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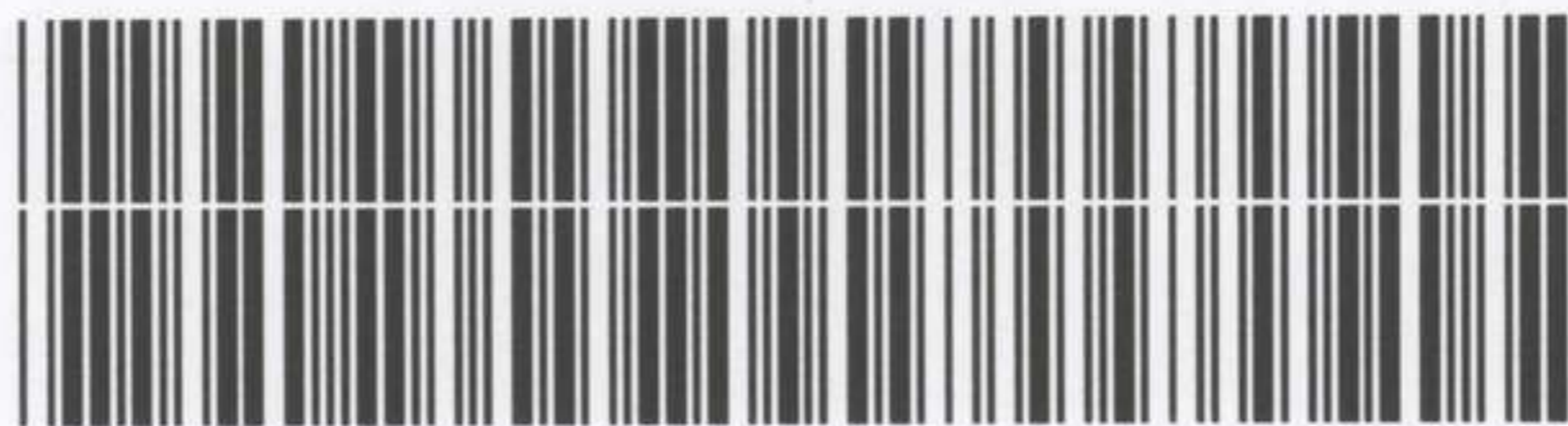
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War**

Machine Guns

Item number: 24/1/16

Title: 1st Australian Machine Gun Battalion

May 1919



AWM4-24/1/16

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
DUPLICATE.
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Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

1st Aust. M. G. Battalion

FOR

May.

1919

Signature of Officer compiling *W. H. Klemans*

Signature of Officer Commanding *L. H. ...*

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.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Pont de Loup	5-5-19.	afternoon	Weather hot. Country looking very beautiful. Cricket match played between Officers and O.R's. Won by Officers 48 runs to 23.	
	6-5-19.	aft.	Weather warm & bright. Cricket match between 1 st M.S. Bn. and 1 st Pioneer Bn. Won by M.S. Bn. by 11 runs and 15 runs. M.S. Bn. 50 runs. Pioneers. 1 st Inning 18 runs. 2 nd Inning 17 runs.	
	7-5-19.	aft.	Weather warm & bright. Cricket match between 1 st M.S. Bn. and 1 st Div. Engineers. Won by M.S. Bn. by 88 runs. M.S. Bn. 146. Eng. 58.	
	8-5-19.		Weather hot. 9 Officers left the Bn. to proceed to England on duty.	
	9-5-19.	Evening	Weather warm. Farewell Ball given by M.T. at Valenciennes.	
	10-5-19.	Eve.	Weather warm. Dance held in Cinema Hall.	
	11-5-19.	Eve.	Weather warm. Civilian Theatre shown in Cinema Hall. A dance held after the theatre party was attended by a number of our men, as Belgian dances and Belgian dance music were unfamiliar to the Australians, and the hall was crowded, the dancing was of a very mixed nature.	
	12-5-19.	aft.	Weather warm. Cloudy. Rain in the evening.	
		Eve.	Parade for General Review of the Division.	
	13-5-19.		Dance in Cinema Hall.	
		morn.	Weather hot. Captain Stanke arrived & notified Bn. of the Move on 27 th inst. to Chateauri, and Entertainment for Havre on 29 th .	
		aft.	Cricket Match between 1 st M.S. Bn. & 1 st Div. Eng. Won by M.S. Bn. by 11 runs & 5 runs. Colonel French 25 runs. Lt. Woodworth. 28 runs.	
			Practice Parade for Div. Review.	
	14-5-19.		Weather hot & dry. Grand Review of Division by Lieut. Gen. Hobbs. 1 st M.S. Bn. very creditable. Farewell Ball given by 1 st Pioneer Bn.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Pont de Loup	15-5-19.		Weather fine. Pioneer Bn. marched out on draft.	
	16-5-19.		Cricket practice match Lecture given by Capt. Capt. Paton on "America". Weather warm. Cricket match between 1st M.S. Bn. + 1st Div. Inf. Won by M.S. Bn. by 72 runs to 54.	
	17-5-19.		Preparation of files for War Museum commenced. Claims of civilians considered.	
	18-5-19.		Weather hot. A large number of Belgian soldiers returned to Charleroi from France.	
	19-5-19		Weather cool. Lecture by Capt. Capt. Paton. "How the peace terms will affect Australia." Well attended. Dance held in Cinema Hall.	
	20-5-19		Weather hot. Company Orderly Room handed over to Bn. Orderly Room.	
	21-5-19		Great interest taken in reports of Mr. Hawker's flight. A large number of claims handed in by civilians too late for consideration.	
	22-5-19		Weather hot. Dance held in Cinema Hall.	
	23-5-19.		Weather hot. Farewell Dinner given to members of 1st M.S. Bn. A very enjoyable evening, very much appreciated. A dance followed.	
	24-5-19.		Weather hot. Y.M.C.A. stores returned.	
	25-5-19.		Weather hot. Manifestation at Janines, representatives of all neighbouring villages attended, a party of Belgian soldiers, and a party of 1st Aust. Mach Gun Bn. by invitation of the Burgomaster.	
	26-5-19.		Weather hot. Orderly Room cleared up ready for march off.	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Pont de Loup	27-5-19.		1 st Aust. Mach. Gun Bn. marched in to Charleroi on first stage of the long trip to Australia. Weather hot, march well performed. A large number of civilians turned up to say farewell. Bn. proceeded to camp at Charleroi. Nearly the whole of the Bn. returned to say farewell again, as soon as parades were over.	
Charleroi	28-5-19.		Parade at 10 a.m. Medical Inspection. Many men again returned to Pont de Loup, to say farewell again, and returned to Charleroi with an astonishing amount of "gallettes" and other confections.	
	29-5-19.		Battalion with rest of Div. paraded at 0830 for entrainment. A large number of civilians arrived to see the last of the Bn. The weather was warm & bright. The train trip was an excellent one, in comparison with other "troop train" rides. The country passed through was very beautiful.	
	30-5-19.		Bn. arrived at Le Havre and after a meal on the station proceeded at once to the Reception Camp where they were quarantined pending medical inspection, baths, clean issue of clothing, fumigation, and other measures.	

War Diary
1st. Australian Machine Gun Battalion.

Headquarters 25.5.19.

Movement Order,

1. The remaining personnel of the 1st. Australian Machine Gun Battalion will move from this area on Tuesday May 27th inst. and proceed to "B" Reinf. Wing where they will form part of No 58 Quota.
2. Fall in at 0915 in the field opposite Chateau. Move off at 0930.
3. Strict march discipline will be ~~obtained~~ ^{observed} especially marching to attention when passing through main streets of towns.
4. A Halt of 10 minutes will be made at 0950 and 10 minutes before each subsequent hour.
5. All billets will be left scrupulously clean. Orderly Officer will inspect same before unit moves off.
6. A party of 1 Officer 1 N.C.O. and 4 Other Ranks will remain behind to fill in Latrines and clean up generally. A certificate stating that camp is in a satisfactory condition will be obtained from the Burgomaster. This party will then report to O.C. "B" Reinf Wing.
7. Two Cooks will go in advance of draft and report for duty to O.C. "B" Reinf. Wing Cahleroi.
8. Un^expired portion of the days rations will be carried.
9. N.C.Os. will be responsible for strict observance of orders in the carriage to which they are allotted during train journey. Any breach to be reported as soon as possible, to platoon commander.
10. Route will be notified later.

L. H. H. H.
Capt. & Adjt.
1st. Australian Machine Gun Battalion.

War Diary
1st. Australian Machine Gun Battalion.

Order No. 2.

-by-
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ent. Colonel. W.R.R. French "DSO" "MC" Commanding 1st. A.M.G. Battalion.

Battalion Headquarters
23.5.19.

DUTIES.

Orderly Officer.
Orderly Sergeant.
Orderly Corporal.

Lieut. S.F. Squirrell
Sergeant Bezzina M.
L/Corporal Jeffrey J.A.

Next for Duty.
Orderly Officer.
Orderly Sergeant.
Orderly Corporal.

Lieut. J.C. Little. "MM"
Sergeant Notman R.
L/Corporal Williams C.F.

PARADE.

Muster Parade 0945- Dress -Clean Fatigue .

Farewell Dinner. A Farewell Dinner to all ranks of those remaining of 1st. A.M.G. Battalion will be held at Salon Lambot Pont-de-Loup at 1745 on Friday 23rd May. A Farewell Dance will be held after the dinner starting at 2030.

L. Nathan Capt. & Adjt.
1st. Australian Machine Gun Battalion.

War Diary

1st. Australian Machine Gun Battalion.

Daily Order No. 3. H

-by-
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Lieut. Colonel. W.R.R. French "DSO" "MC" Commanding 1st. A.M.G. Battalion.

Battalion Headquarters
24.5.19.

NOTES.

Orderly, Officers
Orderly Sergeant
Orderly Corporal

Lieut. J.C. Little "MM"
Sergeant Notman R.
L/Corporal Williams C.F.

Next for Duty.
Orderly Officer
Orderly Sergeant
Orderly Corporal

Lieut. J.H. O'Loughlin "MC"
Sergeant H.W. Dwyer
L/Corporal Purcell J.

PARADE.

Fall in 0945 - Dress - Clean Fatigue.

Move.

The remaining personnel of the 1st. Australian Machine Gun Battalion form portion of Quota No 58 which concentrates in Charleroi on the 27th. May 1919.

Officers Kits.

Owing to the transport allotted to this unit being very limited. Officers will reduce their valises to a minimum when moving out with the draft.

Kit. Inspection.

A kit inspection will be held on Monday 26th inst. Men will fall in on parade ground at 0945 with their full kit which must agree with the articles shown on their Q1 Form.

Postal.

All out going mail closes at Field Post Offices on the 26th. inst. No out going mail will be accepted at Battalion after 0900 on that date.

L. Nathan

Capt. & Adjt.
1st. Australian Machine Gun Battalion.

1st. Australian Machine Gun Battalion.

Daily Order No 4.

-by-
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Lieut. Colonel. W.R.R. French "DSO" "MC" Commanding 1st. A.M.G. Battalion.

Battalion Headquarters.
25th. May 1919.

DUTIES.

Orderly Officer.
Orderly Sergeant.
Orderly Corporal.

Lieut. J.H. O'Loughlin "MC"
Sergeant Campbell K.
L/Corporal Purcell J.

Next for Duty.
Orderly Officer.
Orderly Sergeant.
Orderly Corporal.

Lieut. A.T. Wordsworth.
Sergeant Bezzina M.
L/Corporal Brodie M.

PARADE.

Fall in at 0945 - Dress - Clean Fatigue.

PAY.

Pay will be available on the 26th. inst.

Manifestation at Tamines. Party will fall in at 0810 in the field opposite
Battalion Headquarters 25.5.19. They will proceed to Tamines
by motor lorry.
Dress. Belt and Side Arms.

L. Nathan Capt. & Adjt.
1st. Australian Machine Gun Battalion.

1st. Australian Machine Gun Battalion.

Daily Order. No 6.

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Lieut. Colonel. W.R.R. French. "DSO" "MC" Commanding 1st. A.M.G. Battalion.

Battalion Headquarters

27th. May 1919.

DUTIES.

Orderly Officer.
Orderly Sergeant.
Orderly Corporal.

Lieut. F. Casey.
Sergeant. Notman R.
L/Corporal Fetterplace C.C.

Next for Duty.
Orderly Officer.
Orderly Sergeant.
Orderly Corporal.

Lieut. S.F. Squirrell.
Sergeant. Campbell K.
L/Corporal Jamieson H.R.S.

PARADE.

Fall in 0915 - Dress- Full Marching Order less blankets.

OFFICERS VALESSES. Officers Valises to be stacked at 2nd. Company Officers Mess or Battalion Headquarters Quartermasters store by 0900.

BLANKETS. Blankets to be rolled in bundels of 10 and stacked outside Battalion Quartermasters store by 0800.
Officers in charge of platoons will be responsible that each man takes the same number of blankets that are shown on his Q1 Form.

COOKS GEAR. All cooking utensils will be returned to Battalion Quartermasters store by 0830.

Breakfast. 0630 .

W.R.R. French
v
Capt. & Adjt.
1st. Australian Machine Gun Battalion.

1st. Australian Machine Gun Battalion.

Order NO 7

- by -
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out. Col. W.R.R. French "DSO" "MC" Commanding 1st. A.M.G. Battalion.

Battalion. Headquarters.
22.5.19.

Duties.

Orderly Officer
Orderly Sergeant.
Orderly Corporal.

Lieut. A.T. Wordsworth.
Sergeant Campbell K.
L/Corporal Baker W.H. "DCM"

Next for Duty.
Orderly Officer.
Orderly Sergeant.
Orderly Corporal.

Lieut. S.F. Squirrell.
Sergeant Bezzina M.
L/Corporal Jeffrey J.A.

PARADE.

Fall in 0945-Dress-Clean Fatigue.

STRENGTH.

Evac. to D.R.S. 20.5.19.
51884 Pte. Layton G.
Proceeded to U.K. for Discharge. 21.5.19.
4898 Pte. Simmons H.W.

Orderly Officer. Orderly Officer will visit Guard on military huts on
9th. Battalion. Sports Ground CHATELET daily.

Manifestation at Tamines. Party will fall in at 0800 in the field opposite
Battalion Headquarters. 23.5.19
DRESS. Belt and Side Arms.

L. P. ... Capt. & Adjt.
1st. Australian Machine Gun Battalion.


1st. Australian Machine Gun Battalion.

1st AUSTRALIAN
MACHINE GUN
BATTALION.

Headquarters 20.5.19.

Machine Gun Company.

From Wednesday 21st. May the 1st. Australian Machine Gun Composite
Company Orderly Room will cease to exist.
All Company Records will be handed into Battalion Headquarters
Orderly Room by 1400 21st. inst.
All administrative matters will be dealt with at Battalion Headquarters
from that date.
Officer Commanding Composite Company will arrange for Company Orderly
Room personnel to be attached to Sections.
The C.S.M. will hand parade state into Battalion Orderly Room at
100 each day commencing the 22nd. inst.


Capt. & Adjt.
1st. Australian Machine Gun Battalion.