

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

Artillery

Item number: 13/112/5

Title: 8th Australian Medium Trench Mortar
Battery

July 1918



AWM4-13/112/5

CONFIDENTIAL.

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

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

8TH AUSTRALIAN
MEDIUM TRENCH
MORTAR BATTERY.

FOR

No. _____
Date **JULY**

1918

Signature of Officer compiling _____

Signature of Officer Commanding _____

C.C. Chester
Capt.
C.C. 8th Aus Med. T.M. Bty

JULY 1918

ORIGINAL

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

8th AUSTRALIAN
MEDIUM TRENCH
MORTAR BATTERY.

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.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
REF SHEET 62D	1		No firing was done during the day.	
	2	3.50 PM	12 rounds fired on each Muenweyer at P46 70.05 + MG at P56 8.9.	
	3		Received orders to cooperate in attack to be delivered on south of SOMME. After consultation with CO. 46th Battalion (holding sector north of canal) + 42nd Battalion (attacking on south side of canal) it was decided to put down an area about on likely positions for MGs to enfilade the left flank of the attack. Early in the morning 30 rounds were fired on the area 136a 8.4. — 136a 8.0. — 136b 1.0. — 136b 2.4. + 15 rounds on suspected MG. P46 70.05. At 11.40 P.M. 15 rounds were fired on the areas selected for barrage fire. Retaliation was very heavy but fell a short distance in rear of guns.	
	4		Zero hour for the attack was 3.10 A.M. + mortars opened at ZERO minus 8 on areas as follows 136a 75.50 — 136b 5.5. — 136c 5.0 — 136a 75.00 and 135d 35.25 — 135d 7.5 — 136c 0.5 — P6a 1.9 135 rounds were fired + at 3.50 the attack being completed the crews were withdrawn from the guns, the barrage on SAILLY-LE-SEC being very heavy. No 3 position was destroyed + a considerable quantity of ammunition exploded but the position was useless as the ground covered in its field of fire had been captured.	1/136b 100

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WAR DIARY

-or-

JULY 1918 INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

ORIGINAL

8TH AUSTRALIAN
MEDIUM TRENCH
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			Infantry report that no enfilade M.G. fire was experienced during the attack.	
	4		Special S.O.S. lines were arranged with Battalion Commanders concerned & during S.O.S. at night 32 rounds were fired on area 136a 6.5. - 136b 2.5 - 136 central - 136a 7.0. + 30 on 136c 5.5. + vicinity.	
	5		At request of 46th Bn the following shoot was carried out 135d 5.20. 9 rds. 135d 9.9. 8 rounds. 135d 8.72 9 rounds 136c 5.61 6 rounds. + 136a 8.2. 6 rounds. 120 rounds TMG were taken up to guns by G. Swagon.	
	6	3 AM	20 rounds were fired on MGs at 135d 3.10 + P5b 2.9.	
	7		No firing done as infantry were out all night cutting gaps in enemy wire	
	8	12.15 AM	Infantry on N.H. canal 46th Bn straightened salient in 130d + 135b rd. Zero hour 12.15 AM. Mortars fired for first five minutes of barrage on sunken Road from 136c 5.5. to 136b 10.35 19 rounds expended	

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

ORIGINAL

Army Form C. 2118.

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MEDIUM TRENCH-
MORTAR BATTERY.

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JULY 1918

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	8 TH		New position selected at J35c 8085	
	9/13		Position was constructed & ammunition carried forward from village. Work was very slow owing to frequent heavy enemy barrages placed from new front line back to SALLY. Pit hit line had to be re constructed.	
	13	8 PM	20 rounds fired on MG. at J36d 24.	
		8:30 PM	20 " " " " Wood in K31a	
	15		Battery relieved by 6 th AMTMBty. Relief was completed by 12.30 PM & personnel marched to dugouts at N246 2.7.	
	16/18		Inspection parade at 9.30 AM. Fatigues only	
	19/21		1 NCO. & 12 men reported daily to OC 7 th Battery for construction work. 1 nco + 6 men sent as guard on four reserve lines at O34c 48.70 & O346 25.35. on 20 th	
	22		Battery took over positions in line as follows No 1 O35d 95.20 Zero 152° Grid No 2 O35d 95.37 " 123° " H.Q. O27d 2585 No 3 O36c 30.35 " 156° " " No 4 O36c 35.35 " " " No 5 O36d 45.08 " 140° " "	

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(A10266) W1 W5300/P713 750,000 2/18 Sch. 82 Forms/C2118/16.

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8TH AUSTRALIAN
MEDIUM TRENCH
MORTAR BATTERY.

ORIGINAL

Army Form C. 2118.

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WAR DIARY

or

JULY 1918 INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	23		New position for H & 6 reconvinced	
	24		H rounds fired on JAFFA TRENCH at Vid 65.55	
	25		New position for H & 4 laid out at 0360 35.40 ZERO 195° GRID & H & 6 at Via 10.95 ZERO 180° G. work commenced.	
	26	7pm	26 rounds fired on post at H 5 d 50.35	
	27		Scattered dumps of ammunition collected & taken to No 304 at VILLERS BRETONNEUX station Work on H & dugout close by continued	
	28		180 rounds TMG taken to station by G.S. Wagon. 3rd registered zero of H found to be 200° GRID. 17 rounds expended as retaliation at 9 PM. at request of infantry	
	29		Bty was relieved by 7 th A.M. M Bty & proceeded to dugouts at H 246 2.7.	
	30 / 31		Parade for inspection at 9.30 AM & fatigues only.	

f

INTELLIGENCE + OPERATION REPORT

FOR 24 HOURS ENDING 8AM 3/7/18

OPERATIONS :- TRENCH MORTARS

No OF GUN	TIME	TARGETS	RDS	REMARKS
		Area J36a 8.4 - J36a 22-	30	Area shoot on targets 4, 9, 12, 13
		336 b 1.0 - J36 b 2.4		
		MW P46 70.05.	15	

AERIAL ACTIVITY

IDENTIFICATIONS

HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY

TIME	AREA SHELLED	DIRECTION FROM	RDS	CAL	REMARKS
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ENEMY ATTITUDE

HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY

MOVEMENT

MISCELLANEOUS

Considerable retaliation close to guns

Capt?
C.C. 8th Aus Med. T.M. Bty

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appendix

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FOURTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY.

Headquarters
4th July, 1918.

- 16th Bde. R.F.A..
- Centre Group.
- 4th Aust. D.A.C..
- Southern Group.
- Left Group.
- 17th D.A.C. (1st Sec.)
- Right Group.
- 4th Aust. D.T.M.O..
-

W.B. 1. 4/7/18.

THE ARMY COMMANDER WISHES HIS CONGRATULATIONS
 CONVEYED TO YOU AND YOUR MEN ON YOUR EXCELLENT WORK AAA
 GENERAL BIRDWOOD AND THE CORPS COMMANDER BOTH SEND YOU AND YOUR COMPANY
 COMMANDS THEIR BEST CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR BRILLIANT WORK AAA
 THE DIVISIONAL COMMANDER WISHES TO ADD HIS OWN CONGRATULATIONS
 TO THE ABOVE APPRECIATIONS AAA

4th Aust. Div. Arty.

(sgd.) Arthur C.R. Waite, Captain,
 for Major,
 Brigade Major,
 4th Australian Divisional Artillery.

8th AUSTRALIAN
 MEDIUM TRENCH
 MORTAR BATTERY.

No.....

Date.....



192

INTELLIGENCE + OPERATION REPORT

FOR 24 HOURS ENDING 8 AM 4/17/18

OPERATIONS :- TRENCH MORTARS

No of GUNS	TIME	TARGETS	RDS	REMARKS
	11.40 PM	Area shoot J36a 75.50 - J36b 5.5 - J36b 5.0 - J36a 75.00	} 150	
	3.2 AM	Area J35d 35.25 - J35d 7.5 J36c 0.5 - Pba 1.9		

AERIAL ACTIVITY

IDENTIFICATIONS

HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY	DIRECTION FROM	RDS	CAL	REMARKS
TIME	AREA SHELLED			

EMY ATTITUDE

HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY

MOVEMENT

MISCELLANEOUS

Heavy retaliation on village about 3.35 AM.

Village on fire in several places in vicinity of guns. Ammunition probably destroyed

W. H. E. Stead
Capt?

C.C. 8th Aus Med. T.M. Bty

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FOURTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL TRENCH MORTARS.

Intelligence and operation report.
for 24 hours ending 8 a.m. 5/17/18.

OPERATIONS - Trench Mortars.

No. of Gun.	Time.	Targets.	Rds.	Remarks.
		Area 136a 6.5 - 136b 2.5 - 136Cent - 136a 7.0	32	Arranged with CO's 412 nd & 46 th Bns to protect left flank of 412 nd
905.		Area 136c 55. vicinity	30	

AERIAL ACTIVITY. Our planes were very active day or night

IDENTIFICATIONS.

HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY.

Time.	Area Shelled.	Direction from.	Rds.	Cal.	Remarks.
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ENEMY ATTITUDE.

HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY.

MOVEMENT &

Nil.

MISCELLANEOUS.

transport could be seen in back area throughout the day.

[Signature]
Capt.
C.C. 8th Aus Med. T.M. Bty

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APPENDIX

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FOURTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL TRENCH MORTARS.

INTELLIGENCE AND OPERATION REPORT

for 24 hours ending 8 a.m. 6/17/18.

OPERATIONS - Trench Mortars.

No of Gun.	Time.	Targets.	Rds.	Remarks.
	10.30	J35d 55.20	9	Several targets asked for by infantry
		J35d 90.90	8	
		J35d 8572	9	
		J36e 5061	6	
		J36a 8020	6	
	3 AM	MG J35d 3510	} 20	
		MG T 56 2090		58

AERIAL ACTIVITY.

IDENTIFICATIONS.

HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY.

Time.	Area Shelled.	Direction from.	Rds.	Cal.	Remarks.
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ENEMY ATTITUDE.

HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY.

MOVEMENTS-

MISCELLANEOUS.

W. H. Stead

Capt
C.C. 8th Aus Med. T.M. Bty

192

FOURTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL TRENCH MORTARS.

INTELLIGENCE AND OPERATION REPORT

for 24 hours ending 8 a.m. 7/7/18.

OPERATIONS -- Trench Mortars.				
No. of Gun.	Time.	Targets.	Rds	Remarks.

At request of infantry no firing was done.

AERIAL ACTIVITY.

IDENTIFICATIONS.

HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY .

Time.	Area Shelled.	Direction from.	Rds.	Cal.	Remarks.
	<i>126 c + d</i>	<i>Approx 90° Grid</i>		<i>77 + 105 mm</i>	<i>Intermittent throughout day Blue X + HE.</i>

ENEMY ATTITUDE.

HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY.

MOVEMENTS-

MISCELLANEOUS.

[Signature]
 Capt
 C.C. 8th Aus Med. T.M. Bty

FOURTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL TRENCH MORTARS.

INTELLIGENCE AND OPERATION REPORT

for 24 hours ending 8 a.m. 8/17/18.

OPERATIONS - Trench Mortars.

No of Gun.	Time.	Targets.	Rds.	Remarks.
1	12.15	Sniper Road 360 2.5	19	Co operation in street. No firing done previously at request of infantry.
2	-	to		
4	12-20	366 10.35		

AERIAL ACTIVITY.

Normal

IDENTIFICATIONS.HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY.

Time.	Area Shelled.	Direction from.	Rds.	Cal.	Remarks.
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ENEMY ATTITUDE.HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY.MOVEMENTS-MISCELLANEOUS.

Shunt apparently quite successful.

Capt.

C. C. 8th Aus Med. T. M. Bty

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FOURTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL TRENCH MORTARS-
INTELLIGENCE AND OPERATION REPORT
for 24 hours ending 8 a.m. 9/17/18.

OPERATIONS - Trench Mortars.

No. of Gun.	Time.	Targets.	Rds.	Remarks.
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Nil

AERIAL ACTIVITY.

IDENTIFICATIONS.

HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY.

Time.	Area Shelled.	Direction from.	Rds.	Cal.	Remarks.
10-3 PM to 2-0 AM	Front line back to Sully's line				Very heavy barrage of gas H.E.

ENEMY ATTITUDE.

HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY.

MOVEMENTS-

MISCELLANEOUS.

[Signature]
 Capt.
 8th Aus Med. T. A. Coy

192

FOURTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL TRENCH MORTARS.

INTELLIGENCE AND OPERATION REPORT.

for 24 hours ending 8 a.m. 10/7/18.

OPERATIONS -- Trench Mortars.		Rds.	Remarks.
No. of Gns.	Time. Targets.		

Nil

AERIAL ACTIVITY.

IDENTIFICATIONS.

HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY.		Direction from.	Rds.	Cal.	Remarks.
Time.	Area Shelled.				

ENEMY ATTITUDE.

One hostile plane flying very low just came over eastern edge of VAWX about 1.30 P.M.

HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY.

MOVEMENTS.

MISCELLANEOUS. A very heavy barrage was placed at ~~short~~ short throughout the day on the area between Sauby le Sec - front line. This became particularly heavy in the evening when quantities of gas (yellow/blue cross + phosgene) were used. Practically all shells were of large calibre.

W. H. Hester
 Capt
 A.C. AMT M.B.K.

192

8TH AUSTRALIAN MEDIUM TRENCH MORTAR BATTERY.	
No.	13.7.18
Date	
Operations	Nil.
Intelligence	Nil
Capt. O.C. 8th Aus Med. T.M. Bty	

Operations

8TH AUSTRALIAN
 MEDIUM TRENCH
 MORTAR BATTERY
 14. 7. 18.
 No.....
 Date.....

8.30 PM.	Wood K31a	20 rds.
8.PM	MG J36d.24	20 rds.
		<hr/>
		40
		<hr/>

Watters lead
Capt.

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FOURTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL TRENCH MORTARS.

INTELLIGENCE AND OPERATION REPORT

For 24 hours ending 8 a.m. 23/7/18.

OPERATIONS - Trench Mortars.

No. of Gns.	Time.	Targets.	Rds.	Remarks.
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At request of infantry no firing was done

AERIAL ACTIVITY.

IDENTIFICATIONS.

HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY.

Time.	Area shelled.	Direction from.	Rds.	Cal.	Remarks.
7.30 PM	O35. crd	-	-	3.9	Heavy gas shelling.
5.15 PM					
9 PM - 10 PM	O34	-	-	-	-
10 PM - 11.30 PM					

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

Quiet

HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY.

nil.

MOVEMENTS.

MISCELLANEOUS.

C. C. 8th Aus Med. T.M. 31
 C. C. 8th Aus Med. T.M. 31
 Capt.

192

FOURTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL TRENCH MORTARS.

INTELLIGENCE AND OPERATION REPORT

for 24 hours ending 8 a.m. 24/7/18.

OPERATIONS - Trench Mortars.

No. of Gun.	Time.	Targets.	Rds.	Remarks.
5		JAFFA TRENCH	Vid 65.55 4	Registration

AERIAL ACTIVITY.

nil

IDENTIFICATIONS.

HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY.

Time.	Area shelled.	Direction from.	Rds.	Cal.	Remarks.
10.30 AM	036d S.O.	Warpuree	150	5.9	Shelled at intervals throughout the morning. 42" + 77" same 59"
	035c.d				
	036c				

ENEMY ATTITUDE.

HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY.

nil

MOVEMENTS.

MISCELLANEOUS.

[Signature]
Capt

24.7.18.

OR 8th AM T.M.B.7

192

FOURTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL TRENCH MORTARS.

INTELLIGENCE AND OPERATION REPORT

for 24 hours ending 8 a.m. 25/17/48

OPERATIONS - Trench Mortars.

No. of Gun.	Time.	Targets.	Eds.	Remarks.
<i>Nil</i>				

AERIAL ACTIVITY. *Normal.*

IDENTIFICATIONS.

HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY.

Time.	Area shelled.	Direction from.	Eds.	Cal.	Remarks.
<i>Intermittent shelling of forward areas throughout the day</i>					

ENEMY ATTITUDE.

HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY.

Nil

MOVEMENTS.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A shoot had been arranged but infantry asked for it to be cancelled

*W. H. H. Cook
Capt
8th AMT H. BT*

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FOURTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL TRENCH MORTARS.

APPENDIX

INTELLIGENCE AND OPERATION REPORT

for 24 hours ending 8 a.m. 26/7/18.

OPERATIONS - Trench Mortars.

No. of Gun.	Time.	Targets.	Rds.	Remarks.
1	7 PM	Post Wsd 50.35	23.	Observed short shooting fire.

AERIAL ACTIVITY. nil

IDENTIFICATIONS. nil

HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY.

Time.	Area shelled.	Direction from.	Rds.	Cal.	Remarks.
					Lighter than usual

ENEMY ATTITUDE. Quiet

HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY. nil

MOVEMENTS.

MISCELLANEOUS.

W. H. H. Head
Capt.
4th Div T.M. Bty.

192

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL TRENCH MORTARS.

INTELLIGENCE AND OPERATION REPORT

for 24 hours ending 8 a.m. 27/7.

OF HOSTILES - Trench Mortars.

No. of Gun.	Time.	Targets.	Eds.	Remarks.
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No firing at request of infantry.

AIRIAL ACTIVITY.

Active at intervals but bad weather interfered with flying.

IDENTIFICATIONS.

HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY.

Time.	Area shelled.	Direction from.	Eds.	Cal.	Remarks.
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Light

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

Quiet.

HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY.

H.L.

REMARKS.

MOVEMENTS.

MISCELLANEOUS.

[Signature]

Capt.
C. E. 8th Aus. Med. T. M. Bty

4.4.1918

FOURTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL TRENCH MORTARS.

INTELLIGENCE AND OPERATION REPORT

for 24 hours ending 3 a.m. 29/7/18.

OPERATIONS - Trench Mortars.

No. of Gun.	Time.	Targets.	Rds.	Remarks.
4	3.15 PM	W 6 c 4.2	6	Registration
3	4.0 PM	W 6 t 3.3	5	"
4 } 3 }	9-10 PM	do	14	Harassing fire
			<u>28</u>	

AERIAL ACTIVITY.

IDENTIFICATIONS.

HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY.

Time.	Area shelled.	Direction from.	Rds.	Cal.	Remarks.

ENEMY ATTITUDE.

HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY.

MOVEMENTS.

MOVEMENTS.

MISCELLANEOUS.

192

"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: Service.....	Recd. at.....	m.
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.			Sent			Date.....	
.....			At.....		From.....		
.....			To.....		By.....		
.....			By.....		(Signature of "Franking Officer.")		

TO { *St Bly* 697/11

Sender's Number. * <i>S110</i>	Day of Month. <i>6</i>	In reply to Number.	AAA
-----------------------------------	---------------------------	---------------------	------------

*Your shooting has
 been very satisfactory
 Please inform all
 concerned*

From	<i>DTMO</i>
Place	<i>4 Aust St</i>
Time	
The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z)	
Censor.	Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name. <i>[Signature]</i>

* This line should be erased if not required.
(3796.) Wt. W492/M1647. 650,000 Pads. 5/17. H.W. & V., Ld. (E. 1187.)

192

A 48 BN HQ
46 BN HQ

SECTION HQ
6 PR

N. DIV B Coy.
30

DUTPOSTS 3.7.18.
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17

BRIGADE B Coy

LINE BEFORE 8.7.17
LINE 8.7.17.

LINE AFTER JULY 4TH

8TH AUS. MED. T. M. B. T. Y.

OUR APPROXIMATE FRONT LINE

ARCS OF FIRE

at 8 am 8.7.18.

6" NEWTON MORTARS

UP TO NIGHT 7/8TH JULY 1918

Tracing taken from Sheet 62° NE & 62° SE
of the 1:100,000 map of

APPENDIX 23
Date

Signature

NOTE.—(1). These traces are intended to facilitate the communication of information as to the position of targets, which have been located on a squared map.
(2). The squares on this trace are 500 yards in length on the 1/10,000 scale, 1,000 yards in length on the 1/20,000 scale, and 2,000 yards in length on the 1/40,000 scale.
(3). The squares on the trace are fitted to the squares of the map showing the targets, which are then drawn on the trace. Sufficient letters and numbers must also be added to enable the recipient to place the trace in the correct position on his own map. A little detail may also be traced, but this is not essential. The name and scale of the map to which the trace refers must be always given. The trace can be used for the 1/10,000, 1/20,000, or 1/40,000 scale.

G.S.G.S. 3023.

Army
13/112/5

Visit of French Prime Minister to the Australian Troops.

8th AUSTRALIAN
MEDIUM TRENCH
MORTAR BATTERY.

No.
Date:

It will interest members of the AUSTRALIAN Corps to know how it was that the Prime Minister of France came up to visit us the other day and what he said.

When the Supreme Council of the Allies was sitting at Versailles the other day, and the Prime Ministers of France, Italy, and England were present around the table, and all the Prime Ministers of the Dominions, it so happened that there came in, while they were deliberating there, the news of the battle of Hamel, and of the success that the Australian Troops had gained. All those present asked the Secretary to telegraph at once their congratulations to the Australians. But when it came to M. Clemenceau, the venerable Prime Minister of France, after starting to instruct the Secretary to telegraph his congratulations also, he said: "No, I will go and tell them myself."

M. Clemenceau is 78 years of age. Every Sunday he drives to some division of the French Army, goes to see them close up to the line, travelling hundreds of miles through the country in spite of his age. This Sunday he determined to come to an Australian Division. As the 4th Australian Division had been directing the operations at Hamel, he came to that. After chatting and laughing with the Officers and men who could be got together at short notice at Headquarters—as much at home amongst them as if he were a boy again—he said he would like to say a word or two to them on behalf of the French people. A number of the men were gathered into a rough semicircle, and the little Premier, "The Tiger," as he is known by the French, standing in front of them simply, without any attempt to flatter or over-do his praise of them, made them in English the following speech:—

"Gentlemen," he said, "I hope you will be kind enough to excuse my faulty English. I know only a little, but I find it very useful at this moment, this English, because it enables me to tell you what all the French people think of you. When the Australians came to France we expected a great deal of you. First, because we had heard of what you had done in war in Gallipoli; secondly, because we had heard a great deal of what you had accomplished in peace in your own country. The French people expected that when you came to France to fight in this great struggle, which, after all, is the same for the French, the English, the Australians and all those who have fought this great war out in the cause of freedom, which is the same for all, they expected a good deal of you; and I should not like to say that they have been surprised that you have fulfilled that expectation. They admired most the fact that you were capable of doing what they expected of you. The more they expected of you, the more they held it in admiration.

"Hamel—after all, that is not such a very great battle; but I am ready to hold that in a comparatively small battle the man, the fighting man, who goes in to give all he has—his home, his hopes, his life itself—in a small battle his qualities show in all the brighter light, the action of each individual man having more influence in the final result. In a very big action it is not possible to notice so well the qualities of particular men. Well, in this battle the Germans saw that they had before them men who came from far away to attest that wherever free people lived, in England, in France, in Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and all free countries, these were not ready to give way to the Boche who has acted with such barbarity—who wounded and killed not only men in battle, but women and old men and little children—who ruined and destroyed our country, our houses, our fruit trees, even our gardens.

"We have all been fighting beside each other here. It is such a wonderful thing that this should happen in history on these old fields of battle which you had read of in books, hearing of wars which you had not seen and the consequences of which you had never expected to see. It is a wonderful thing that you should be fighting beside us on these old battlefields of history. Still, it has come true. The work of our fathers, which we wanted to leave unharmed to our children, they tried to rob us of. They tried to take from us all that was dearest in modern society. But the free nations of the world said that the Boche should not do this so long as they were there to come and prevent it. Men were the same in England, in France, in Italy, and all the countries which are proud of being the home of a free people. And that is what you did. And that is what made us greet you when you came. We knew that you would fight a real fight. But we did not know that from the very beginning you would astonish the whole continent.

"I have come here just for the very purpose of seeing the Australians. I am going back to-morrow to see my countrymen and tell them: 'I have seen the Australians. I have looked in their eyes. I know that these men who have fought great battles beside us in the cause of freedom will fight alongside us again until the cause of freedom for which we are battling is safe for us and for our children.'"

The Australians who had been listening to this fine speech from the Grand Old Man of France, gave three tremendous cheers for France, which affected him greatly. He then called for three cheers for Australia, and left to go back to Paris.

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