

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

Artillery

Item number: 13/95/3

Title: V1A Heavy Trench Mortar Battery

September 1916



AWM4-13/95/3

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.

-or- INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

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VIA. HTM Battery.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>H-14.C.2.5. G.23C.85. H.14.C.2.5.</p> <p style="margin-top: 20px;">YPRES</p>	SEPT			
	1 st	-	VIA Battery moved into huts situated here, having been camped previously with 2 nd Sect DAC. 2 officers 56 OR. 1 HTM taken over at camp TM 4 th Div. 1 orderly detailed for DA permanently. Sgt Wilson takes over Ops.	MAP. BELGIUM 28
	2 nd	-	Battery moved to TM Camp vacated by 4 th Div. 15 OR. to TM school, BERTHERN. 2 officers 56 OR.	
	3 rd	-	Overhauling HTM (3). Gun drill. OC reconnoitered 1 st Div front. Obtained billets at YPRES. 2 off 56 OR.	
	4 th	-	Gun drill, weather very wet. 2 officers 56 OR. 1 orderly detailed for DTMO permanently.	
	5 th	-	Troops to Baths. Gun drill. 2 officers 56 OR.	
	6 th	-	OC to trenches reconnoitering. At 6 PM Battery marched to YPRES to occupy billets Rue de Lille. An advance party of 1 NCO and 8 others had been sent in morning to prepare billets. 2 officers 56 men.	
	7 th	-	Two working parties made. 1st Johnston to trenches to start work on gun emplacements and dugouts.	
	8 th	0900	1 Supt 5 men moved into dugout in trenches. Remainder march to trenches daily. Party left in YPRES to improve cellar billets. Battery paid. 2 officers 56 OR.	
	9 th	-	Parties working on dugouts and emplacements as before. 9 reinforcements arrive from DAC. Unassisted NCO and 5 men move into dugout in trenches. At night a HTM is brought from former billets to emplacement by DAC, to VERBRANDEN MOLEN. 2 officers 65 OR.	
	10 th	-	Parties working on emplacements and dugouts. 1 man to Hospital. 2 officers 64 men.	
	11 th	-	Parties working on emplacements and dugouts. 2 officers 64 OR.	
	12 th	-	Parties on emplacements and dugouts. CRA inspects work. Lint Nowland taken on strength. Strength 3 officers 64 OR.	
13 th	-	Parties working on emplacements and dugouts. At night 18 rounds HTM ammunition brought to replace by DAC. Gunner E B Reeves wounded and evacuated. Work on RAVINE position held up for materials brought and great amount of water. Constant pumping required on No 3 emplacement at Verbrandenmolen. 3 officers 63 OR.		

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VIA H.T.M. Battery

340

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
YPRES.	Sept 14 th	-	<p>Lieut Howland moves into dugout Sinker Road and takes charge of works in trenches. 8 men relieve party in Ravine dugout. Work on Ravine position had to cease for lack of pump and materials. Constant pumping on No 3 position required. 3 officers 6h OR.</p>	
	15 th	-	<p>Work on No 3 emplacement and dugouts. Pumping. Searching for O.P. Coordinates of two approved HTM sites: No 2 I-34 A 7.7. No 3 I-28 D.4.7½. No 1 to be decided upon. 3 Officers 6h OR.</p>	
	16 th	-	<p>Work continues in emplacements, etc. 15 OR returned from T.M. School, 1 man transferred to 21A Battery, 1 from Hospital. At night, screen ordered by C.P.A. fixed in position. Work on emplacements had to be done at night for last three nights owing to exposed position. 2 Officers 6h men.</p>	
	17 th	17-00	<p>First sand pit to test mounting and gear line (between Hill 60 and Waterpillars). Result satisfactory. Work on emplacement and dugouts went on during day. 6 men in dugouts relieved. 3 off 6h OR.</p>	
	18 th	1-	<p>Work on No 3 emplacement continued. Still no pump or materials for No 2 position. 6 men to Rest Camp. Battery detailed into Section and Sub-Section again. Lieut Howland to command Right and Lieut Johnston Left section. 3 Officers 6h OR.</p>	
	19 th	-	<p>Work on emplacement and dugouts continued. 3 Officers 6h OR.</p>	
	20 th	-	<p>Work hindered by weather. At night DAE wagons brought some materials for Ravine position but no pump yet. 3 Officers 6h OR.</p>	
	21 st	-	<p>Lieut Johnston and 11 OR relieve part of men in trenches. 1 to Hospital. No engine No 1 or pump for Ravine pit yet. Work on dugouts and No 3 pit continued. Start made on Reserve magazine in Sinker Road. MTM men given some dugouts pending building for themselves. 3 Officers 6h men.</p>	
	22 nd	-	<p>Work on No 3 emplacement continued, also Reserve magazine & dugouts. Start made again on No 2 emplacement. Site for No 1 emplacement fixed for I-34-C-1½-5¾. 3 Officers 6h OR.</p>	

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VIA H.T.M. Battery.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
YPRES.	SEPT 23 rd	—	Work on No 2 and No 3 emplacements. O.C. takes over duties of DTMO temporarily. Exchange of men between Ypres and rest camp. All left section now in trenches, one subsection in Ypres and one subsection in rest. It is necessary to have loading parties, etc. in Rest billets. Battery paid.	
	24 th	—	Work on No 2 and 3 emplacements. Arrangements made in Ypres to dry socks daily for whole of TM. Batteries in line. Work on Reserve Amm Pit. 3 officers 63 men.	
	25 th	—	Work on No 2 and 3 emplacements, also on Res Am store. 3 officers 63 OR.	
	26 th	—	Work as on 25 th . Unloading timber at Bedford House for No 1 emplacement at night. 3 off 63 OR.	
	27 th	—	Work as on 26 th on emplacements. Pump now available for No 2 emplacement. At night, trucking materials for No 1 position from Bedford House. 3 officers 63 OR.	
	28 th	—	Left forward and Right section relieve Left section. Work on emplacements and magazines. Strength 3 officers 63 OR. Line of fire No 1 emplacement laid out.	
	29 th	—	Work on emplacements and magazines. No 1 Pit started. Subsection from Ypres help MTM to prepare for said. Details in trenches also assist with ammunition at night. 3 officers 62 OR. 1 man to Hospital.	
	30 th	—	Work on these emplacements. Subsection from Ypres assist MTM preparation again. Great trouble has been experienced with the bad nature of ground at No 2 emplacement. Broken bricks for bed and piles driven down underneath are necessary to keep the bottom firm, which is of a moving nature. Now that materials are available the work should progress quickly.	

J. J. Crews Lt
Company V. A. Battery