

AWM4

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

Artillery

Item number: 13/98/8

Title: V5A Heavy Trench Mortar Battery

February 1918



AWM4-13/98/8

18,000-12 1 -8723

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
DUPLICATE.
TRIPLICATE.

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

V5A. HTMBty

FOR

February 1918

Signature of Officer compiling.....

Signature of Officer Commanding W. White

V. 5A.
HEAVY TRENCH
MORTAR BATTERY,
R.A.
No.....
Date.....

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.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Longvillers	1918 Feb 1		Battery on route march and general training	
	- 2		Battery training and general fatigues	
	- 3		Battery departed from Longvillers by motor lorries for Draumont preparatory to taking over sector of line from 1 st Australian Division	
Field	- 4		Battery took over Michael sector from V.A. HTM Bty. Four (4) mortars were taken over covering sector between Ravine wood and the Wambeker	
	- 5		Battery were split up into four sections, each section billeted near gun position. Reconnaissance of sector covered made by Officers and senior NCOs	
	- 6		Ten bombs were fired at 6.45 am by No 1 Gun crew on Wam Farm with good effect, good observation being obtained from front line. Eight (8) Germans were seen running over ridge away from where the bombs were falling. Rifle mechanism broke down after the tenth bomb was fired putting gun out of action.	
	- 7		Battery personnel conveying ammunition up to the various gun positions.	
	- 8		Three bombs were fired at 6.30 am by No 3 Gun crew on Shell Crater	[Signature]

A6945 Wt. W11422/M1160 350,000 12/16 D. P. & L. Forms/C./2118/14.

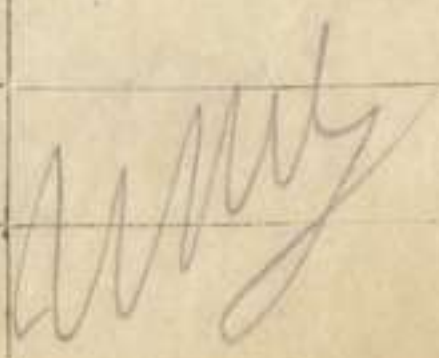
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Field	1918 Feb 8		close to our front line which Infantry reported was occupied by a Machine Gun at night time and gave them considerable annoyance. It was reported by Infantry that this Machine Gun did not fire the following night. At 6.35 am seven bombs were fired by same gun crew on "Bang Farm". Following this twelve (12) bombs were fired on to Green Farm. A fire was started at Bang Farm and burned for twenty minutes, good observation being obtained from front line. Enemy retaliated with 40 to 50 4.2's on and about gun position. There were no casualties.	
do	9		No 4 Gun which was a Mk II (Russian) long gun fired nine (9) bombs on Loch No 5 with good effect the range being good, but line erratic. Four (4) bombs were also fired on "The Giants" three (3) on "The Twins" and four (4) on "Poll House". This shoot commenced at about 6.45 am. A new fuse No 134 was used and we had several blinds, otherwise the fuse was very effective, several direct hits being obtained on the targets engaged. Enemy retaliation nil. No 1 Gun crew fired ten (10) bombs on "Rifle farm" at 8 pm in con-	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Field	1918 Feb 9		junction with Artillery demonstration. Several 4.2's were fired by enemy on and about gun position in retaliation. There were no casualties. No 2 Gun crew fired three (3) bombs at "Lero hom (10pm) on Rifle Farm in conjunction with an Infantry raid. ^(3rd Australian Division) Good bursting effect was observed.	
do	10		No 2 Gun crew fired twenty (20) bombs on Rifle farm at 11. am in conjunction with Artillery comp demonstration. Several direct hits were obtained destroying two (2) dugouts. Retaliation by enemy nil.	
			No 1 Gun crew fired ten (10) bombs on Rifle farm at 2 pm also in conjunction with Artillery demonstration. Enemy retaliated with 77's on front line.	
do	11		No 4 Gun crew fired ten (10) bombs on Loch No 5. Several direct ^{hits} were obtained on canal bank, shooting very erratic for line. Range good. Three (3) bombs were fired on "Hollebeke Chateau". This shoot commenced at 7. am, good observation being obtained from front line.	
do	12		No 1 Gun crew fired four (4) bombs on "Nam Farm" and nine (9) bombs on Beke Farm between 8 am and 8.30 am with good effect. Enemy retaliated	

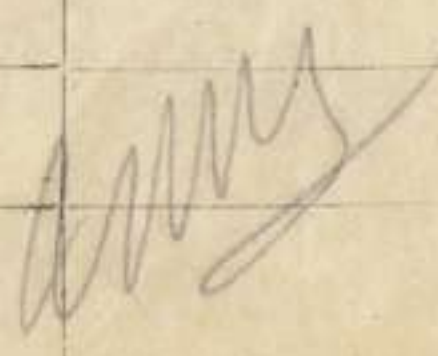
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Field	1918 Feb 12		with about sixty (60) rounds 4.2's and 77's and light Minewerfers. One (1) round from a medium Minewerfer was fired on our front line but had very small burst, causing no casualties.	
do	" 13		No 7 Gun crew fired eight (8) bombs at 5.30 pm on Bee Farm with the object of destroying a light Minewerfer which was reported by Infantry to have been constantly firing from there at night time. It was too dark for observation but all bombs had good bursting effect.	
do	" 14		No 3 Gun crew fired nine (9) bombs on Bang Farm, four (4) on "Whiz Farm" and seven (7) on "Green Farm". Two (2) fires were started, one at "Whiz Farm" and one near "Green Farm". They both burned for half an hour. This shoot commenced at 6.30 am, good observation being obtained from front line. Enemy retaliated with 60 to 70 4.2's on and around gun position, one shot hitting gun pit whilst gun was being fired. This did not prevent Gun crew firing the remainder of bombs. There were no casualties.	
do	" 15		No 7 Gun crew fired ten (10) bombs on Bee farm at 8 pm with good bursting effect. Observation could not be obtained owing to darkness.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Field	1918 Feb 15		Enemy retaliated with a mixture of Gas shell and H. E. along the ridge running from Greenwood to the Wambuke about 100 rounds of 4.2's and 77's as well as numerous light Munitions.	
do	" 16		Capt. W.H. Hind appointed acting D.T.M.O. Lt. J. Taylor appointed acting OC Battery No 1 Gun crew fired twenty (20) bombs at 2 pm on July Farm several direct hits were obtained on farm, throwing up brick dust and large pieces of concrete. Two @ bombs fell on wire in front of farm, destroying considerable portions of it. No 4 Gun crew also fired at 3 pm five @ bombs on the Twins and ten @ bombs on "The Giants". This shooting was very erratic only two @ direct hits being obtained. Enemy aeroplane flying very low over both gun positions directly after shoot had taken place. Three @ "Very" lights were fired from the Aeroplane directly above No 1 Gun. A smoke bomb was then dropped on to the Gun position. The enemy then commenced ^{fired} firing on the position with about eighty @ 4.2's getting two @ direct hits on the gun pit, one @ shot destroying four @ bombs.	
do	" 17		No 1 Gun crew fired five @ bombs at 3.40 pm on "Main Farm", four @	W.M.

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or

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Field	1918 Feb 17		bombs on "Rifle Farm" all bombs falling in close proximity of targets and bursting with good effect. Good observation being obtained from front line. On receipt of S.O. Signals from Infantry No 3 Gun Crew fired three (3) bombs at 9 30pm, three (3) at 10 30pm and three (3) at 12 15pm (18/2/18) when all appeared to have good bursting effect. No casualties.	
do	" 18		All gun crews conveying ammunition to gun pits, also repairing pits where they had been damaged by shell fire.	
do	" 19		No 3 Gun crew fired eight (8) bombs at 6 30am on "Whiz Farm" five (5) bombs on "Bang Farm" and two (2) bombs on "Fly buildings". Two (2) direct hits were obtained on "Whiz Farm" and four (4) on "Bang Farm". Enemy retaliated with about 40. 4.2's in the vicinity of gun position.	
do	" 20		No casualties. Capt W H Hind resumed Command of Battery. Battery relieved by right section of V/ Aud. Corps. H.T.M. Bty under Lieut. F.C.S. Bond. Battery and Area stores were handed over to this section.	
Dranouthe	" 21		Battery personnel moved out after dark to Divisional T.M. rest camp. Dranouthe. All heavy T. Mortars and stores on charge to Battery were handed over.	W.H.H.

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Dranouhe	1918 Feb-21		to 5 th D.A.D.S. and No 4 Gun Park		
do	22		Gas helmets of all personnel were tested by the Divisional Artillery		
			Gas officer.		
	23		General routine and fatigues.		
	6				
	27				
do	28		Battery disbanded under new organisation scheme, half of personnel being transferred to 9 th A.M.T.M. Bty and the other half to 7 th A.M.T.M. Bty		
				A. M. T. M. Bty.	

FORM C 3112

MAVE DIAVU

ИНТЕЛЛИГЕНЦЕ СВИДЕТЕЛЬ

(Заявление по существу)

Информация
относительно
личности и др.

Сведения о личности и образовании

Дата рождения

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