

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

Artillery

Item number: 13/94/7

Title: V/Australian Corps Heavy Trench
Mortar Battery

August 1918



AWM4-13/94/7

" V" / Aust Corp H T M Bty.

August 1918.

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.

~~DUPLICATE.~~

~~TRIPLICATE.~~

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

V/Avst Corps H.T.M. Battery

FOR

August 1918

Signature of Officer compiling

Fuller H.

Signature of Officer Commanding

Fuller H.

Confidential War Corps N.Y.M.C. of.

WAR DIARY

Vol. 7

Army Form C. 2118.

Original

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.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Page 1

August 1918.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
AUBIGNY 080 70 70	1-8-18		<p>Spa aqueduct now at Aubigny 080 70. Post camp at N. 160 50 65. Right Section N. 030 36 70 80. Left Section N. 030 36 70 80. A1 Gun (MKI) 030 36 70 80. A2 Gun (MKI) VIA 05 95. A3 (MKII) P 250 15 10. B1 MKII P 160 20 85. Right Section O.P. U. 5. d. 80 70. Guns in action at present A1. A3 & B1. 40% taken on strength. 30% reported back from leave. Total strength of battery 4 off 960%.</p> <p>A1 Gun fired 6 rounds this morning for registration purposes. Satisfactory. B1 Gun prevented from shooting by 15th Brigade Infantry Labi night. Weather fine & hot. 30 rounds of ammunition sent forward to left Section (Camel).</p> <p>B1 Gun fired 8 rounds. A2 first taken forward into position at VIA 05 95. Weather changed. close and plenty of rain. Roads & tracks difficult to negotiate in consequence. strength 4 off 960%.</p> <p>2 I.S. waggon reporting to take forward A2 Gun & ammunition. Work done without casualties. Enemy shelling roads in Villiers Bretonneaux very consistently at night. Weather wet & roads very muddy. 10% rejoined unit from hospital. Enemy artillery more active to-day. Strength 4 off 970%.</p> <p>10% casualties to school of Cox. A1 Gun fired 6 rounds at 05 40 & U. 6. C. 50 00. B1 Gun fired 10 rounds P. 160 60 60 & P. 170 10 10. both very satisfactory shoots. Battery paid to-day. 1 I.S. waggon reporting to left Section to take extra gun to position. Left Section relieved by Right Section in line. Weather fine & dry. Strength 4 off 970%.</p> <p>B1 Gun fired 6 rounds on Siroche wood P 160. Weather wet. I.S. waggon reported to left Section to take last night failed to do its job. waggon was left near Camel but horses & men returned to their battery. 4 horse team sought to take Gun into position. Enemy shelling Aubigny to night causing a few casualties. as roads are congested with traffic. Strength 4 off 970%. 10% returned from U.K. leave.</p> <p>20% proceeded to U.K. on leave. A1 Gun fired 4 rounds & laid down 30. A3 fired 6 rounds at position & M.G. position U 60 10 12. Both effective shots. Operation under 10 100 & 12 received to-day. Weather Showery. Roads very wet. Strength 4 off 970%. 50% returned from previous camp.</p>	

10/10/18

Confidential

1st Aus Corps

Original

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

VOL 87

Page 2

Army Form C. 2118.

August 1918

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.

Aubigny
080 70 90
Mat. 62

Villers
Bretonneaux
O 29d 0035

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
		7 th	Time spent today, 2 1/2 hours for coming attack 4:20 am on morning of 8-8-18. A1 Gun fired 4 rounds on T.M. position at 4.6.55.00. A3 fired 4 rounds on Card Copse in V.3.A. B1 fired 4 rounds on dugouts in P17 & 78-48. B2 fired 2 rounds on dugouts at P17 & 12:12. Weather good, roads & ground drying splendidly. Strength 4 off 9700.	
		8 th	A1 Gun fired 4 rounds on 4:12 A 80.90 A3 fired 10 on Card Copse V.3.A. in conjunction with infantry attack. B1 Gun fired 3 rounds P16 & 78-48. B2 4 P17 & 12:12. for attack. Weather fine & dry. Attack successful putting all guns out of range. D.O. returned from leave. Strength 4 off 9400. 2 O.K. wounded 1000 evac sick. Enemy artillery activity about normal in the earlier hours before this morning's attack shooting chiefly on front line & areas. We do not intend taking the guns forward until infantry are more settled. Lack of transport being our chief difficulty.	
		9 th	Infantry have advanced further today. Depth of advance being on the right of Corps front. See heavy artillery operation order 110150 & map attached. The enemy putting up some resistance against our attack today chiefly with machine guns. Weather very fine. Strength 4 off 9400. Roads & newly acquired territory all in very fair condition.	
		10 th	One lorry attached to us from today permanently from Heavy Artillery. Have started to move from Quervieu to Villers Bretonneaux where the rest camp will now be located at O 29D 0035. All our mortars will now be out of action until Infantry have settled permanently.	
		11 th	Orders received today that the Battery is attached to 14 th Brigade H.A. and to man captured German guns that are in action. Remainder of rest camp at Quervieu & H.Q. at Aubigny moved to new rest camp at Bretonneaux. Lt Newlands with centre section took over (2) two	
		12 th	5.9 inch high velocity guns this morning at in Q 22 d. Lt Barron's right section reported to rest camp from Hamel today.	

Handwritten notes and scribbles in the bottom right corner of the page.

Confidential Original

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Vol 7

Page 3

August 1918.

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.

/// Aust Corps H. H. M. B.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
X807555 Yauvillers	13 th		<p>Headquarters moved to Yauvillers shell 62DSE X807555 This billet had been in use by the enemy as a large dressing station. The locality was heavily shelled during the day + night with 5.9 + 8" howitzers. It has been impossible to get ammunition for the two 5.9 H.V. guns that we have taken charge of. These have been abandoned and two 4.2 guns (10cm.) have been found in Q16c. We got two FWD cars from 14 Brigade H.A. + hauled these two guns + a number of rounds of ammunition into position at X13a 8010 (shell 62DSE). Lt Newlands being in charge with centre section to man the guns which are captures of the late advance. One officer and one O.R. went on leave to United Kingdom today.</p>	
		14 th	<p>14th Lt Barron + Right-section came up from rest camp to take over 4.2 (10cm) enemy howitzers at X 22c 3010. Centre section got both their guns in action today and fired upon the village of Ablaincourt 62E SW S18d. Enemy shelling has increased considerably during last two days. Most of this shelling is from larger calibre guns. Battery strength 100 m all told.</p>	
		15 th	<p>15th Both 4.2 (10cm) guns are now in good working order. Lt Barron with Right section put their gun in action today and fired 10 rounds on Ablaincourt. Lt Newlands fired 30 rounds from his two 10cm guns. Weather fine dry and hot. Visibility poor. Other ranks evacuated to C.C.S.</p>	<p>3</p>

1st Aust Corps. A I Mc Bligh

WAR DIARY

Vol 7

Army Form 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.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Page 4

August 1918.

Confidential Original

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
V Puvillers X8E7555	16		Received ammunition for both 10cm guns today. No 4 Barron fired 10 rounds on Ablaincourt today. Also received ammunition for Regt Barron's gun. 10cm gun 1 OR rejoined unit from hospital. Weather fine hot & dry.	
		17 ^H	Received orders from H.F. Headquarters to put 9.45 Trench Mortars in action along Aust Corps front between Warfusse - Foucaucourt road and Villers Bretonneaux - Chaulnes railway. Also to keep detachments on German Guns. Fied 100 rounds from guns manned by Centre Section and 68 rounds from gun manned by Right Section. Targets for Centre Section guns. Marchelepot. Target for Right Section gun Ablaincourt 2 OR wounded in Right Section today. 3 OR returned from UK leave on the evening of 16 th . 1 OR left on UK leave today.	
		18 ^H	Lt Newlands on the left & P Barron on the Right reconnoitered for positions for trench mortars selected positions are on the Right S196 ^{S20C2570} 1525 and S196 ^{S20C1535} 1535 On the left X4C7090 and R34C7505 2 9.45 Trench Mortars were brought from Rest Camp at Villers Bretonneaux. 1 Mark III to X13 F8010 & 1 Mark I to X22C3010. Pay drawn. Weather fine but cooler. Right Section fired 60 Rds. from 10cm gun. Centre Section fired 100 Rds from 10cm guns.	

[Handwritten signature]

H

1st Aust Corps H I No 19.

WAR DIARY

Vol 7

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.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Page 5th

August 1918.

(Erase heading not required.)

Confidential Original

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Location Sheet 62D SE X8C7555	19 th		<p>Three G. S. Wagons reported today to transport guns to positions Two wagons to Right^{Left} sector taking Mark III Gun (9.45 Mortar) One wagon to Right sector taking 2 MK I 9.45 mortars work very satisfactory. Three 2 mortars brought from rest camp at Villers Bretonneux, in ration lorry 1 OR left Rest Camp on leave to U.K. 1 OR rank evacuated sick. Weather dull & cool but fine Right section fired 32 rounds (10cm) Centre section fired 80 rds Both Right and Left sector personnel working on gun positions (10cm) today Ration lorry collected trench mortar ammunition from our old sector in Hamel 30 bombs brought to Centre section position at X13 A8010 Also 20 complete rounds to Right section position at X22C 3010 Two G. S. Wagons reported tonight for work on left sector 1 G. S. Wagon reported for work on Right sector 4'2 (10cm) guns at X13 A8010 were ranged with balloon observation this evening not successful owing to balloon having to come down before the series was finished Reason. To escape being shot down by Enemy aircraft 40 rounds fired by Centre section today 30 rounds fired by the Right section. Ammunition for Centre section guns is becoming difficult to obtain. 2 OR transferred to 3rd Div. Medium trench M. Weather fine and dry Battery strength 4 off 89 OR</p>	
	20 th			

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

Handwritten signature and scribbles in the bottom right corner.

V/Aust Corps H I M B.

WAR DIARY

Fol 7

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.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Page 6

August 1918

Confidential Original

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Location Sheet 62D SE X807555	21 st		Centre section 10cm guns fired 60 rounds Right section 10cm gun fired 20 rds. four 9.45 AM. in action but no ammunition at Centre section guns G. S. Waggon wired for from Heavy Artillery did not arrive owing to message having been transmitted to R.A. Aust Corps instead of Aust. Corps H.A. Lt Barron slightly wounded but remaining on duty 2 OR rejoined unit from A.G.B.D. 1 OR proceeded to U.K. on leave weather fine and very hot.	
	22 nd		10 cm guns of Centre section fired 60 rounds 10cm gun of Right section fired 30 rounds Centre section guns ranged by balloon obtaining very excellent shooting on cross roads on Ablaincourt with H.V. shells (not stream line) with percussion fuses G. S. Waggon wired for last night from H.A. for carrying ammunition to 9.45 AM in the line did not arrive. Lack of ammunition at guns is preventing us from registering on targets in respective sectors. Enemy Artillery fire has been very active at frequent intervals throughout the day on Yauvillers no casualties 2 OR joined unit after leave in U.K. weather fine and very hot. Thick ground mist towards dusk. Strength 4 Officers + 92 OR.	<i>H. B. ...</i>

D. D. & L., London, E.C. (A10266) Wt W5300/P713 750,000 2/18 Sch. 52 Forms/C2112/16.

11 Aust Corp. H. J. M. B.

WAR DIARY

Vol. 7
Page 7

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.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

August 1918.

Confidential Original

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Location Shel 620 SE X 80 75 55	29 th		<p>Waggon required last night did not report until after 11 PM It was then too late to do any work so they returned. Infantry advanced on Left sector causing both 9.45 H.T.M. guns to be out of range. No notification of this stunt was sent to us we have no accurate knowledge whether it is to be resumed shortly or not. Enemy shelling in back areas much below normal. Three "4.5." Waggon reported tonight to carry ammunition for Right Sector T.M. 4.2 gun belonging to Right Sector was today brought back to Centre sector location of 4.2 guns and will be used from there in future. One 4.2 gun out of action is undergoing repairs to buffer weather very hot during morning but much cooler after midday. 1 OR went on UK leave and 1 OR evacuated sick. Strength 4 Officers and 90 OR.</p>	

Handwritten signature/initials

1st Aust Corps A.I.M. Bly.

WAR DIARY

Vol 7 Page 8

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.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

August 1918

(Erase heading not required.)

Confidential Original

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Location Shel 620 SE X807555.	24 th		Reconnaissance made in left sector and new position chosen for Mark III gun at R35d5510. A German Light Mörser Gun has been put into position at S20c1530 and manned by this battery. Weather fine hot and dry. Strength 4 officers and 89 Other Ranks. 10 cm guns fired 40 rounds on Ablaincourt. Harassing fire on cross roads.	
	25 th		Right sector fired 11 rounds from 9.15 A.M. on enemy trenches and strong points north of Lihons. 24 rounds were also fired from German L. No. 10 on the same sector. 112 Howitzer was taken to a new position at X86.6050. Left sector had Mark III TM new position prepared and gun dismantled in old position but did not get it forward because 4 L. Waggon ordered did not arrive. 10cm guns of Left sector fired 40 rounds harassing fire on Ablaincourt cross roads. One 10 cm gun still out of action. Enemy shelled front areas very heavily with gas last night. Many casualties noted among English + French troops who have now taken over sector in front of us. Weather fine and hot. Thunder storm + rain during evening. 1 OR left for UK on leave.	

Handwritten signature and scribbles in the bottom right corner.

1st Aust Corps HQ 4th Div

Vol 7 Page 9

Army Form C. 2118.

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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.

Confidential Original

August 1918

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sheet 62° SE X807555 Vauvillers	26 th		Right section fired 16 rounds of 9.45 TM on enemy trench systems + strong posts in front of Lihons 24 rounds fired from 10cm howitzer on Ablaincourt 36 rounds from 10cm guns harassing fire on enemy back areas weather fine but much cooler Good deal of rain during night 3 OR evacuated sick and wounded.	
	27 th		Enemy have retired along the front and the advance of French and English troops on our front have again left our 9.45 TM mortars out of range Distance of advance unknown Ration lorry made two trips today bringing up stores at Rest Camp to Head Quarters at Vauvillers. This location X807555 will be our next Rest-Camp. 2 other ranks marched in today from hospital + 1 OR from leave to U.K. 1 OR proceeded on leave to U.K.	
Sheet 62° SW S9d1535 Vermandovillers	28		Germans still retreating Two 10cm guns and 10cm howitzer taken forward to Vermandovillers S9d1535 and parked there for night being still out of range Left section is taking these guns forward in charge of Lt Newlands Portion of Rest Camp came forward to Vauvillers X807555 2 OR returned from leave to U.K.	

[Handwritten signature]

6

1st Aust Corps
A. S. M. Bly

Vol 7
Page 10
Aug 1918

WAR DIARY

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.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Confidential Original

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Vermandovillers Sgd 1535 Sheet 62 ^c SW	29 th		Headquarters moved up from Vauvillers to Vermandovillers. Right section reported back to Vauvillers with all gun stores and personnel. The remainder of rest camp came up to Vauvillers. Three German guns were moved forward to T 10 d 68 sheet 62c. SW. arriving about 7-30 PM and were put into action. No firing was done however because infantry did not want it. Weather variable. 1 OR evacuated accidentally injured.	
	30		Headquarters moved up to T 10 d 68 during morning 10cm guns and howitzers have been doing harrassing fire on enemy roads all day but are finding great difficulty in getting ammunition owing to having no transport available. Weather fine. 3 OR returned from leave 1 OR evacuated.	
	31		Registered 10cm howitzer on various targets very successfully. Fired 117 rds with of harrassing fire from 10cm howitzer 23 rds from 10cm guns. We are no right out of ammunition for the guns. 160 rds of ammunition brought to us today for 10cm howitzer. Enemy shelling the vicinity but so far no casualties caused. Weather fine but dull getting much cooler. 3 other ranks returned from hospital.	

[Handwritten signature]