

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

Artillery

Item number: 13/98/2

Title: V5A Heavy Trench Mortar Battery

August 1917



AWM4-13/98/2

V. 5A.
HEAVY TRENCH
MORTAR BATTERY,
RA.

No. Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Par. II,
Date and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages
will be prepared in manuscript.

WAR DIARY

OR

Confidential original

Army Form C. 2118.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Ypres	1917 Aug 1 st		Battery assisting the forward batteries of the 14 th F.A.B to the gun positions.	
"	"		"	
"	" 2 nd		Battery engaged in the same locality, clearing up the old gun positions of ammunition + forming dumps for its transport.	
"	"		returning to billets that night	
"	" 3 rd		Battery in camp, nothing to report	
"	" 4 th		Ditto	
"	" 5 th		A party of 1 N.C.O. + 15 other ranks, in charge of 1 Officer were detailed to remove withdraw the mortars. These were brought back to the T.M. Camp. N ^o 1 Gun having received a direct hit was sent back to workshops.	
"	" 6 th		Battery in camp, resting.	
"	" 7 th		A working party of 20 men were detailed to report to the O.C. at Vancouver Dump	
"	" 8 th		Remainder of the Bty in camp, nothing to report.	
"	" 9 th		Ditto	

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MM

V. 5A.
HEAVY TRENCH
MORTAR BATTERY,
R.A.

II

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WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Ypres	Aug 10 th		Remainder of Bty in camp, nothing to report	
"	" 11 th		Captain W.H. Hind transferred from X 5 A.M.T.M. Bty and posted to command V 5 A.H.T.M. Bty vice Captain E.D.F. Kemp transferred to 14 th F.A.B. dated 6/8/17. otherwise nothing to report	
	12 th		Nothing to report	
	13 th		- Ditto -	
	14 th		- Ditto -	
	15 th		Remainder of the Battery were sent to relieve working party at	
		1.0 AM.	Vancouver Dump.	
	16 th		Nothing to report	
	17 th	7.0 AM.	Enemy aeroplanes very active, several Bombs dropped in the vicinity of	
	"	"	the camp.	
	18 th	"	Nothing to report.	
	19 th		Enemy aeroplanes again very active otherwise nothing to report.	
	20 th		Nothing to report	
	21 th		Ditto "	

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~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

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Ypres	Aug 22 nd		Capt W.H. Hind to be a/D.T.M.O. during the absence of Captain W.D. Wallis	
"	"		on leave to U.K. Lieut N. Scott to be a/C.C. vice Captain W.H. Hind a/D.T.M.O.	
	23 rd		Nothing to report.	
	24 th		Working party withdrawn from Vancouver Dump. One 9.45" T.M. was taken forward & placed in position at C 30. b. 3.1 - Trench Map. Belgium Sheet 28. N.W. 50 rounds of ammunition were taken forward & dumped in shell holes close to the Gun, there being no ammunition recess prepared.	
	25 th		Firing commenced at 10.0 AM. The Gun Bed failed, after 17 rds had been fired, with good effect, on Berry Farm & Beck House strong points at D.25. b. 6.2 + D19. d. 1.3 respectively - Trench Map. Belgium Sheet 28. N.E. Following a direct hit on Beck House, which demolished portion of the wall, a party of about fifty of the enemy issued from the back & retired rapidly to their right flank, then to the rear. Artillery telephone out of order.	
	26 th		The Gun was removed to a fresh Bed & fire opened at 12.10 PM on Beck House. Twenty rds were fired up to 1.0 PM, then firing resumed from 1.30 PM to 2.0 PM. ten rounds being fired, making a total of 30 rds	

W.H.H.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Ypres	Aug 26 th	(Contd)	The enemy again evacuated the position, retiring to shell holes on our right flank. Enemy retaliation moderate until 2.15 PM. when he searched the area with 5.9's. A further 21 rds were taken to the gun position that night.	
	27 th		18 rds were fired on Berry Farm with good effect, two direct hits being obtained. Enemy retaliation slight with 77 mms. A further 15 rounds were taken to the gun position that night.	
	28 th		15 rds taken to gun position at night.	
	29 th		Fired 18 rds on Berry Farm + Beck House. Shooting effective. Enemy retaliation very severe with 5.9's + 77 mms. Casualties One man killed.	
	30 th		The gun being moved about 50 yards to the right flank a very effective shoot was carried out on strong points in rear of Berry Farm + Beck House. 12 rounds being fired, giving three direct hits. Retaliation was very heavy, some 8" being included. On this occasion the gun bed jumped after the fifth round + the shoot was delayed half an hour whilst this was on adjusted. Two men were recommended for	

