Rounds on CRAFT TRENCH, U11b.10.90 to U5d 40.20.	WF
	2/8/18		30 Rounds fired on Sunken road U5d 01.35 to U5d 60.20 30 Rounds on Basiliade Alley U11d 01.45 to U12c 20.99 30 Rounds on cross roads at CRUCIFIX U6c 45.25. 21 Rounds on enemy works at U6d 35.25 27 Rounds on cross roads at U6c 20.25. Some of these rounds fell short owing to defective charges. 13 Rounds on M.G. at V1d 50.40 3 Rounds for registration.	WF
RENNEN-COURT	3/8/18		Relieved by 2 nd Aust. Div. Truck Mortars. Battery returned to D.T.M.O.'s H.Q. at N24 820.70 and thence by motor lorries to RENNENCOURT (near AMIENS).	WF
	4-9		Battery remained in rest. Parade carried out as follows:- 9-9.30 Physical training 10-12.0 Gun drill, foot drill, rifle drill, etc. 2-3.0 do do	WF

D. D. & L., London, E.C.
(A10266) Wt W5300/P713 750,000 2/18 Sch. 52 Forms/C2118/16.

7th A. M. T. M. R.

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DAOURS	7/8/18		<p>Battery moved to DAOURS, 4 g.s. wagons from 4th Dal. conveying guns, beds & kits of personnel. Transport train for personnel being unobtainable the men were told off in small parties of 4 & 5, each party in charge of an N.C.O., so as to enable them to take advantage of any chance transport en route. All reported at DAOURS in the afternoon. g.s. wagons dropped kits at DAOURS and mortars & beds were carried on to VAIRE where they were dumped under a guard of 1 N.C.O. & 3 O.R. Main personnel of battery remained at DAOURS for the night.</p>	W.P.
	8/8/18		<p>The Guard Corps attacked in the early morning on a line from the Somme south across the front of HAMEL to the VILLERS BRETONNEUX road. All objectives were taken to time. At 8 am. the D.T.M.O., the O.C. 7th Bty. and 7 O.R. went forward to reconnoitre positions for mortars in the new line. Positions were selected at Q 18 a 5.2, Q 18 a 4.2, Q 24 d 75.80, Q 24 d 8.6, R 19 a 35.75, R 19 a 35.90 (Fran's 62nd SE. 1/40,000).</p>	W.P. N

7th A. M. T. M. Regt.

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Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
62 ^D 20000 Q1809075	8/8/18		Personnel of the battery were marched up by Le Chaloues to a point at Q23 a 8.6, previously agreed on where guides met them and brought them up to new battery positions. B.L.G. now established at Q18090.75 (62 ^D S.E. 20000) mortars, beds & ammunition were brought up in f.s. wagons by the J.R. Forrest. By 10 p.m. four of the mortars were in action, and the remaining two in action by 6 a.m. the following morning.	W.F.
	9/9/18		All guns registered by ⁱⁿ action. Two O.P. wounded.	W.F.
	10/8/18		Orders received to hand over to 3 rd Aust. Div. T.M's. Relief completed by midnight & personnel of 7 th Regt. marched to billets at VAIRE.	W.F.
VAIRE	11/8/18	12/13	Mortars and sub-beds taken over at VAIRE from 3 rd Div. T.M's, in place of those handed over in the line. 2 Lt's J.R. Forrest & Burton and 18 O.P. acting under orders from D.T.M.O., marched to wood at on left of CHAPPELY and turned four captured 4.2 guns on the enemy. 300 shells, - gas, high explosive & shrap. fired into enemy's lines.	W.F.

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7th A.M.T.H. Regt.

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HARBONNIERES	14/8/18	ES	Battalion moved to HARBONNIERES, 3 f.s. wagons from 4 th D.A.C. carrying guns stores & equipment, personnel marching.	WP
(62 nd S.E. 1/20000)	15/8/18		Position for 4 mortars, selected in the line at A2c 95.10, A2c 95.20, A2c 97.40 A2c 99.55 (HATTENCOURT 1/20000)	WP
	15/8/18	17	Mts. Chalouet, Forest Thooon T 23 OR took up 4 mortars and to new positions.	WP
	18/8/18		Nos 1 & 3 guns registered with 11 rounds. Six rounds fired on ^{enemy works at} Polygon Wood A3b 10.90 and 4 rounds on M.G. emplacements at A9a 90.10. Observation very difficult owing to snipers.	WP
	19/8/18		Nos 2 & 4 guns registered. Ten rounds retaliation fire on MEIG WOOD A9a and 10 rounds on N.W. corner of POLYSON WOOD A3b. Enemy shelling fairly heavy - mostly 5.9 ^s & 7.2 ^s .	WP
	20/8/18		Harassing fire carried out as follows:- 10 rounds on A9c 50.50; 10 rounds on A3a 50.60; 10 rounds on S27 075.75; 5 rounds on P27d 30.40; 10 rounds on trenches in Polygon Wood Enemy trench mortars opened fire on our positions while we were engaged on these tasks. No. 3 gun at once engaged and silenced the enemy after 5 rounds.	WP

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7th A.M.T.M. Regs.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	20/8/18		Village of LIMONS was heavily shelled by the enemy, at 1.30 pm, for half an hour. Enemy aeroplanes, flying low, fired on our trenches with M.G.'s	WP
	21/8/18		Balance of personnel of battery + stores moved from HARBONNIERES to dugouts at X2529070. Fired 15 rounds at T.M. position A9a (MEIGWOOD)	WP
		5	" " T.M. " A3d 40.80	
		10	" " M.G. " A3c 80.85	
		5	" " T.M. " S27c 60.60	
		10	" " M.G. " A3a 45.50	
		15	" " M.G. " A3a 50.00	
			While observing these shoots Lt. J.R. Forrest spotted a Boche sniper and shot him	
			Fourteen rounds retaliation on T.M.'s at A3a 35.15 & A9a 50.80	
	22/8/18		Fired 20 rounds on railway cutting at A9c.	WP
		11	" " T.M. " at A3d 40.85	
		10	" " Trench in Poysson Wood A3b 10.15	
		10	" " M.G. " at A3c 45.85	
			While firing on the first of these targets an enemy T.M. retaliated. One of our unoccupied mortars at once engaged and silenced it in a few rounds.	

7th AMTMB

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	22/8/18		As 1712 apt. Ed Dundin killed + 29686 Pbr. A.P. Houdon wounded by enemy shell.	WF
	23/8/18		12 O.R. from camp at X 2529.7 relieved 12 O.R. at the guns. Fired 10 rounds on trenches at A9C 10.85	WF
		9	" MEIGWOOD A9a	
		2	" T.M. at A3d 40.88	
		10	" works at S27C 60.60	
	24/8/18		Capt. W. Pinder + 4Lt Barton relieved by Chalons Moore at the guns.	
			Fired 16 rounds on Railway cutting at A9c.	WF
		20	" M.G. - A3a 50.50	
		20	" M.G. A3a 50.00	
		15	" T.M. A9a	
		10	" Trench A9c 10.85	
		15	" T.M. A9a 90.80	
		16	" Trenches A3c 95.40	
		18	" T.M. A3a 40.85	
		10	" M.G. A3b 10.15.	
		15	" M.G. A3c 45.85.	
			On relief of 4th Aust Div by the 34 French Div. 7th Bty was withdrawn from the line. At 9 pm the mortars + beds were carried out of trenches to C.T. at A1d 60.50 where they were loaded onto 2 J.S. wagons (4th Dal) and conveyed to D.T.M.O. H.Q. at X 2529070. Unexpended	

7th A.M.T.M. Bty.

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X2529070 (62 nd SE 1/20000)	27/8/18		<p>Munition (100 rounds) carried out to same point and conveyed by J.S. wagons to G.P. Personnel marched to dugouts at X2529070</p> <p>Personnel with guns, store & equipment moved by motor lorries to LONGEAU via HARBONNIERES, BAYONVILLEAS and VILLEAS BRETONNEUX</p>	W.P. W.P.																																																																
LONGUEAUX	27/31		<p>Battery in training. as per syllabus attached.</p> <p>Weather throughout the month hot and dry.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Strength State</th> <th>Officers</th> <th>Other Ranks</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Aug. 1</td> <td>Total strength</td> <td>5</td> <td>52</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>From Hospital</td> <td></td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Aug. 8.</td> <td>do do</td> <td>5</td> <td>53</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Aug. 8/15</td> <td>Was wounded</td> <td></td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>From Hospital</td> <td></td> <td>50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Aug. 15</td> <td>do do</td> <td>5</td> <td>51</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Aug 17/22</td> <td>Was wounded</td> <td></td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Sick</td> <td></td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Aug. 22</td> <td>do do</td> <td>5</td> <td>47</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Was wounded</td> <td></td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>sick</td> <td></td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Died of Wounds</td> <td></td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Aug. 31</td> <td>do do</td> <td>5</td> <td>44</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>47</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Strength State		Officers	Other Ranks	Aug. 1	Total strength	5	52		From Hospital		1	Aug. 8.	do do	5	53	Aug. 8/15	Was wounded		3		From Hospital		50	Aug. 15	do do	5	51	Aug 17/22	Was wounded		2		Sick		2	Aug. 22	do do	5	47		Was wounded		1		sick		1		Died of Wounds		1	Aug. 31	do do	5	44				3				47	
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W.P. Main Capt. of 7th Aust Med I M Bty - 3

Fourth Australian Divisional Trench Mortars

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Syllabus of Training

Training Ground - AMIENS 17 - Fields under "L"
in LONGEAU.

DATE	HOUR	SUBJECT
1918 Aug. 29	7.15 am to 7.45 am 9.0 am to 10.30 am 10.30 am to 12 noon	Physical exercises - fatigue dress. Drill order parade. Foot drill, lecturette on discipline. Gun drill.
Aug. 30	7.15 am to 7.45 am 9.0 am to 10.30 am 10.30 am to 12 noon	Physical exercises. Drill order parade. Rifle drill - Guards + picquets - Foot drill. Gun drill.
Aug. 31	7.15 am to 7.45 am 9.0 am to 11.0 am 11.0 am to 12 noon	Physical exercises. Drill order parade. Route march. Cleaning guns, equipment, etc.
Sept. 1.		Church parade.
Sept. 2.	7.15 am to 7.45 am 9.0 am to 10.30 am 10.30 am to 12 noon	Physical exercises Drill order parade. Foot drill. Saluting and Gun drill.
Sept. 3.	7.15 am to 7.45 am 9.0 am to 10.30 am 10.30 am to 12 noon	Physical exercises Drill order parade. Guards + picquets - Rifle drill - Foot drill. Gun drill.
Sept. 4.	7.15 am to 7.45 am 9.0 am to 10.30 am 10.30 am to 12 noon	Physical exercises Drill order parade. Gun drill. Saluting drill - Guards + picquets - Foot drill.