

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

Artillery

Item number: 13/94/5

Title: V/Australian Corps Heavy Trench
Mortar Battery

June 1918



AWM4-13/94/5

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Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

V/ Australian Corps. H.T.M. Bty.

FOR

June 1918.

Signature of Officer compiling

W. Allen Capt.

Signature of Officer Commanding

W. Allen Capt.

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.

June 1918

1st Aust Corps 14th Bn Battery

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field	1st		2 officers & 12 O.R. visited Aberville leave granted from 1 pm till 8 pm. Whilst unloading ammunition from lorry at gun pit, one lorry was struck by 77mm shell & set on fire was soon extinguished by our men & was then taken in tow by other lorry.	
	2nd		MKIII Gun position completed & ready for action. Villers Bretonneaux visited.	
	3rd		Arrangements made for H.Q. at Querron MKIII gun & detachment sent forward to Villers Bretonneaux. N.C.O & 2 men went to Querron to take over H.Q. Fired 20 rounds from FI gun on buildings in vicinity of U6A 3540. Five direct hits & thirteen other effective shots on trenches & earthworks in monument ruins. Visited 6 Inf Bde H.Q. & Cardonelle. Made arrangements for relief at dump.	
	4th		Mark I Gun completed & gun registered. Fired 10 rounds on monument U6A 3540 for the purpose of registration. Enemy retaliated with 5.9".	very good
	5th		MK I gun fired 7 rounds on monument & buildings at U6A 3540. Owing to accident MKIII gun ceased firing.	5 direct hits
	6th		MK I gun owing to bed gunning way. 4 rounds from MK I & 1 round from MKIII direct hits. Both guns in action on monument & buildings U6A 3540. First salvo 2 direct hits. Crew had one casualty caused by friction igniting charge whilst the shell was being pushed home which resulted in No 73108 Sqn Anderson F.I. suffering severe injuries, by losing left arm & face burnt. Evacuated.	
	7th		15 rounds by MKIII gun on to Sunk railway & bridge at V1B 5060. Good direct hits observed. Grounds fired at stranded tank U5B 7040 (requested by Inftry) obtained direct hits & turned same side on. Enemy artillery very active searching for gun position. No damage done.	
	8th		10 very effective hits were obtained on bridge & Sunk railway. Enemy retaliated with 5.9".	
	9th		Asked by Inftry to blow up trees & hedge, a strong point, to give observation to rear of place. Successful. Shunt 4 shells in trees destroying same. One in enemy trench. Lewis machine gunners fired on enemy moving away & trench 75's put shrapnel in rear at same time.	
	10th		7 rounds fired into strong points U5B 90.50 & U6A 3540. All direct hits obtained. Shelling by enemy at frequent intervals into town & wood.	
	11th		Enemy searching for gun position. Hit on hill. No damage done. 12 rounds on monument & buildings U6A 4040. 8 direct hits obtained, four fell very close.	
	12th		Right sector relieved Centre without a casualty. Enemy caused fires in wood with incendiary shells.	
	13th		10 rounds were fired on trenches & machine gun emplacements in corner of wood U5B 8050. Several rounds fell in front line trenches, others on communication & other earthworks in this corner of wood.	
	14th		Bad shelling in area throughout the day by enemy 4.2 & 77mm. Fired 10 rounds during raid. Excellent shooting.	
	15th		Enemy fire with 5.9 & 77mm very active during night shelling Villers Bretonneaux, during day enemy shelled area & around P.7 & 8. Map shot by MK I gun.	
	16th		26 rounds fired on Railway V1A. Monument U6A & Tank U5B 7030. Direct hits obtained on objects. Switching 2° left a small dump of grenades was blown up.	

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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

1st Aust Corps Lt Col R. J. ...

June 1918

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<i>In the field</i>	<i>17th</i>		<i>8 rounds fired on Bridge. Below expectation owing to bed of gun giving way. Enemy shelling confined to P.D. 748</i>	
	<i>18th</i>		<i>10 rounds fired on Tank & Trenches. Good effective shooting & great damage resulted. One direct hit on Monument was also observed. Enemy shelled P. 748</i>	
	<i>19th</i>		<i>Enemy shelling Area P.D. 748 with 4.2" 45-9" HE. 3 rounds on P.S.D. 5010 Trenches & M.G. 5 rounds at P.S.D. 5030 on dugouts. Excellent shooting. 15 rounds on Bridge V.I.B. Very good & effective results.</i>	
	<i>20th</i>		<i>Enemy shelling with 4.2" Area shot P.D. 748 17 rounds on Monument U.6.A. Very good & effective shooting</i>	
	<i>21st</i>		<i>1 O.R. taken off strength. 8 rounds fired on M.G. position P.D. 5010 & dugout P.D. 5030. Effective shooting. Party of men commenced tunnelling.</i>	
	<i>22nd</i>		<i>Enemy shelling P. 748 & back areas. MK III gun fired 8 rounds on Cross road. P.S.D. 70.05 & M.G. positions at P.S.D. 5010. Good results.</i>	
	<i>23rd</i>		<i>Enemy shelling P. 748 & back areas. MK I & MK III fired 11 rounds on Monument U.6.A. & Bridge V.I.B. 7 direct hits on target. Enemy retaliated to this shoot. Enemy aeroplanes very active.</i>	
	<i>24th</i>		<i>Enemy artillery generally inactive in immediate surroundings. MK III gun fired 8 rounds on machine gun displacements P.S.D. 5010 & 900 & Trench Systems P.S.D. 4000. The former demolished.</i>	
	<i>25th</i>		<i>Enemy shelling greatly increased. Station at U.30C 3080 shelled with 5.9" Hostile aeroplanes very active. Two hostile machines brought down. Our H.Q. & Battery entertained by American Concert party. MK I & MK III guns fired 23 rounds on Bridge & Monument. Many direct hits observed.</i>	
	<i>26th</i>		<i>1 O.R. evacuated accidentally injured by 9.45" bomb falling on his land. 15 rounds fired by MK I & MK III guns on Monument U.6.A. 9 direct hits observed. 2nd half of Left Section relieved the first half. Three O.R. taken on strength.</i>	
	<i>27th</i>		<i>Capt. A. E. Wallis, M.C. representative of Aust Corps R.F. at demonstration of defence by field mines of 60 lb T.M. bombs. Hostile artillery active.</i>	
	<i>28th</i>		<i>Centre Section relieved Right Section MK I gun fired 9 rounds on two strongpoints viz. P.14.B. 70.20 & P.14.B. 65.25. Targets unobservable. 5 enemy 5.9" fell in front of MK III gun position.</i>	
	<i>29th</i>		<i>MK I gun fired 8 rounds on P.14.B. 70.20 to demolish same. Hostile aeroplane restricted shoot. Enemy shelling with 77mm. our communication trench, road & Battalion parcel.</i>	
	<i>30th</i>		<i>Enemy artillery generally quiet around gun position. 2 rounds fired by MK I gun on hostile crossroads P.S.D. 70.05. Direct hits observed.</i>	

W. J. ...
OC V.I.A. ...
H.T.M. ...