

AWM4

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

Artillery

Item number: 13/107/5

Title: 3rd Australian Medium Trench Mortar
Battery

July 1918



AWM4-13/107/5

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
DUPLICATE.
TRIPLICATE.

TRENCH MORTAR
BATTERIES,
3RD AUSTRALIAN DIV.
No. *3rd Coy*
Date *1918*

92

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

3RD A.M.T.M. BATTERY

FOR

JULY
~~*AUGUST*~~

1918

Signature of Officer compiling

Arthur Lunn

Signature of Officer Commanding

Bernard O'Connell
Capt

WAR DIARY

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

TRENCH MORTAR
BATTERIES, Army Form C. 2118.
1ST AUSTRALIAN DIV.
J. G. G. G.

75

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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	July 1		<p>At 1.15 a.m. this morning our infantry raided enemy strong post on right of Dernancourt. Raid successful, casualties inflicted & prisoners taken. During raid our battery fired 272 rounds on various positions and in covering barrage.</p> <p>Received from 2nd D.A.C. ten men to be temporarily attached to battery during absence of men in hospital with Influenza.</p> <p>Weather fine and very warm.</p> <p>Strength Return - 4 Officers & 52 O.R.</p>	<p>General Cameron Capt</p>
	2.		<p>Situation normal.</p> <p>Last night 300 rounds of ammunition conveyed from dump to gun positions.</p> <p>Mr Melville returned from English leave.</p> <p>Weather fine & warm.</p> <p>Strength Return - 4 Officers & 53 O.R.</p>	
	3.		<p>At 1 a.m. this morning fired six rounds on enemy post at K2A 25.80 and at 3 a.m. fired six rounds on enemy post at K2C 10.55.</p> <p>Situation generally normal.</p> <p>Men at gun pits relieved by fresh crews this afternoon.</p> <p>Weather fine and warm. Strength Return - 4 officers & 53 O.R.</p>	

A7092. Wt. W128.9/M1293 750,000. 1/17. D. D & L., Ltd. Forms/C2118/14.

WAR DIARY

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.)

TRENCH MORTAR BATTERIES, 2ND AUSTRALIAN DIV. 2/10/1917

78

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	July 4.		Orders from Battery Headquarters that owing to heavy enemy shelling of Ville-sur-Aucres, guns in that village to be out of action. Situation generally normal. Cpl. Price returned from Hospital. Weather fine and warm. Strength Return 4 Officers + 53 O.R.	
	5.		Very heavy enemy shelling on Supports and Back Areas from 9 pm till 11 p.m. Ville-sur-Aucres heavily shelled. Forwarded 3 new Super beds to gun positions in front of Treux. Weather cloudy, cool breeze blowing. Strength - 4 Officers + 53 O.R.	
	6.		On report from Capt. McDonald (57th Battalion) as to a lot of movement being heard at E19B80.65 and to E19B70.99, fired 20 rounds on this position at 11.30 p.m. Enemy steadily shelling Ville-sur-Aucres throughout the day also at 9.30 pm and 2.30 pm. Otherwise Situation normal. Gun. Amadocks evacuated to hospital with Influenza. Weather fine + warm. Strength 4 Officers 52 O.R.	Barracks Captain
	7.		At 12.30 am. opened fire on to enemy post situated at E26 50.99 and fired 10 rounds. Also fired 12 rounds on to machine gun position at K2C40.00 Total ammunition expended 22 rounds. Heavy enemy shelling with 4.2's and 5.9's on Ville-sur-Aucres + Treux	

2

WAR DIARY

or

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

(Erase heading not required.)



75

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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	July 7		<p>also slight gas shelling. Enemy aircraft active at 7 p.m. Enemy obtained direct hit on gun 6 destroying bed and partially destroying piece, gas ejector + muzzle cover. Bombadier Jones returned from Hospital. Surs Thomas and Demmen evacuated to Hospital with Influenza. Weather fine. Strength 4 officers 52 OR.</p>	
	8.		<p>Fired 20 rounds on reported Minenwerfer position at E20A99.10. Hostile enemy shelling with 4.2's and 5.9's on Truse + Ville lasting 1 hour. Bdr Letson and Surs Bell, Whelan, Condrat returned from Hospital. Weather warm and cloudy. Strength 4 officers + 52 OR.</p>	Barracks Messing
	9.	<p>Situation normal. Super bed carried from Truse to new gun position in front of Buire. Last night 300 rounds of ammunition conveyed from Dump to Buire Railway Station + carried to various gun positions by infantry carrying party. Weather fine and warm. Strength 4 officers + 55 OR.</p>		
	10.	<p>Heavy enemy shelling on various parts of line otherwise Situation normal. At 5 p.m. registered enemy trench from E19B70.99 to E19B17.00. Sixty rounds in all were fired. Direct hits were obtained on trench, enemy</p>		

WAR DIARY

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

TRENCH MORTAR BATTERIES, 2ND AUSTRALIAN DIV. Form C. 2118. 75

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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	July 10		wire in front of trench cut also a rifle was observed thrown into air. Raid carried out by our infantry a success. At 2 am. ten rounds were fired on E19 B 70.00 At 3.30 am. ten rounds were fired on E19 B 75.35. Men at gun pits relieved by fresh crews. Occupied during afternoon bomb carrying. Weather cloudy and windy. Strength 4 officers + 55 O.R.	
	11.		Fired 30 rounds on to enemy outpost and wire at E 26 A. Capt McDonald (O.C. raid) and Stokes Officer present when firing. Result of shoot very satisfactory. One stretcher case was observed also 3 walking casualties. Enemy was forced to evacuate his post and considerable amount of wire was disposed of. Fired 8 rounds on to enemy post trench at E19 B 70.10 to E19 B 70.30. Four rounds were observed to fall in the trench. Total ammunition expended 38 rounds. Weather windy and showery. Strength 4 officers 55 O.R.	Spencer McDonald Capt
	12.		At 4.30 p.m. yesterday fired 20 rounds on to wire at E26 A. At same time fired 50 rounds on to enemy trench at E19 B 80.70 to E19 B 70.10 and E 20 A 99.15. At 12.15 a.m. a raid was carried out by our infantry (58th Battalion) on night	

A7092. Wt. W128.9/M1293. 750,000. 1/17. D. D. & L., Ltd. Forms/C2118/14.

f

WAR DIARY

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.)

TRENCH MORTAR BATTERIES, 2ND AUSTRALIAN DIV. No. 220/1/1/1

23

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	July 12		<p>of Demancourt and during raid the battery fired from 5 mortars as follows:- 41 rounds on bank at E 27A00.60 to E27A30.97, 30 rounds on E20C20.80 34 rounds on E20D85.55, 20 rounds on K8C10.40 and 20 rounds on K8C7565 Total ammunition expended 215 rounds. After raid Ob. Assault and men reported no wire in front of enemy trench. Mr Arthur proceeded on leave to England. Weather fine and warm. Strength 4 Officers 55 OR.</p>	
	13.		<p>Orders from D.T.M.O to be prepared to hand over Battery Headquarters, gun positions in line, guns and all stores to 10th A.M.T.M. Battery (5th Div) this afternoon. This was duly carried out and men in line relieved by crews from 10th M.T.M. Battery. The whole battery then moved in motor transports to La Houssoye (4 Kilos away) and billeted there the night along with D.T.M.O and 4th A.M.T.M. Bty. During afternoon an enemy plane brought down two observation balloons close by Battery Headquarters.</p>	<p>Good food Messing</p>
	14.		<p>At 6 am. moved from La Houssoye in motor transports to Renancourt a village just on the outskirts of Amiens and distant about 15 Kilos from La Houssoye. During journey we passed thro' Amiens which is totally deserted by civilians, and in places is badly battered about by enemy shell fire.</p>	

A7092. Wt. W128 g/M1293 750,000. 1/17. D. D & L., Ltd. Forms/C2118/14.

6
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.)

TRENCH MORTAR
BATTERIES,
2ND AUSTRALIAN DIV.
No. *2nd Bty*
Date *2*

25

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	<i>July 14</i>		<i>Occupied afternoon at Renancourt cleaning billets etc. The 9 men temporarily attached from 2nd D.A.C. returned to their respective sections.</i>	
	<i>15</i>		<i>Weather wet and windy. Strength 3 Officers 46 O.R. In billets at Renancourt. Parades 10 am. and 2 pm. Occupied various fatigues. Weather fine & warm. Strength 3 Officers 45 O.R. bpl Barber proceeded on leave to Paris.</i>	
	<i>16</i>		<i>In billets at Renancourt. Parades 10 am. and 2 pm. Occupied cleaning equipment and parades fatigues. Received from D.T.M.O. (5th Divn) 6 guns, 4 Super beds, 12 I.S. Beds and Stores to replace those handed over to 10th A.M.T.M. Battery on 13th inst. Surs. Thomas, Dickie & Denmen returned from hospital. Strength 3 Officers 48 O.R.</i>	<i>Repacked Howitzer</i>
	<i>17</i>		<i>In billets at Renancourt. Parades 10 am & 2 pm - Drill order, and inspection of equipment etc. Weather fine & warm. Strength 3 Officers 48 O.R.</i>	
	<i>18</i>		<i>In billets at Renancourt. Parades 10 am. & 2 pm. Fatigues. Pvt. Street evacuated to hospital with influenza.</i>	

A70921. Wt. W128. 9/M1293 750,000. 1/17. D. D. & L., Ltd. Forms/C2118/14.

6

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.)

TRENCH MORTAR BATTERIES, 2ND AUSTRALIAN DIV. No. 2807 Date 28/7/18

25

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	July 18.		Weather fine and warm. Strength 3 officers 47 O.R.	
	19.		In billets at Renaucourt. Parades 10 am. drill order 2 pm. fatigue dress. Lieut Reeves left battery to proceed to England & attached to A.F.C.	
	20.		Weather fine & warm. Strength 2 officers 47 O.R. At 1 pm. left Renaucourt in motor transports for Trench Mortar School. Entrained at Ailly-sur-Somme and arrived at Abbeville about 9.30 pm. and spent night at rest camp there. Weather cloudy & wet. Two officers from 4th Battery accompanied us to School	
	21.		Entrained and left Abbeville at 9 am. and arrived at Royelles at noon and marched to T.M. School situated at Sailly-le-Sec about 5 kilometres from Royelles. course to commence tomorrow & is of 13 working days terminating 6th August.	
	22.		School course commenced.	
	23 } to } 31 }		Battery at Trench Mortar School.	

Handwritten signature: [illegible]

7