

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

Artillery

Item number: 13/92/20

Title: 4th Australian Divisional Trench
Mortar Officer

May 1918



AWM4-13/92/20

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Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL TRENCH MORTARS.

FOR

MAY 1918.

Signature of Officer compiling

Signature of Officer Commanding

4th A.D.T.M.
May 1918

WAR DIARY

Brig

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. 4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL TRENCH MORTARS.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
GLISSY. RIVERY.	1/5/18.		Reference Map, Sheet 62d S.W. 1/20,000.	
			D.T.M.O. made reconnaissance of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX. Battery Headquarters are established at O 27 d 3090. There are two 6" Trench Mortars in positions at U 35 d 6090. (In the Town of VILLERS BRETONNEUX.)	
	2/5/18.		Lieut. F.A. GAUNT is detached for duty at A.R.P. near GLISSY. D.T.M.O., Headquarters move to GLISSY. Remainder of 7th Battery moves into the line, 8th Battery remaining in Rest Billets in RIVERY. 7th Battery fires 100 rounds into buildings and walls in U 6 a. A large percentage of direct hits with good results were obtained.	
	3/5/18.		Nil.	
	4/5/18.		6 men of the 8th Battery gassed in billets in RIVERY as result of a direct hit on the billet. 2/Lt. H.J. REMINGTON taken on strength from 4th Aust. D.A.C. and posted to 7th Battery. A 6" Mortar position built at U 6 a 5882.	
	5/5/18.		15 other ranks evacuated, gassed, as result of gass shelling of RIVERY on 4th instant. 5.9 H.V. shells were used with Yellow Cross (Mustard) gas. This is believed to be the first time the enemy has used such a large calibre shell with gas. Two men of another unit, who picked up a nose cap of one of the shells after the bombardment had ceased, were evacuated, gassed. 2/Lt. L.M. MACLEAN is taken on strength from 4th Aust. D.A.C. and posted to 8th Battery. D.T.M.O. made a reconnaissance of the Divisional Front in order to select positions for 3 15-pdr. B.L.C. guns which are to be used for anti-tank defence.	
	6/5/18.		At 4.15 p.m. 20 rounds were fired on WOOD in U 6 a. Construction of apit for 15-pdr. Anti-tank gun commenced at O 29 b 8040. Lieut. G.C. GARVIN, 2/Lieuts. F. HUTCHISON, J.P. FULLERTON and A.E.F. SMITH rejoined from on detached duty with F.A. Brigades.	
			8th Battery moved from RIVERY to GLISSY.	
	7/5/18.		12 men from 11th Aust. F.A. Brigade and 4 men from 10th Aust. F. A. Brigade taken on strength as reinforcements.	
	8/5/18.		The 3 15-pdr. B.L.C. guns are received and one gun sent to the prepared position at O 29 b 80 40 with an Officer and detachment. The 3 15-pdr guns are formed into a Battery of Anti-tank Guns under the command of Lieut. G.C. GARVIN, the three sections being commanded by 2/Lieuts. J.P. FULLERTON, F. HUTCHISON and A.E.F. SMITH. Volunteers from the Trench Mortar Batteries are manning the guns.	
	9/5/18.		Another 15-pdr. Gun is placed in position at O 30 c 6040 in place of an 18-pdr gun which was being used as an Anti-tank gun. 2/Lt. A.E.F. SMITH proceeds to Corps Lewis Gun School.	
	10/5/18.		A 6-pdr. Hotchkiss gun found in pieces at the side of the road at O 27 b 5001 was brought to D.T.M.O. Headquarters. 8th Battery relieved 7th Battery in the line.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
GLISSY	11/5/18.		Nil.	-
	12/5/18.		270 rounds of T.M. Ammunition in VILLERS BRETONNEUX blown up by enemy shell fire.	-
			Another 6-pdr. Hotchkiss gun brought to GLISSY. Both guns are being cleaned and it is intended to use them as Anti-tank guns. D.T.M.O. proceeded by motor car to ERIN to obtain stores and spare parts and returned at 4.20 a.m. on 13th.	-
	13/5/18.		One 6-pdr. mounted on improvised mounting made of railway sleepers. The third 15-pdr. gun is placed in a position at O 36 a 4080. Brewery at VILLERS BRETONNEUX in which two 6V Mortars are in position was set on fire by enemy shelling and guns had to be removed.	-
			100 rounds of 6-pdr. ammunition obtained from 8th Tank Battalion.	-
	14/5/18.		One 6-pdr. Hotchkiss gun, mounted on improvised wooden mounting, tested. Eight rounds were fired and the mounting proved most satisfactory and the gun very accurate. The two 6V Mort. which were at Brewery in VILLERS BRETONNEUX and had to be removed on account of fire are now in position at O 35 b 2535 (2 guns) and another gun at O 25 b 7040.	-
			rounds Trench Mortar ammunition fired on derelict tank at MONUMENT and in registration. Whilst firing on buildings in MONUMENT Wood much timber was blown up.	-
	15/5/18.	19	D.T.M.O. Headquarters moved to dugouts at N 24 b 2070.	-
	16/5/18.		152 rounds of 6" ammunition destroyed in VILLERS BRETONNEUX by fire which started on 13th instant and is still burning. At 11 a.m. 11 rounds were fired on northern end of buildings in U 6 a. Registration and destructive shoot. At 5 p.m. 20 rounds were fired on derelict tank and buildings in U 6 a. Good shoot but no direct hits obtained.	-
	17/5/18.		At 11 a.m. 4 rounds were fired on derelict tank. At 11.15 a.m. 14 rounds fired on house in U 6 a 5575. Several hits on parts of buildings.	-
			7th Battery moved from billets in GLISSY and commenced construction of dugouts and shelters in embankment at N 24 b 2070. 182nd Tunnelling Coy. commenced construction of tunnel dugouts. 12.20 p.m., fired 9 rounds on S.O.S. line. 4.30 p.m. fired 6 rounds on derelict tank and 6 rounds on S.O.S. line and 9 rounds on house at U 6 a 3575.	-
	18/5/18.		7th Battery relieved 8th Battery in the line. 8th Battery withdrew to N 24 b 2070 and continued construction of dugouts and shelters commenced by 7th Battery. 7th Battery fired 10 rounds at 5.30 p.m. Registration on Railway. Bed shot all to pieces.	-
	19/5/18.		7th Battery fired 30 rounds from 3 guns in registration on S.O.S. lines. O.K.. The second 6-pdr. Hotchkiss gun was satisfactorily tested.	-
			One 6-pdr. Hotchkiss gun is now in position as anti-tank gun at O 30 b 0345.	-
	20/5/18.		The second 6-pdr. Hotchkiss gun was taken in on night of 22/23rd and ready for action at 3 a.m. 23rd at O 34 b 9550.	-
	21/5/18.			-
	22/5/18.			-
	23/5/18.			-

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL
TRENCH MORTARS.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
23/5/18.			(continued.) The Unit is now manning the following guns in action :- 2 6" T.Ms. at 0 35 b 2545. 2 6" T.Ms. at 0 35 b 4030. 1 6" T.M. at 0 35 b 8030. Anti-tank Guns @ 1 15-pdr. B.L.C. Gun at 0 36 a 4090. 1 15-pdr. B.L.C. Gun at 0 30 kc 5848. 1 15-pdr. B.L.C. Gun at 0 29 b 8040. 1 6-pdr. Hotchkiss Gun at 0 30 b 0345. 1 6-pdr. Hotchkiss gun at 0 34 b 9550.	
	24/5/18.		7th Battery carried out the following operations :- 1.30 to 2 p.m., fired 10 rounds on trench in U 6 a 5065 to U 6 b 2095. 2 to 2.30 p.m., fired 10 rounds searching fire for M.G. emplacement in wood in U 6 a. 3.30 to 4 p.m., fired 24 rounds on House and communication trench behind, at 0 36 d 9590. It is not possible to state definitely the result of these shoots as observation of the targets is difficult.	
	25/5/18.		12 noon, 7th Battery fired 10 rounds on enemy Company Headquarters at 0 36 d 9595. 5 direct hits obtained. 2.30 p.m. 46 rounds fired on buildings and wood in U 6 a. 45 direct hits obtained. 15 rounds fired on tank in U 5 b 1565. No direct hits. Observations on this target is very difficult.	
	26/5/18.		4 p.m. 7th Battery fired 5 rounds in registration on S.O.S. Line. Line good. From 10.30 p.m. to 4 a.m. 80 rounds fired on Enemy Coy. Headquarters and Quarry and trees behind. In the moonlight the line was observed to be good.	
	27/5/18.		5 p.m. 7th Battery fired 26 rounds on Monument wood U 6 a 6580 and House U 6 a 6090. 2 direct hits on house and 4 in trench running in from right. Remainder in close proximity. Enemy retaliated with 77s and T.Ms.. At 11 p.m. enemy searchlight was observed at 108° Mag. bearing from 0 27 4585.	
	28/5/18.		No operations.	
	29/5/18.		No operations. 7th Battery salvaged 117 rounds of ammunition from scene of fire in VILLERS BRETONNEUX.	
	30/5/18.		8th Battery relieved 7th Battery in the line. 7th Battery withdrew to N 24 b 2076. One Officer and 30 other ranks of 3rd Aust. Div. T.Ms. arrived as advanced party from 3rd Aust. Div. T.Ms. who are to relieve 4th Aust. Div. T.Ms. on 2nd June. At 3 p.m. 8th Battery fired 30 rounds on house in 0 36 d 9590. Hits obtained and part of roof fell in. 5 rounds fired on Tank in U 5 b 1565.	
	31/5/18.		8th Battery fired 3 rounds on derelict tank. 40 rounds on house in 0 36 d 9590. 54 rounds on S.O.S. lines and Railway. 98 rounds on S.O.S. lines and vicinity and house in 0 36 d 9590 and vicinity.	

[Signature]
Captain,
D.T.M.O.