

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

Artillery

**Item number:** 13/111/6

**Title:** 7th Australian Medium Trench Mortar  
Battery

July 1918



AWM4-13/111/6



**CONFIDENTIAL.**

ORIGINAL.

DUPLICATE.

TRIPLICATE.

Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

OF

*7<sup>th</sup> Aust. M. T. M. Bt.*

FOR

*JULY 1918*

Signature of Officer compiling

*W. G. Manly*

Signature of Officer Commanding

*W. G. Manly*



7<sup>th</sup> A.M.T.M. B5.

July, 1918.

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
B.H.9. <del>O 27 d 45 85</del> Sheet 62 <sup>D. 5000</sup> <sub>1/45,000</sub>	1/7/18	2.30 p.m.	Lieut. Chalones engaged a M.G. at P14 b 3.3. Ten rounds were fired four direct hits being obtained.	WSP
O 12 b 95.25	2/7/18		Thirty rounds fired during the afternoon on enemy works and trench mortar emplacements - 10 rounds in P 9 a 95.15 and 20 rounds in trench at P 14 d 90.80. Owing to low visibility it was not possible to observe what damage was done.	WSP
	3/7/18		Forty rounds fired - 20 rounds into trench at P 9 a 95.50 and 20 rounds on mortar emplacements in trench at P 14 d 90.80. After the 4 <sup>th</sup> round directed on the latter target six boches were seen to run from the trench.	WSP
	4/7/18		At 3.10 am. an attack was delivered on the left of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Aust. Div. Front and on the front of the 4 <sup>th</sup> Aust. Div. with a view to capturing the spur running from the main VILLERS BRETONNEUX Plateau at P 25 Central about 1000 yards east of VAIRE and HAMEL woods east of HAMEL, to the front line at the S.E. end of BOUSENCOURT (Sheet 62 <sup>D. 5000</sup> <sub>1/40,000</sub> ) The 7 <sup>th</sup> A.M.T.M. B5 took part in the initial bombardment, firing 37 rounds in eight minutes from two guns although one gun was out of action for nearly two minutes owing to a miss fire.	WSP



7<sup>th</sup> A.M.T.M. Regt.

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	4/7/18		The attack which was assisted by big tanks, was a complete success all objectives being taken in accordance with pre-arranged time-table. The enemy did not counter-attack till late at night and failed to regain any ground. As soon as the final objective was gained Lt. Chaloner went out and selected new positions for two mortars and one anti-tank gun.	NSP
	5/7/18		Lt. Garvin and 12 OR relieved Lt. Chaloner & party who went down to rear billets in LA NEUVILLE. Lt. Remington & 4 OR relieved Lt. Fullerton & detachment who also went down to LA NEUVILLE. Lt. Remington with a working-party of 5 OR took a 6 pdr. Hotchkiss anti-tank gun forward to the corner of HAMEL WOOD (P 15 & 15.20 Sheet 62 <sup>D</sup> SE. 1/20000 and proceeded to dig it in.	NSP
	6/7/18		At 3 am on 1966 Jnr. Richards J was killed and Lt. Remington, no 3711 Corporal Browne O.A. and 36503 Jnr. Belfe, N.V. were wounded by a shell. Lt. Garvin's detachment took one 6" mortar and sub-bed to a position already prepared at P & C.	NSP
	7/7/18		2 Lt. Jenour C.J. taken on strength of battery. Advice received that Cpl. Browne died of wounds.	NSP

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7<sup>th</sup> A.M.T.M.B.

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	8/7/18		Two supply tanks took forward 300 bombs and 3 mortars complete with sub-beds to positions already prepared by Lt. Garvin at (No. 1: P10c; No. 2: P10c; No. 3: P10a)	WP
			Party of 5 OR. <del>dig</del> completed digging in 6 pdr. Hotchkiss anti-tank gun at P. 15b.	WP
	9/7/18		Lt. Fenou, 4 OR. dug emplacement for 15 pdr. anti-tank gun at P15c and got gun into position.	WP
	12/7/18		Lt. Fullerton P.P. party relieved Lt. Garvin's party in the line.	WP
	13/7/18		Lt. Godbye C.K. transferred from 8 <sup>th</sup> Pky to 7 <sup>th</sup> Pky.	WP
	14/7/18		Lt. P.P. Fullerton evacuated sick.	WP
			7 <sup>th</sup> A.M.T.M.B. in the line relieved by 5 <sup>th</sup> A.M.T.M.B. (3 <sup>rd</sup> Div.) and marched to VILLERS BRETONNEUX sector to take over from 6 <sup>th</sup> A.M.T.M.B. (2 <sup>nd</sup> Div.)	WP
			The following mortars in position were taken over: 2 mortars in action at 035c 80.20 and 035c 90.40 8 defensive mortars at 028c 80.50, 028c 80.57, 028a 00.45, 028d 10.45 034e 47.60, 034e 55.65, 034b 15.52, 034b 13.28.	
			Battery stores etc. moved by Lt. S. Wagon to dug-outs at N24b 20.70.	
			Lt. C. Garvin transferred to 4 <sup>th</sup> D.A.C.	WP
			Lt. L.C. Heathorn taken on strength from 4 <sup>th</sup> D.A.C.	

B.H.G.  
O27d 26.85  
Sheet 62<sup>D</sup>  
1/40,000

D. D. & L., London, E.C.  
(A10266) Wt W5300/P713 750,000 2/18 Sch. 52 Forms/C2118/16.



7<sup>th</sup> A.M.T.M. Bty.

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O27d25.85	18/7/18		<p>The infantry made a small local attack with the object of improving the line S.E. of VILLERS BRETONNEUX. The 7<sup>th</sup> Bty. co-operated, firing 65 rounds on enemy strong points at U5 b 55.35 and U6 a 55.25 and sweeping the road between U6 c 15.25 and U6 c 70.25. The infantry, who gained all their objectives, reported the shooting of the T.M.s as very satisfactory. The strong posts were blown out - 7 enemy dead being found there, - and 1 off, 5 O.R. and 3 machine guns were captured as the result of the fire. Reconnoitred and decided on two new mortar positions, at O36 c 35.35 &amp; O36 c 43.33. Commenced building emplacements.</p>	<p>WP /</p> <p>WP /</p>
	19/7/18		<p>No. 1856 Sgt. R.A. Clune, 3879 Jnr. F. Cunningham &amp; 2103 Jnr. Askiller evacuated gassed.</p>	<p>WP /</p>
	29/7/18		<p>No. 1642 Jnr. C.F. Parker evacuated accidentally wounded. Work commenced on new position at O36 a 35.10 64 rounds fired on enemy trenches, M.G. emplacements and strong points at U5 d 60.30 &amp; U6 c 15.20.</p>	<p>WP /</p> <p>WP /</p>

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7<sup>th</sup> A.M.T.M. Reg.

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O27d 25.85	21/22 7/18		<p>90 rounds fired on various targets, viz:-            strong points at U5d 70.30.            Craft trench from U5d 17.05 to U5d 5.3.            Road from U6c 10.20 to U6c.55.25.            Enemy trench from U.12b 75.80 to U6d 45.10.            Enemy trench from V1c 45.85 to V1c 28.65.</p>	<p>W. Manbarn</p>
N24b 20.70.	22/29	22/7/18	<p>Relieved by 8<sup>th</sup> Battery and took over rear dug-outs at N24b 20.70.            Personnel of battery in rest at dug-outs at D.T.M.O.'s H.Q. N24b 20.70.            Battery parade at 9.30 am daily. Time occupied in cleaning equipment of battery + personnel.</p>	<p>W. Manbarn</p>
	26/7/18		<p>2/Lts. O.E. Fenou &amp; C.14 Godby transferred to 4<sup>th</sup> D.A.C.            2/Lts. J.R. Forrest (M.M.), D.W. Moore, &amp; J.A. Burton taken on strength from Base.</p>	<p>W. Manbarn</p>



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O27d 25.85 Sheet 62 <sup>D</sup>	29/7/18		Relieved 8 <sup>th</sup> Bty in the line.	WF
1/40000	30/7/18		Bty. H.Q. moved from O27d 25.85 to O36d 30.77.	WF
O36d 30.77			No 6. gun in action at Via 13.99. 33 rounds fired on enemy post at U5d 4.4 with good results. 16 rounds fired on M.G. emplacement at Vid 50.40.	WF
			24 rounds fired on M.G. emplacements around the CRUCIFIX at U6c 45.30	
			24 rounds fired on trench & mine sweeper at U12a 85.85	
	31/7/18		25 rounds fired on M.G. emplacements at U5d 20.00.	WF
			No 2 gun moved forward to U5a 90.20 and in action.	
			20 rounds fired on enemy post U5d 4.4.	
			30 rounds fired on enemy trench at V7a 90.70.	
			14 rounds fired for registrations.	

W. G. Underbaker  
S.L. 7<sup>th</sup> A.M.T.M.B.

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