

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

Artillery

Item number: 13/90/28

Title: 1st Australian Divisional Trench
Mortar Officer

July 1918



AWM4-13/90/28

18 0-1247-8723

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CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
DUPLICATE.
TRIPLICATE.

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

Ist AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL MEDIUM TRENCH MORTAR BATTERIES.

FOR

JULY

1918.

Signature of Officer compiling

R. A. Howland

Captain.

Signature of Officer Commanding

R. A. Howland

CAPTAIN

D.T.M.O. 1st AUS. DIV.

Confidential Original

TRENCH MORTAR BATTERIES, 1ST AUSTRALIAN DIV. No. Date July 1918

WAR DIARY

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

1st Aust. Div. Medium Trench Mortar Batteries

Army Form C. 2118.

July 1918

Volume 28. Page 1

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.

Table with columns: Place, Date, Hour, Summary of Events and Information, Remarks and references to Appendices. Contains handwritten entries for July 1st at Les Colance, V.I.P. 8.6 (Sheet 27 FRANCE), detailing mortar fire, personnel movements, and awards.

Vertical stamp: D.T.M.O. 1st AUS. DIV. CAPTAIN

Confidential Original

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M TRENCH MORTAR BATTERIES, 1ST AUSTRALIAN DIV. No. *July 1918*

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

1st Aust Div. Medium Trench Mortar Batteries

Army Form C. 2118.

July 1918

Volume 28. Page 2

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<i>Les Ciseaux V.I.C.8.6 (Sheet 27)</i>	<i>July 8</i>		<i>3 new gun positions put in on Left Div. Flank in anticipation of an operation on our left by 9th Div. For positions see Appendix No 1 Report 179.</i>	<i>R.H. Appendix</i>
		<i>9</i>	<i>Firing - Nil. 1. OR wounded.</i>	<i>R.H.</i>
		<i>10</i>	<i>2nd Aust M.T.M Bty fired 22 rounds on various targets - See Appendix No 1 - Report 181.</i>	<i>R.H.</i>
		<i>11</i>	<i>42 - 182. 1. OR negd from Base</i>	<i>R.H.</i>
			<i>Owing to the occurrence of a number of abnormal rounds a test shoot was arranged at the 2nd Army T.M. School & took place on 10th inst. A report thereon was submitted - see Appendix 3</i>	<i>R.H. 3</i>
		<i>17</i>	<i>1. OR wounded. 2nd Aust M.T.M Bty fired 25 rounds on various targets - See Appendix No 1 - Report 182</i>	<i>(6 Original only) Appendix 1</i>
		<i>13</i>	<i>1. OR negd from Base. Instructions issued not to fire till further orders - except for S.O.S.</i>	<i>R.H.</i>
		<i>14</i>	<i>Enemy activity normal. Some enemy planes flew low over front line - 1st Aust M.T.M Bty relieved</i>	
		<i>16 17</i>	<i>2nd Aust M.T.M Bty at 10 pm on 13th inst. 1 OR to hospital sick. No firing. Enemy activity normal. 1. OR negd from Base on 16/7/18. Weather conditions good.</i>	
			<i>1. OR negd from Base on 17/7/18. 1 OR injured 18/7/18.</i>	
			<i>3 Mortars placed in position on 8/7/18 vide my No 179 (Appendix 1) were withdrawn on 17/7/18 and returned to Reserves. Leaving 4 mortars in front line in positions No 1. 3. 4. 5 } as shown in Table attached</i>	
			<i>7 Reserve in positions Nos. 2. 3. 5. 6. 7 & 8</i>	
			<i>15 Appendix No 1, Report No 157 (June War Diary). 1 Piece at 1. OR for repairs.</i>	
		<i>18</i>	<i>1. OR negd from Base</i>	
		<i>18/6 20</i>	<i>No firing. Enemy activity normal. 2nd Aust M.T.M Bty, relieved 1st Aust M.T.M Bty at 10 pm 20th inst.</i>	<i>R.H.</i>
	<i>21</i>	<i>1 off 11 OR proceeded to 2nd Army T.M. School. Following ammunition destroyed by enemy shell fire on 27/7/18 - 72 Bombs 89 Charges 87 Component Parts.</i>	<i>F.H. R.H.</i>	
	<i>22-23</i>	<i>No firing. Enemy activity normal - 1 officer sent C.S. Johnston to 2nd Army Gas School. Lieut A.G. Schmeissner C. 2nd Aust M.T.M Bty appointed Captain whilst commanding that Bty to date from 17/7/18</i>	<i>R.H.</i>	

D. A. Dowland CAPTAIN D.T.M.O. 1st AUS. DIV.

Confidential Original

FRENCH MORTAR
BATTERIES,
1ST AUSTRALIAN DIV.
No.
Date *July 1918*

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

*1st Aust Div. Medium Trench
Mortar Batteries.
Volume 28 Page 3.*

Army Form C. 2118.

July 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.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<i>Les Caraux V.I.C. 8.6 (Sheet 27)</i>	<i>July 24</i>		<i>Honours & Awards. Bar to Military Medal awarded to No 1473 Cpl H.F. Parker } For Action - See Military Medal " " 2414 Bar (Cpl) J. Warnock } Appendix 2.</i>	<i>Appendix 2.</i>
			<i>During Nil. Battery in line employed constructing new gun positions & new HQ owing to a change in Front Line - also standing to in case of an S.O.S. Call. All Reserve guns are also manned.</i>	<i>Rah</i>
	<i>25</i>		<i>Firing Nil. Enemy planes very active during the afternoon of 24/7/18.</i>	<i>Rah</i>
	<i>26</i>	<i>AM 6.56</i>	<i>I.O.R. nega from Base. I.O.R. to hosp sick. Firing Nil. Enemy very quiet during day 25/7/18. - intermittent bursts during the night on Strazeele Railway at 4.30 AM. (26/7/18) factory making gas was very strong. No shelling was heard, the wind bringing it from the direction of VIEUX BERQUIN.</i>	<i>Rah</i>
	<i>27</i>		<i>AERIAL: Enemy planes very active late in the afternoon, flying low over Strazeele Railway. Firing Nil. Very quiet during day. Intermittent shelling throughout night & morning. AERIAL - Enemy observing plane active this morning. Instructions received to move Reserve guns forward in order to cover support line now made the most strongly held line in the Div. area. Instructions & result of reconnoissance 1st Aust M.T.M Bty detached 2nd Aust M.T.M Bty at 10pm. See APPENDIX No 4.</i>	<i>Rah APPENDIX No 4 (Sketch incl. of only)</i>
	<i>28</i>		<i>Firing Nil. Very quiet on whole front.</i>	<i>Rah</i>
	<i>29</i>		<i>Reference report submitted upon test shoot at 2nd Army T.M. Sch. following the irregular shooting by 6 Newtons of this Div. Instructions from 2nd Army for Appendix No 5. have been received</i>	<i>Appendix 5.</i>
	<i>30</i>		<i>I.O.R. to hosp sick. I " nega from Base (wounds). Firing Nil. Activity normal.</i>	<i>Rah</i>
	<i>31</i>		<i>" " Very heavy shelling on whole front.</i>	<i>Rah</i>

*D. J. M. O. 1st AUS DIV
CAPTAIN*

Confidential 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.

TRENCH MORTAR BATTERIES, 1st AUSTRALIAN DIV. No. Date July 1918

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

1st Aust. Div. Medium Trench Mortar Batteries

Army Form C. 2118.

July 1918

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Remarks and references to Appendices

Summary of Events and Information

See Circum V.I.C. 8.6 (Sheet 27)

July 31

Weather - Favorable generally throughout month - showery at times. Scheme of Relief as stated in June Diary. Ammunition - transport of G.S. Wagons supplied by 1st Aust D.A.C.

T.M.G. - 6" Newton		
Bombs	Charges	Parts
On hand 30/6/18	715	720
Received from 1st Aust D.A.C. Dump	1800	1800
adjustment of Count	19	25
	<u>2534</u>	<u>2545</u>
Expended		
Fired	1339	1339
adjustment of Count	1800	1800
Destroyed (enemy action)	72	89
	<u>1123</u>	<u>1117</u>
On hand 31/7/18		

Fall in ammunition expended is due to defective supply - necessitating an investigation & total cessation pending result.

Strength at beginning of month.

To Hospital sick 4 OR. Wounded 10ff. 4 OR. Injured 1 OR. Killed in Action 1 OR.

From " 1 OR - Base. 16 OR. 11 OR. 10ff. 4 OR

Strength at end of month

Crimes - No. Leave to UK. 10ff 6 OR. to Paris. 1 OR. Rest Camp 7 OR.

Salvage - Fat. 1 OR drum; Solder - 290 lbs; Jam Cans 70; Paper 1 Sack. Cardboard 1 Sack.

D.T.M.O. 1st AUS. DIV. CAPTAIN A. A. Newton

Confidential Original

MORTAR BATTERIES,
1ST AUSTRALIAN DIV.

WAR DIARY

1st Aust. Div. Medium Trench

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.

No. *July 1918*

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Mortar Batteries

July 1918

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<i>Les Ciseaux V.I.C. 8.6 (Sheet 27)</i>	<i>July 31.</i>		<p><u>Gun Positions</u> - Front line per table - Appendix 6 Reserve line " 4 (approximate) Reserve positions now in course of completion. Second zone positions " 1 - Report 157 of June Diary.</p> <p><u>Regimental Canteen</u> opened 1/6/18 with a capital of 1400 fcs subscribed by the officers (10) of the Unit. Profit for month of June 200 fcs. July 448.</p> <p><u>Comforts Funds</u> - Following items were distributed during month spice, cocoa & milk, potatoes, & cigarettes.</p>	<p><i>S.A. Howland</i> CAPTAIN D.T.M.O. 1st AUS. DIV.</p>
			<p><i>S.A. Howland</i> CAPTAIN D.T.M.O. 1st AUS. DIV.</p>	

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WAR DIARY

OF

1st AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL MEDIUM TRENCH MORTAR BATTERIES.

FOR

JULY

1918.

LIST OF APPENDICES.

- | No. | Subject. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|---|--------------------|------------|------|----------|-------------|------|----------|-----------|------|----------|------------|-----------|
| 1 | FIRING RETURNS & REPORTS - for Month. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | HONOUR & AWARD - Action for which commended.
<table border="0" style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td>N°5222 Bdr (T/Cpl)</td> <td>H.R.Fuller</td> <td>M.M.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9646 Gnr</td> <td>T.M.Coleman</td> <td>M.M.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2414 Bdr</td> <td>J.Warnock</td> <td>M.M.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1473 Cpl</td> <td>H.F.Parker</td> <td>M.M.-Bar.</td> </tr> </table> | N°5222 Bdr (T/Cpl) | H.R.Fuller | M.M. | 9646 Gnr | T.M.Coleman | M.M. | 2414 Bdr | J.Warnock | M.M. | 1473 Cpl | H.F.Parker | M.M.-Bar. |
| N°5222 Bdr (T/Cpl) | H.R.Fuller | M.M. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 9646 Gnr | T.M.Coleman | M.M. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2414 Bdr | J.Warnock | M.M. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1473 Cpl | H.F.Parker | M.M.-Bar. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3. | REPORT ON TEST SHOOT of 6" NEWTON MORTAR AMMUNITION. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4. | INSTRUCTIONS re moving forward the RESERVE POSITIONS.
with
REPORT on RECONNAISSANCE & TABLE OF POSITIONS SELECTED. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5. | INSTRUCTIONS following REPORT ON TEST SHOOT of
defective ammunition. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6. | TABLE OF FRONT LINE POSITIONS? as on 31/7/18. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7. | CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES (originals) -two - dated:-
7/3/18 and 22/7/18. | | | | | | | | | | | | |

A. Allowland
 CAPTAIN
 D.T.M.O. 1st AUS. DIV.

DAILY FIRING RETURN AND REPORT N° 163.

1st Aust Divl Medium Trench Mortar Bties 6 am 30/6/18 to 6am 1/7/18.

Battery	Time of Firing	Target	N° of Rounds	REPORT.
1st Aust M.T.M. Bty WAR DIARY JULY 1918. APPENDIX No 1 REPORT 163	4:pm to 2:15.am	B.12.A.95.31	8	2 abnormal rounds through faulty gun:
		B.12.B.45.01	11	Fire started.
		B.12.B.50.25	11	Dugouts. Drove men out & afforded sniping for Inf:
		B.12.D.35.85	24	6 direct hits. Satisfactory.
		F.I.C.60.90	60	T.M. Position
		MORRIS		Known centres of movement.
		F.I.C.4.3.		Harassing fire.
		F.I.B.5.5.	52	T.M. Position
		F.I.B.7.2.		Farm (known movement.
		F.I.A.65.50		Roads) Harassing fire.
Registration		Very unsatisfactory. New position		
N°5 GUN at	10	being built and will be registered to-day.		
X.19.D.5.11				
Total		176		

Activity Report.----- Report on abnormal rounds
 Normal. in N°1 series will be forwarded later.
 Aerial. Enemy planes flying low over Station morning and evening.

.....
 CAPTAIN
 1st Aust Divl Medium Trench Mortar Bties

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APPENDIX

1
7

DAILY FIRING RESULTS AND REPORT N° 167

1st Aust Divl Medium Trench Mortar Batteries 6am 1/7/18 to 6am 2/7/18

Battery	Time of Firing	Target	N° of Rounds	REPORT.
1st Aust M.T.B. Sty	7.30 am to 5. am	E.I.B.45.04 E.Iz.B.50.5	10 18 16	Building 3 direct hits. Barracks on line . Shooting good.
		F.I.C.5.4.) " 35.30) MERRIS)	40	T.M. Position (On houses and centres of movement.
		S.S.D.9.8.) F.I.C.5.9.) Roads at) F.I.A.35.30) " 9.1.) " 3.3.)	40	T.M. Position) On known movement.) Strong Point) T.M. Position)
	noon to 1. pm	- - - -	21	Registration series from new position . Satisfactory.
		Total	137	

Activity Report.- Fairly quiet on whole front.

Aerial.- Enemy planes again over our lines early in morning and late in the evening .

[Signature]
CAPTAIN
D.T.M.O. 1st AUS DIV

WAR DIARY JULY 1918. APPENDIX N°1 REPORT 167

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APPENDIX 1

8

DAILY FIRING RETURN AND REPORT N° 168

1st Aust Divl Medium Trench Mortar Batteries 6am 2/7/18 to 6am 3/7/18

Battery	Time of Firing	Target	N° Of Rounds	REPORT.
1st Aust M.T.M. Bty	2.30 pm to 5.45 am	S.12.B.45.03	25	High track & dugouts.- 4 direct hits.
		" 50.25	15	High track & dugouts.
		" 50.40	8	" " " " -3 hits.
		" 25.60	7	New work. One into centre
		" 68.84	5	Hedge across road.
		F.I.A.8.3.)	30) In support of Infantry raid.
		F.I.B.7.2.)		
		F.I.C.4.3.)	45	
		X.26.B.3.5.		On farm & sweeping along
		to	41	the hedges.
		X.26.D.3.5.		
		X.26.D.	29	Scarp cottage,-during raid by Infantry.
		Total	205	

WAR DIARY JULY 1918. APPENDIX N° 1 REPORT 168

Activity Report.-

Enemy activity - quiet on front during the day. Heavy barrage on centre during the raid.

[Signature]
CAPTAIN

D.T.M.O. 1st AUS. DIV.

APPENDIX

1

DAILY FIRING REPORT AND REPORT No 1/157

1st Aust Divl Medium Trench Mortar Batteries 6am 3/7/18 to 6am 4/7/18

Battery	Time of Firing	Target	N° of Rounds	REPORT.
1st Aust M.T.M. Bty	7. am to 5.45 am	H.12.B.	80	Railway) Satisfactory. Hedges.) Many direct hits ") on Railway and hedges well searched.
		H.12.B.45.08.		
APPENDIX No 1 WAR DIARY 1918 JULY REPORT 169		H.12.D.	45	Road & Buildings
		" 30.40.		
		H.1.C.15.35.		
		" 30.40.		
		H.1.C.15.36.97		
		H.1.C.40.30.		
		H.1.C.15.30.		
		H.1.A.35.30		
		" 30.35.12		
		H.1.B.20.30		
" 35.30	40	Post Trench		
H.1.A.39.25 to				
H.1.B.20.30.				
H.1.B.70.20				
		K.26.B. & D.	60	Scarp Cottage, trenches, posts and farms.
Activity Report.		Total	25	
Heavy shelling on centre trenches and back area and Station during the night.				
				CAPTAIN
D.T.M.O. 1st AUS DIV				

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APPENDIX

10

DAILY FIRING RETURN AND REPORT N° 170.
1st Aust Divl Medium Trench Mortar Bty - 4/7/18 to 6 am 5/7/18.

Battery	Time of Firing	Target	N° of Rounds	REPORT.
1st Aust M.G. Bty	4.30 pm to 6 am	E. 12. B. 02. 40	7	Registration on Zero Line. Railway. 3 direct hits; satis- factory. Post & Trench. Inf: report good results. Trench along hedge. Farm M.G. Post Trench. House. Scarp Cottage & Trenches. Two abnormal rounds.
		E. 12. B.	10	
		E. 1. C. 56. 9.	20	
		E. 1. B. 13. 25.	50	
		do		
		E. 1. B. 5. 5.		
		E. 1. B. 7. 5.		
		E. 1. B. 18. 35.		
		E. 1. B. 2. 3. 30	50	
		E. 1. B. 21. 25.		
E. 16. B. 3. 5.	50			
E. 5. Central				
Total			137	

Activity Report. -
very heavy shelling along whole front yesterday evening by the
enemy.

WAR DIARY JULY 1918
APPENDIX No 1 REPORT

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CAPTAIN
D.T.M.O. 1st AUS. DIV.

APPENDIX

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DAILY FIRING RETURN AND REPORT No 173

1st Aust Divl Medium Trench Mortar Batteries 6am 5/7/18 to 6am 6/7/18.

Battery	Time of Firing	Target	No of Rounds	REPORT.
1st Aust M.F. Coy	11.50 am 1.45 pm	1.1.3.7.2. " 43.35. " 5/5.	30	Farm, trenches & W.C. Posts. As our Infantry reported some short rounds, firing was stopped. Faulty ammunition now arriving is cause of erratic shooting.
	4 pm	1.26.3.45.10	3	First round, a good bomb, went right into target, the next two were abnormally short, I again had firing stopped.
		Total	33	

I have tested everything very thoroughly and that the ammunition is faulty there is not the slightest doubt.

Activity Report - Fairly quiet on whole Front.

John Law
CAPTAIN
D.T.M.O. 1st AUS. DIV.

WAR DIARY JULY 1918
APPENDIX No 1 REPORT
173

APPENDIX
12

DAILY FIRING RETURN AND REPORT N° 173.

1st Aust Divl Medium Trench Mortar Batteries from 3/7/18 to 6am 4/7/18

Battery	Time of Firing	Target	No of Rounds	REPORT.
2nd Aust M.T. Bty.	11.30 am to 4 pm	E. 12. C. 50. 85	25	On houses M.C. Position
		to	10	I very short round.
		E. 12. C. 50. 50	15	On houses & M.C. Position
		E. 12. C. 50. 85		Several direct hits - 2 ab-normal rounds.
		E. 12. C. 5. 4.	20	M.C. Position behind hedges.
		to		2 short rounds.
		E. 12. C. 5. 4.	10	On hedges & suspected M.C. Position/.
		E. 12. A. 75. 15		
		to		
		E. 12. A. 75. 00		
E. 6. D. 9. 9.	8	Registration on ruins.		
F. 1. B. 70. 15	15	On GERBESDOM. Minenwerfer 3 direct hits.		
F. 1. B. 5. 7.	5	Enemy Post.		
F. 1. B. 85. 90	10	M.C. Position.		
F. 1. A. 85. 50	10	Enemy Post. Light M'warfer.		
		Total	103	

Activity Report - Normal.

DTMO 1st AUS DIV

CAPTA

WAR DIARY JULY 1918. APPENDIX N° 1 REPORT 174.

APPENDIX

13

APPENDIX N°I - REPORT I79.
 WAR DIARY--JULY 1918.
 To, -----
 1st Aust Divl Arty.
 1st Inf: Bde
 3rd " "

D.T.M.O.s	
1st	
AUSTRALIAN DIVISION	
No	T.M.R. I79
Date	8/7/18.

6" Newton Mortars.

The following new Front Line Positions have been completed and ammunition for registration purposes going forward to-night:-

Location	True Zero Line	Zero Point	Arcs of Fire.
X.20.A.82.55.	125°	X.21.C.35.50.	X.27.A.40.25.to X.21.D.6.8.
X.20/A.85.66.	123°	X.21.C.5.6.	X.27.A.5.4.to X.21.B.60.05.
X.20.A.90.81.	118°	X.21.C.8.8.	X.27.A.75.75.to X.21.B.70.45.

A. H. Howland CAPTAIN
 D.T.M.O. 1st AUS, DIV,

DAILY FIRING RETURN AND REPORT N° 181

Ist Aust Divl; Medium Trench Mortar Batteries 6am 2/7/18 to 6am 2/7/18.

Battery	Time of Firing	Target	N° of Rounds	REPORT.
2nd Battery.	5. to 5.30 pm	E.12.C.50.35	15	Houses & M.G.1 abnormal rnd.
		" 50.60	15	" " " 2 " "
	11.30 pm to 2.am	F.1.C.4.3.	30	House.
		" 75.60	25	Xroads MERRIS.
	11.30 pm to 3.am	F.I.B.7.2.	70	Farm Gerbedoen. In conjunct - ion with Operation by Infant (4th & 6th Bns). No abnormal rounds reported. Heavy retaliatory barrage by enemy
	3.30 to 11.30 pm	X.21.C.91.83	14	Registration on Alwyn House.
		" 50.75	15	" on Posts & M.G.
		X.26.B.20.18	10	Hedges.
		" 45.10	30	Houses at Le Waton.
			224	

APPENDIX N° 1 REPORT 181
 WAR DIARY JULY 1918.

Activity Report.

Intermittent shelling in vicinity of Rly & Station during day Heavy barrage on Strazeele Station and Dump at 11.30 pm lasting about three quarters of an hour. Some Gas shells were fired about the same time.

Aerial- enemy showed great activity in the air yesterday.

[Signature]
 D.T.M.O. 1st AUS. DIV.

CAPTAIN

DAILY FIRING RETURN AND REPORT N° 18

1st Aust Divl Medium Trench Mortar Batteries 6am 10/7/18 to 6am 11/7/18.

Battery	Time of Firing	Target	N° of Rounds	REMARKS.
2nd Battery	8. to 9.45 pm	K.21.C.3.A.	18	Posts & Trenches. Registration
		K.21.A.60.05	14	Registration on Trenches.
		K.26.B.7.B.	10	Enemy reported moving about in fairly large numbers.
		Total	42	

Activity Report.-
----- Enemy shelling during day - Nil
Intermittent during night on Strazeele Railway.

Aerial.
----- Normal.

.....*P. H. ...*..... CAPTAIN
D.T.M.O. 1st AUS. DIV.

APPENDIX N° 1
 REPORT 182
 WAR DIARY 1918. JULY

APPENDIX

1

DAILY FIRING RETURN AND REPORT NO 184.

1st Aust Divl Medium Trench Mortar Batteries - 6am 11/7/18 to 6am 12/7/18

Battery	Time of Firing	Target	N° of Rounds	REMARKS.
^{2nd} 1st Aust M.T.M.B Bty	12.58 am	X.21.A.60.05 X.21.C.5.7. X.21.C.3.4.	10 10 5) Trenches. Supporting raid by S.Africans Bn, at their request?
		Total	25	

Activity Report.- Very quiet.

Aerial.6 Enemy planes inactive during day. Some dropped bombs during night & early morning on Strazeele Station.

WAR DIARY JULY 1918.
APPENDIX No. I
REPORT 184.

[Signature]
..... CAPTAIN
D.T.M.O. 1st AUS. DIV.

APPENDIX

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APPENDIX N° 2 -WAR DIARY - JULY 1918.

1st Aust Divl Medium Trench Mortar Batteries.
-----HONOURS & AWARDS. - MILITARY MEDALS
-----Actions for which awarded.

N° 5222 Bdr(T/Cpl) Harold Rossfell FULLER))
N° 9646 Gnr Thomas Millner COLEMAN))
1st Aust M.T.M.Bty.

At MOOLENACKER S.W.of METEREN (sheet 27 FRANCE) on the night of 18th - 19th June 1918.

These men were making Gun emplacements to participate in attack by Infantry. This work was done under very trying conditions - heavy M.G. and shell fire -.

On night of 21st - 22nd June the Gun emplacement was blown in by shell fire which also set fire to timber and camouflage covering a large quantity of ammunition. These men immediately put out the fire, saving the ammunition and possibly some lives.

The latter was an exceptionally gallant action and they displayed courage of a very high order, setting a magnificent example to the men of the detachment which; together with their conspicuous devotion to duty and utter disregard of danger, is deserving of considerable recognition.

2nd Aust Div Medium Trench Mortar Battery

N°2414 Bdr Joseph WARNOCK. (Mentioned in Divl Orders 1st Aust Div:R.O.630
6/7/18.)

At Nord Helf East of STRAZEELE (sheet 27 FRANCE) on night of 9th July 1918.

This N.C.O. was in charge of N°4 Gun.

During a raid by our Infantry the enemy put down a very heavy barrage, the line of which fell on our Mortar Positions. Intense M.G. fire was also concentrated on to this Post and, notwithstanding the very trying conditions, the programme allotted was fully carried out through the conspicuous courage of Cpl Warnock.

A bullet passed right through the steel helmet of one of his men and, upon the enemy fire increasing in intensity, he ordered the whole of his crew under cover and single-handed worked his gun.

By his unselfish action and devotion to duty he, at the risk of his own life, saved the lives of his men and at the same time carried out his allotted task of supporting our Infantry who were attacking.

His magnificent example and courage are worthy of the highest praise.

N° I473 Cpl Herbert Frank PARKER.M.M. - (Awarded M.M.- 1st Aust Divl R.O.
I70 24/8/17.) Evac:wounded 9/7/18

Near DORMAN COTTAGE East of STRAZEELE (sheet 27 FRANCE) on night of 9th July 1918.

This N.C.O. was in charge of N°3 Gun.

During a raid by our Infantry the enemy put down a very heavy barrage, the line of which fell on to our Mortar Positions. Early during the Operation Cpl Parker received a wound in the throat, a fragment of shell becoming embedded there;

He, however, pluckily stuck to his task and was still firing when the Officer I/C of his Section visited the Gun and ordered him to the Dressing Station.

The splendid manner in which his men carried on their duties under very heavy shell-fire was undoubtedly stimulated by the magnificent example of courage and coolness of Cpl Parker who, though wounded, stuck to his post till his task was completed and his very gallant action is worthy of the highest commendation.

APPENDIX N° 3. - WAR DIARY 1918.

To, 1st Aust Divl Arty.

REPORT ON TEST SHOOT of 6" NEWTON MORTAR AMMUNITION.

On account of the numerous cases of short shooting by 6" Newtons which have occurred during the past three weeks, a trial shoot was arranged for and took place at 2nd ARMY T.M.SCHOOL yesterday 10th inst. Major GEE and Capt DURANT from the XV Corps Ordnance (Ammunition) attended and the following points were proved:-

- (1) That the 6" Newton Mortar is an absolutely good and reliable weapon.
- (2) That the ammunition which is at present being manufactured is roughly and unevenly made, and the short shooting and abnormal rounds are entirely due to the ammunition.

In all, 80 rounds were fired, 8 of these being fired as duds. 3 of the duds, which were real abnormal rounds, were collected by Ordnance Officers and can be used as evidence to support our assertion of bad ammunition.

In a series of 13 rounds, only 2 were Range, the remaining 11 falling various distances short of target, one going only 300 yards from Gun muzzle, -being 760 yds short.

In order to test Mortar in rapid shooting, 15 rounds were fired in 45 seconds.

In view of ammunition being so defective, I would advise that no more shooting be allowed, except in case of an S.O.S. or where Infantry ask us to fire in support of a raid or small operation. In the latter event our own Infantry would not be occupying positions in front of Mortars and safe firing could easily be done.

I may say the XV Corps Ordnance have taken the matter up very thoroughly and I feel sure when we get a better class of ammunition the 6" Newton will once again come into its own and good work will be done.

Since going into the Line, in this Sector, this Division has fired approximately 11,000 rounds of 6" Newton ammunition. Up till a fortnight ago our Infantry were very keen for us to fire, and we undoubtedly did an immense amount of good work. During the last few weeks, however, a percentage of our shooting has been erratic and, unless we get the proper ammunition, we are afraid our Infantry will lose confidence in our Mortar. In view of the fact of our previous good work; such a state of affairs is deplorable, and I would ask that every assistance be given us to regain the confidence of the Infantry in this weapon. This can only be done by a strict enquiry into the manufacture of bombs, component parts etc, as we know the 6" Newton Mortar is in all respects a good and reliable weapon.

S. Howland CAPTAIN
 D.T.M.O. 1st AUS. DIV.

APPENDIX N° 4 -a WAR DIARY - JULY 1918.

1st Aust Divl Medium Trench Mortar Batteries.

Copies.

From 1st Aust Divl Arty to D.T.M.O. 1st Div: N°SI28/94 dated 25/7/18.

" On night 24/25th July the present support line will become the
"most strongly held line in the Divisional Area.

" It will be necessary to move reserve T.Ms forward as quickly as
"possible so that they can cover this line ("Z" on attached map).

" Please notify this office of positions selected."

D.T.M.O. to 1st Aust Divl Arty. N° T.M.R.200 dated 27/7/18.

"Reference your N°S I28/94 dated 25th inst:-

" A reconnaissance of area covering "Z" Line was made by me to-day and a
"Table, giving positions selected with approximate co-ordinates of arcs of
"fire etc, is enclosed.

" Work upon these positions will proceed immediately. One gun at a time
"will be transferred from present Reserve to new positions so as not to have
"the whole of the Reserve Guns out of action at the same time."

APPROXIMATE RESERVE POSITIONS etc.

6" Newton Mortars.

1st Aust Divl Medium Trench Mortar Batteries. -

27th July 1918.

N° Gun	LOCATION	True Zero Line	Arcs of Fire.
1	E.4.C.35.75.	132°	E.IO.D.70.25.to E.II.B.05.70.
2	E.4.C.40.85.	107°	E.II.A.70.20.to E.5.B.30.10.
3	W.29.B.35.00.	163°	E.II.B.20.90.to E.6.D.10.45.
4	W.29.B.50.10.	131°	E.6.C.90.40.to F.I.A.15.80.
5	W.24.C.50.40.	133°	E.6.B.75.65. to X.25.B.10.30.
6	W.24.C.60.55.	114°	X.25.C.65.35?to X?I9.D.45.35.
7	X.I9.A.30.85.	144°	X.25.B.10.15.to X.20.C.60.30.
8	X.I9.A.35.99.	120°	X.26.A.20.75.to X.20.B.15.40.

APPENDIX N° 5 WAR DIARY JULY 1918 .

From 1st Aust Divl: Arty to D.T.M.O.N°21/75 dated 27/7/18.

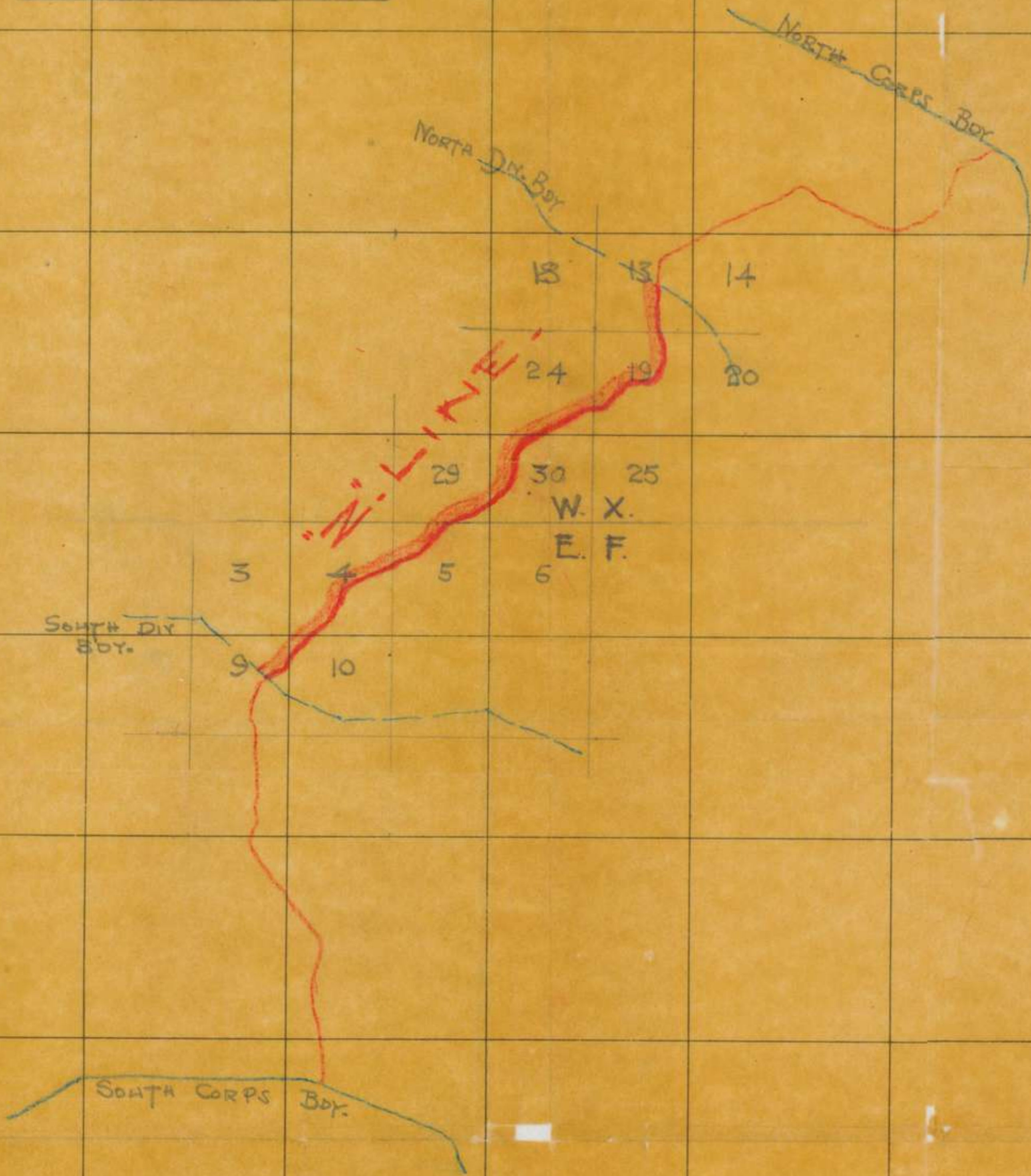
"The following from 2nd ARMY is forwarded for information and nec-
"essary action. Any defective rounds will be returned to Light Ammunition
"Officer, EBBLINGHEM.

" 1. Ammunition now arriving for 6" Newton Mortars appears to contain a
"percentage of badly finished bombs;which;if fired,will give inaccurate
"shooting.

" 2.These badly finished bombs can usually be detected by careful in-
"spection. All ammunition for 6" Newtons Mortars will therefore be care-
"fully examined before issue to Batteries, and any defective rounds found
"will be sent to the Trench Mortar School for special examination and trial
"if necessary.

" 3. Application has been made for issue of gauges at the scale of 3 per
"Battery".

— FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIV. ARTY. —
"Z" LINE AS AT 26.7.18.



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. 3025

Tracing taken from Sheet 27 + 36 JOINED

of the 1:40,000 map of

Signature _____ Date 26.7.18

AWM 4
13/90/28

TABLE of 6" Newton Mortar Positions - Arcs of Fire etc - FRONT LINE.

Ist Aust Divl Medium Trench Mortar Bties. - 28th & 31st July 1918

Location	Zero Line (True)	Zero Point	Arcs of Fire	O.P. Location
N° 1 GUN E.6.C.I.I Alternative Em- placement E.8.D.02.07	I30° II48 II4°	E.I2.D.40.99	E.I8.D.55.60 to F.7.A.80.10 E.I2.D.I.I to E.I2.B.85.85.	E.II.A.40.98
N° 2 GUN W.30.D.53.87	I62°	F.1.C.I0.95	E.I2.B.45.80 to F.1.D.3.4.	85.25 W.30.B.85.25
N° 3 GUN X.25.A.45.90	I65°	F.1.B.I0.25	F.I.C.2.9 to F.2.A.05.35	W.30.B.I0.35
N° 4 GUN X.25.B.80.I5	I32°	F.2.B.55.32	F.2.D.I5.40 to F.3.A.4.8	-
<u>Location of:-</u>				
Battery H.Q. in the Line -)		E.2.D.3.3.	Appendix 6 - War Diary July 1918.	
Right Section - - - - -)				
Centre Section - - - - -)		E.5.B.70.85		
Left Section - - - - -)		X.I9.A.33.90		
Reference Maps	Sheet	27 S.E. 4a		
	"	36a N.E. 7a		

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APPENDIX

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Appendix

Appendix N° 7 - War Diary
July 1918.

D.T.M.O.,	
1st	
AUSTRALIAN DIVISION	
No.	972.
Date	10/3/18



Australian War Records Section.
130 Horseferry Road.
LONDON. S.W.1.

March 7th 1918.

O. C.
D.T.M.O.,
1st Aust. Division.

In continuation of this office letter AW1356 acknowledging receipt of your war diary for January, this diary has now been carefully examined, and it is desired to congratulate you on the improvements made both in the text of the diary and in the valuable appendices attached.

This diary was recently inspected at this office by Brig. General Coxen, who expressed himself as very pleased with the manner in which it was being compiled and the information contained therein. It is confidently hoped that every effort will be made to continue in future the high standard already set by your unit in this direction.

W. Gullett, i/c
for Captain.
Officer i/c, Aust. War Records Section.

ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

CABLE & TEL. ADDRESS: "ADMINAUST, LONDON."

TELEPHONES (10 LINES): VICTORIA 8860.

IN REPLY QUOTE

1 Awar. 4379/12/41

D.T.M.O.,		AUSTRALIAN WAR RECORDS SECTION,	
1st		103, HORSEFERRY ROAD,	
AUSTRALIAN DIVISION		LONDON, S.W. 1.	
No.	454.	July 20th 1918.	
Date	24/7/18	22 JUL 1918	

D.T.M.O.
1st Aust. Div. Artillery.

Your War Diary for June last has now been carefully examined and is found that it maintains the high standard set by previous ones.

In connection with congratulatory messages it is suggested the original should be attached to the diary, thus ensuring its preservation for the batteries and for Australia.

J. A. ...
Lieut

for Captain.
Officer i/c, Aust. War Records Section.

Appendix N° 7 - War Diary - July 1918.