

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

Artillery

Item number: 13/93/1

Title: 5th Australian Divisional Trench
Mortar Officer

August 1916



AWM4-13/93/1

No. 1

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

5th Aust. Divⁿ Trench Mortar Bde

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
FRANCE	1/8/16		all batteries constructing & consolidating permanent & alternative mortar emplacements in front & support lines.	Jy/B
	2/5/16	do	do	do Jy/B
	3/5/16		3 Officers & 102 O.R. proceeded to Trench Mortar School, Berthier for a two week's course in medium & heavy Trench Mortars. 2 officers & remaining personnel continued constructing dugouts & emplacements in front & support lines.	Jy/B
	4/5/16		2 officers & remaining personnel constructing dugouts & emplacements in front & support lines.	Jy/B
	5/5/16	do	do	do Jy/B
	6/5/16	do	do	do Jy/B
	7/5/16	do	do	do Jy/B
	8/5/16	do	do	do Jy/B
	9/5/16	do	do	do Jy/B
	10/5/16		4 Officers & 5 O.R. returned from Trench Mortar school. 4.5 A. Medium Trench Mortar Battery engaged N.5.D.3 1/2 & 2 TURKS POINT & N.11.B.1.9 WATER FORT. doing considerable damage.	Jy/B
	11/5/16		constructing dugouts & emplacements in front & support lines.	Jy/B
	12/5/16	do	do	do Jy/B
	13/5/16	do	do	do Jy/B
	14/5/16	do	do	do Jy/B

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

5th Aust Div T. M. Bgde

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
FRANCE	15/8/16	4.3 PM to 4.16 PM	2.5 A. 2" Medium Trench Mortar Battery bombarded section of enemy trenches & wire from N.9.C.5 to N.9.C.0. 35 rounds were fired delay action detonator being used on trenches. Instantaneous on wire wire observed cut in front of parapet at N.9.C.6. also much damage done to parapet at N.9.C.5 & N.9.C.6. Retaliation very heavy, H.E. being mainly used. 11.30 Gm LOUIS ALLEN. Awarded Military Medal for gallantry on 19.9.16.	D.A.R.G. 15/8/16
	16/8/16	3.30 PM to 4.30 PM	a detachment from V.5.A. Heavy Trench Mortar Battery from 2nd Army Trench Mortar School. Berthen carried out a demonstration with one 2.40" M. Trench Mortar in the 19 th Division sector. 21 rounds were fired on trench in rear of enemy front line trench from N.36.A.6.6 to N.36.A.7.3. in length about 200 yards & a range of from 700 to 800 yards. Opened fire at 3.30 P.M. & ceased at 4.30 P.M. Much damage was done & much timber sandbags etc. thrown up & a breach of about 15 yards made in a new work. also 12 objects like bodies were thrown up. One round failed to explode.	
	17/8/16	3.35 PM. to 3.45 PM	V.5.A. Medium Trench Mortar Battery registered on the following points N.10.B.7.4 (I) N.11.A.15.15. III, N.11.A.4.6 (II) N.5.D.00. Fire was opened at 3.35. P.M. & ceased at 3.45. P.M. 38 rounds being fired. The registration was very effective & much damage was done to enemy trenches. 3 officers & 96 C.R. returned from 2nd Army T.M. School, Berthen. 45 C.R. were temporarily attached from 5 th D.A.C. as working party & 15 C.R. were allotted to each of X.4 & Z. Medium T.M. Batteries. Marched out from Billet at MAIN STALLY CROSSROADS (G22.B.70.95) & took over Billets at S29.D.7.94 H.31.D.55. Headquarters & Medium Batteries being billeted at the former & V.5.A. Heavy T.M. Battery at the latter.	

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

No 3

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.)

5th Aust Div Trench Mortar Bde

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FRANCE	18/7/16	6:40 P.M. to 6:15 P.M.	Z.5.A. 2" Medium Trench Mortar Battery bombarded enemy wire & parapet at N 9.0.55.17 & N 9.0.3.1 respectively. Fire was opened at 6.10 P.M. & ceased at 6.15 P.M., 9 bombs being fired. Instantaneous detonators were used on wire & delay action on other targets. One bomb failed to explode but the remainder were effective & appears to have been cut in wire. Covering fire was given by artillery.	
	19/8/16	10:40 P.M.	Y.5.A. 2" Medium Trench Mortar Battery opened fire on the following points at 10.40 P.M. N 9.0.0.1. The <u>Knuckle</u> N 9.0.25. 96 rounds were fired using Delay Action Detonators. Damage very considerable & effect very good. Covering fire was given by artillery.	
	19/8/16	10:30 P.M. to 10:38 P.M.	Z.5.A. 2" Medium Trench Mortar Battery opened fire on wire on a 90 yards front opposite N 9.0.55.17 & enemy parapet at 10.30 P.M. & ceased at 10.38 P.M. 37 rounds were fired using instantaneous detonators. Wire was most effectively cut & parapet & trenches damaged. Casualties 1 officer Lt. G. Williamson & 10 P.R. wounded & evacuated to hospital. Covering fire was given by artillery.	
	19/8/16		X.5.A. 2" Medium Trench Mortar Battery incurred casualties. 5 O.R. wounded while preparing positions.	
	20/8/16		All Batteries constructing dugouts & emplacements in front & support lines	
	21/8/16	6:11 P.M. to 6:18 P.M.	Z.5.A. Medium Trench Mortar Battery opened fire on enemy parapets & dugout at N 9.0.1.4 at 6.11 P.M. & ceased at 6.18 P.M. 100 bombs were fired using Delay Action Detonators. Results observed to be good especially on parapets works directly in rear. Enemy wire was also cut & dugouts damaged. Retaliation by enemy artillery not very heavy. One mortar was completely buried by a 5.9 H.E. but dugout uninjured. Covering fire by our artillery was very effective.	

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

701.1147
Army Form C. 2118.
11/47

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.

5th Aust Div - Trench Mortar Bde

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FRANCE	22/8/16		all Batteries constructing dug-outs emplacements in front of support lines	
	23/8/16	6.5 P.M.	Y.5.A. Medium Trench Mortar Battery opened fire at 6.5 P.M. registering on parapet at N.11.A. 35.60. 3 rounds were fired & observed to be effective. Artillery cooperated.	
		6 P.M.	X.5.A. Medium Trench Medium Trench Mortar Battery opened fire at 6 P.M. registering on N.11.B.19. WATER FORT. & N.11.A. 20.40. TADPOTE. 9 rounds were fired & registration was very effective & artillery covering fire good. Authority given for 50% Reserve Personnel to be attached. Men to be drawn equally from Infantry & Artillery (A 22/1178. R.A.H.A.) 10 men accepted on transfer from 5th D.A.C. 82 from 14th F.A.B. 4 men transferred to 5th D.A.C. as not suitable for Trench Mortars.	
	23/8/16	6 P.M. to 6.5 P.M.	Z.5.A. Medium Trench Mortar Battery opened fire on Dump at N.9.C.4.1 at 6 P.M. & ceased at 6.5 P.M. 15 bombs were fired with good effect. Much timber etc. blown up. Artillery covering fire good.	
	24/8/16		All batteries constructing dug-outs emplacements in front of support lines	
	25/8/16	2.40 P.M.	Medium Trench Mortar Batteries allotted for tactical purposes only to the following groups. Z.5.A. Battery to Right Group. Y.5.A. Battery to Centre Group. X.5.A. Battery to Left Group (D.A.O. 34. 25/8/16). Y.5.A. Medium Trench Mortar Battery registered on N.11.A. 35.60 at 2.40 P.M. Nine Bombs were fired with good results registration being very effective. Equipment to be changed from Artillery to Infantry with special attachment for revolver (vide # A 10/1269. R.A.H.A.)	

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

PLATE
No 5

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.)

5th Aust Div^{ne} Trench Mortar Brigade

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FRANCE	26/8/16		all batteries getting gunse ammunition in position for operation on 27.8.16.	<i>gpb</i>
	27/8/16		Operation postponed. All Batteries consolidating positions 12 O.R. taken on transfer from 5th D.A.C. to complete establishment 99 O.R. attached as part 50% Reserve Personnel.	<i>gpb</i>
	28/8/16	4 P.M. to 4.45 P.M.	X.5 A. Medium Trench Mortar Battery engaged N.11.B.19. WATER FORT & N.5.D.35.20. TURKS POINT & sweeping & searching back 40 yards behind N.11.A.8.9. 10 N.11.A.95.95 for hamline at 4 P.M. 183 rounds were fired using delay detonators. Much damage was caused, enemy were being cut & much timber etc being thrown up. 6 Germans were forced out of a sally port at Turks Point & accounted for by our machine guns & snipers. Retaliation prompt & fairly heavy covering fire good. 'Pineapple' mortars were silenced.	
	28/8/16	4 P.M. to 4.45 P.M.	Y.5 A. Medium Trench Mortar Battery engaged N.11.A.40.65 & N.10.B.7.4 & swept & searched back 40 yards behind N.11.A.05 to N.11.A.15.60. for hamline at 4 P.M. 185 rounds were fired & great damage caused. Wire appeared to be effectively cut. Instantaneous detonators were used on wire & delay action on other targets. Retaliation was prompt & fairly heavy. Artillery covering fire good. 1 O.R. wounded & evacuated to hospital.	
	28/8/16	4 P.M. to 4.45 P.M.	Z.5 A. Medium Trench Mortar Battery opened fire from N.9.C.9.1. to N.9.C.05.05 THE KNUCKLE & on heads of C.To. at N.9.C.20.15. N.9.C.31. N.9.C.45.10. & N.9.C.95.05 at 4 P.M. 156 rounds were fired. Instantaneous detonators being used on wire & delay action on other targets. Wire was cut in front of KNUCKLE & enemy mortar silenced at N.9.C.5.1. Parapets much new work destroyed. Retaliation slight & covering fire good. Enemy aeroplane flying low opened fire on mortar with machine gun without effect. One gun blew out of bed on 44th round & rifle mechanism of another went out of action on the 12th round.	

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.)

5th Aust. Div^{nl} Trench Mortar Brigade

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FRANCE	28/8/16	0-13 to OUT.	<p>X.5.A. Medium Trench Mortar Battery opened fire on registered points. N.11.A. 00.40 THE TADPOLE wire in front of N.11.A. 95.95 at 0.13 ceased at OUT. 104 rounds were fired. Instantaneous detonators being used for wire & delay. Action for other targets. Observation difficult owing to darkness but what shots were observed were very effective. Retaliation heavy. Shrapnel & H.E. bursting from 10 to 20 yards behind gun positions. Covering fire good.</p> <p>Y.5.A. Medium Trench Mortar Battery opened fire on registered point N.11.A. 40.65 at ZERO & ceased at 0.10. 40 bombs were fired & instantaneous detonators used. at 11.27 P.M. raiding party returned stating wire was not cut. <i>JyB</i></p>	
	28/8/16		<p>a careful observation was made on point where wire was stated not to have been cut & with the aid of field glasses it was quite plain that wire had been cut. <i>JyB</i></p> <p>from 5th D.A.C.</p> <p>12 O.R. attached as part 50% Reserve Personnel.</p> <p>Punishment awarded N^o 464. Svr Kelly R.2.5th Battery on 4/8/16 remitted by G.O.C. 2nd Army, for gallantry in action. (D.F.R.O. 127/29/8/16)</p>	
	29/8/16	10-AM to 12.30 PM	<p>N^o 914. Sgt. Lockett. T. Y.5.A. Medium Trench Mortar Battery awarded Distinguished Conduct Medal for gallant conduct in action 19.7.16. (D.R.O. 784.29/8/16)</p>	
	30/8/16		<p>all Batteries consolidating positions in front & support line.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Jy. Bites</i> D.T.M.O.</p>	

WAR DIARY

or

Vol. II.
Page I.

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.)

5th Australian Divnl. Trench Mortar Bde.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
IN THE FIELD FRANCE.	31-8-16.	6 pm. to 6-8 p.m.	<p>Batteries consolidating positions in front and support lines. Z. 5. A. Medium Trench Mortar Battery engaged listening post at N. 9. D. 50. 52. 20 bombs were fired; 10 of which were fuze with Delay Action detonators and 10 with instantaneous. Listening post and wire surrounding same completely destroyed, much timber being thrown into the air. Enemy retaliation prompt and accurate but not very heavy. 77 mm. H.E. and shrapnel only were used in retaliation. Covering fire by Artillery very effective.</p> <p>(Original of above written on same sheet as entries for beginning of subsequent month and filed with m volume for that month).</p>	<p>Map Reference Sheet 36.</p>