

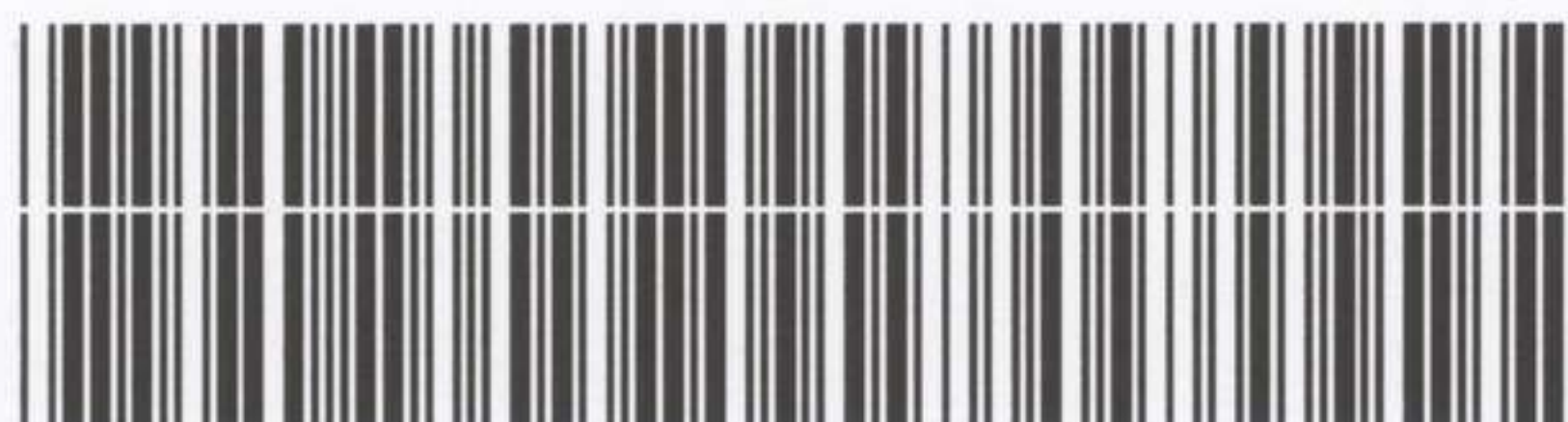
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Machine Guns

Item number: 24/2/10

Title: 2nd Australian Machine Gun Battalion

December 1918



AWM4-24/2/10

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
DUPLICATE.
TRIPLICATE.

100

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

SECOND AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION

FOR

DECEMBER 1918

Signature of Officer compiling

Lieut.

Signature of Officer Commanding

Lieut.Col.

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.)

100

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
PRISCHES.	Dec. 1st.		<p>Visit of H.M. The King. In accordance with orders received on 30th. ult., H.Q., 5th. and 22nd. Coys. paraded on the AVESNES - LANDRECIES Road in the vicinity of MARILLES with the 5th. A.I. Bde Group. He.M. alighted from his car and accompanied by the Prince of Wales inspected the troops.</p> <p>Weather - Cold. Moderate N.E. to E. wind.</p>	
	2nd.		<p>The C.O. visited the 6th. Coy. A large supply of comforts was received from Australian Comforts Fund and a distribution made by the Q.M. to Bn. H.Q. and Coys. The comforts included a quantity of Australian cake tobacco - a very welcome gift.</p> <p>Weather - Cold. Slight rain falling. Wind Northerly and moderate throughout the day, increased in strength at night.</p>	
	3rd.		<p>Three members of unit who had embarked from Australia in Jan. and Feb. 1915 marched out to Australia.</p> <p>Nominal Rolls of all personnel who embarked from Australia on and prior to June 30th., 1915 were prepared and forwarded to Division. There is a possibility that some of these men will be returned to Australia before 31st. December.</p>	
	4th.		<p>Weather:- Temperature mild, slight drizzling rain, gentle Northerly breeze.</p> <p>A draft of 90 reinforcements and casualties arrived and were taken on strength.</p>	
	5th.		<p>Weather - similar to that of the preceding day.</p> <p>Lieut. J.H. Connor has been appointed Canteen Officer and is taking over control of the Canteen with a view to catering as largely as possible for the men's requirements on arrival in the next area, where it is anticipated the Battalion will remain for some time.</p> <p>The Officer i/c Concert Party is also securing fresh talent and musical instruments so as to make the entertainment side a complete success.</p>	
	6th.		<p>Weather unchanged.</p> <p>C.O. attended conference at 5th. A.I. Brigade in connection with the move forward.</p> <p>Warning Order from Division giving details of the next phase of the Advance to the RHINE was received. Orders were also received by Division that all Brood Mares on establishment were to be paraded for inspection.</p>	
	7th.		<p>There was a welcome change in the weather conditions. Temperature mild and during part of the day sun was visible.</p> <p>Advance to the RHINE, Instructions No.5 were issued.</p> <p>Circulars setting out the aims and objects of the A. I. F. Education Scheme were received and distributed to Coys.</p>	Appx. I.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
PRISCHE	Dec. 7th.		<p>Arrangements for the attachment of skilled tradesmen to Army Shops have been in progress for some time and the first member of this unit to be so attached marched out to 1st. Heavy Repair Shop, PARIS, to-day.</p> <p>Advice was received from Division that 5 members of unit had been awarded Military Medals. Strength:- 51 Officers 871 O.Rs. Arrivals during week:- 105 from hospital & Base. Departures to Hospital and Base, 17.</p> <p>Weather:- Thick, damp mist throughout whole of day.</p>	
	8th.		<p>R.C. members of H.Q., 5th. and 22nd. Coys. attended Church Parade in Village Church.</p> <p>With regard to the Advance to the RHINE, first amendment was received from Division to-day. The Battalion will not move from its present location before 16th. instant.</p> <p>Wire was received from Division advising that Lieut. E.T. Towner M.C. had been awarded the V.C.</p> <p>Weather:- Light Southerly wind, temperature, very mild. Bright sunshine throughout the day.</p>	
	9th.		<p>Memo received from 5th. A.I. Brigade advising the probable staging villages during the forthcoming move. The Battalion will be attached to the 5th. A.I. Brigade for the move.</p> <p>Drizzling rain which fell during the early morning, cleared off before noon but after about an hour's sunshine, the sky became overcast and dull followed at sundown by misty weather.</p>	
	10th.		<p>C.O. visited 7th. Company. Draft of 42 Other Ranks marched in from Base. The men mostly consist of Infantry transferred to the Machine Gun Corps, and of General Reinforcements arriving in France for the first time.</p> <p>Memo was received from Division advising that 2 members of the unit had been awarded the D.C.M.</p>	
	11th.		<p>Fairly heavy rain fell throughout the day. Wind, light Southerly. Temperature mild.</p> <p>Bn. H.Q. were paraded and inspected. Packs and equipment requiring attention were adjusted. Heavy rain fell throughout the remainder of the day.</p>	
	12th.		<p>To ensure uniformity during the forthcoming march the Divisional Commander inspected representatives vehicles from each Brigade Group. 5th. Coy. limber parading with 5th. A.I. Bde. and limbers from the 6th. and 7th. Coys. parading with the 6th. and 7th. A.I. Bdes.</p> <p>All Transport Officers were on parade and the C.O. attended the inspection of the 5th. Bde. Group. Heavy rain fell throughout the day.</p>	
	13th.		<p>Order and Administrative Memo received from Division covering the next move forward which will take four days before the new billeting area is reached.</p> <p>19 O.Rs. marched out to A. I. F. H.Q., LONDON for duty as clerks and Military Police.</p>	
			<p>D. D. & L., London, E.C. (A8004) Wt. W1771/M2031 750,000 5/17 Sch. 52 Forms/C2.16/14</p>	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
PRISCHEs.	Dec. 13th.		Demobilisation and Repatriation Forms were received and issued to Coys. Chaplain Clune M.C. of 5th.A.I.Bde. lectured to H.Q. 5th. and 22nd.Coys. on the above subject in the Village Church, PRISCHEs. Weather remained dull and cloudy throughout the day. Rain threatened but none fell. Wind Southerly. Temperature mild.	
	14th.		5th. A.I. Brigade Movement Order showing routes for each day for the move which commences on 17th. instant were received. C.O. and Officers of H.Q., 5th. and 22nd.Coys. assembled at PRISCHEs at 3.30 pm. with officers of the 5th. A.I. Brigade Group to meet Divisional Commander who addressed them on matters connected with the temporary attachment of Australian soldiers to workshops and factories in Belgium. Strength:- 51 Officers 882 O.Rs. Arrivals during week - 43 O.Rs. from hospital and reinforcements. Departures - 33 O.Rs. to hospital and transferred off strength. Weather dull and cloudy. Temperature mild. Light Southerly breeze.	
	15th.		Advance to the RHINE Instructions No.7 and Administrative Memo to accompany same were issued to Coys. Pay was issued and contributions towards the cost of a proposed Divisional Memorial at MONT.ST.QUENTIN were received from all ranks. A voluntary Church of England Parade was held at the 5th.Coy. Billets. R.C. members of 5th. and 22nd.Coys. and H.Q. attended service in the Village Church, PRISCHEs. Lieut. H. Martin Smith marched out to Administrative H.Q. A. I. F., LONDON to report for duty as Paying Officer on Transport returning to Australia. Weather dull and cloudy. Wind light Southerly. Temperature mild.	Appx.II & III.
	16th.		Final arrangements were made for the move commencing to-morrow. A memo was received from 2nd. Aust.Division advising that H.R.H. The Prince of Wales has joined Australian Corps H.Q. on a visit to Australian Troops, and intends to visit units freely. Leave in the new area is to be granted and a time table has been received showing times that trains leave MONS and CHARLEROI for NAMUR and LIEGE. Lieut. A.E. Cridland evacuated sick. A Rugby Team is to be selected from Aust. Corps. to play a team representing France at PARIS at an early date. Lieut. T.W. Dowd attended a meeting of the Selection Committee at Division to-day. Weather dull and cloudy. Wind fresh Southerly. Temperature by no means cold for the season of the year.	

WAR DIARY

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-INTELLIGENCE-SUMMARY-

(Erase heading not required.)

			Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Place	Date	Hour		
PRISCHES.	Dec. 17th.		Battalion moving with 5th. A.I. Brigade Group marched from PRISCHES to FLAUMONT via, CARTIGNIES, GODIN, AVESNES and AVESNELLES, the 6th. and 7th. Coys. joining the column between CARTIGNIES and GODIN. Billets were vacated at 0800 and the unit arrived at its destination at 1330. A fatal accident occurred during the afternoon. While examining a German ammunition dump near FLAUMONT a shell exploded killing one and wounding three members of the unit.	
FLAUMONT			Weather:- Light rain fell during the morning and cleared during afternoon. Temperature mild during middle of day. Wind light Southerly.	
	18th.		The march was resumed under most trying weather conditions. At 0830 billets were vacated in FLAUMONT and the Bn. set out for SIVRY via FELLERIES, L'EPINE and CLAIRFAYTS, where it arrived at 1430. Heavy rain fell throughout the day and a strong Southerly wind prevailed. However on arrival at SIVRY which is a little over 2 kilos within the Belgian frontier the men were housed in comfortable billets.	
SIVRY.	19th.		Under far better weather conditions than the previous day the Bn. left SIVRY at about 0900 for the third stage - BARBENCON via SIVRY ST. and SOLRE-St.-GERY. With the exception of one light shower the day was bright and sunny and as the march was only a short one the destination for the night was reached by 1230. Billeting is not a very easy matter in these villages and it takes a little time for the Officers who are sent on for this purpose, to obtain sufficient for the requirements of the unit.	
BARBENCON	20th.		The final stage of the four days march was completed to-day when the Battalion left BARBENCON at 0900 for Yves-GOMEZEE passing through BOUSSIES, SILENRIEUX, WALCOURT and VOGENEE. Rain accompanied by hail and sleet fell during the early morning but cleared off by noon. YVES-GOMEZEE was reached by 1400 and all ranks were comfortably billeted.	
YVES-GOMEZEE			Temperature much colder than it has been for some time.	
	21st.		Day was spent mainly in resting the men and cleaning up after the march. The Bn. Canteen was opened and a good stock of goods which had been procured by the Canteen Officer who had gone on ahead of the Bn. were on sale. For the first time since the establishing of the Bn. a Battalion Officer's Mess has been started and commenced at dinner to-day. During the afternoon the C.O. and Adjutant inspected the surrounding country to select grounds for training and recreation. Day was cool with occasional sunshine.	
	22nd.		Memo was received from 2nd. Aust. Divn. advising that 1 Officer and 20 O.Rs. who embarked from Australia prior to end of May, 1915, were to be ready to proceed to Australia on 24th. instant. Day was fine and bright, but light light rain fell towards evening.	

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE-SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C-2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
YVES-GOMEZEE	Dec. 23rd		<p>Advice was received from 5th. A.I. Brigade that H.R.H. The Prince of Wales will present Decorations to 6 members of this unit at a parade to be held to-morrow. 20 Officers of this unit will also be presented to H.R.H. and approx. 30 Officers and 500 Other Ranks from the Bn. will be on parade.</p> <p>C.O. carried out a Bn. Inspection this morning. Christmas Boxes were received and distributed to the men.</p> <p>Heavy rain fell at intervals during the day. Wind, fresh Southerly. Temperature cool but not cold for the season.</p>	
do	24th.		<p>Batt. paraded with 5th. A.I. Bde. for inspection by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales who presented decorations to 6 members of Unit.</p> <p>Lieut. F.V.W. Duncan, M.M. and 20 O.Rs. marched out to Australia. This party comprises personnel who embarked from Australia prior to end of May, 1915.</p> <p>Weather bright and sunny, light southerly breeze.</p>	
do	25th.		<p>All Ranks attended Church Parades during the morning. As a good supply of Comforts had been received, the men were provided with fairly good Christmas dinner. During the morning the Act. Bgdr, 5th. A.I. Bde. visited the Batt. and wished all ranks a Happy Christmas. The draft which marched out for Australia the previous day returned owing to a delay in transport arrangements. It is expected that this personnel will leave Unit again on 28th. Dec.</p> <p>Lieut. S.H. Overy marched in from Hospital.</p> <p>Day was bright and sunny and temperature mild. Light southerly breeze.</p>	
do	26th.		<p>Batt. Parade and inspection of all Coys. by C.O.</p> <p>Weather similar to previous day.</p>	
do	27th.		<p>Batt. parade at 0930. Usual work carried out by Coys. during morning. Education scheme is gradually getting into full swing and men are attending various classes during the day and evening also.</p> <p>Weather cold & frosty. Light rain fell at intervals about mid-day. Westerly wind.</p>	
do	28th.		<p>Heavy rain throughout the day interfered with Parades, but men attended Education classes as usual. Lieut. Duncan & draft again marched out to Australia.</p> <p>Strength 49 Offs. 863 O.Rs. Arrivals - From Hospital 1 Off. 9 O.Rs. Departures - To Hospital 1 Off. 22 O.Rs.</p> <p>Weather mild.</p>	
do	29th.		<p>Roman Catholic members attended service in Village Church, and a parade was held in the afternoon for all Protestant Denominations. Rain fell throughout the day. Temperature mild.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
YVES-GOMEZEE	Dec. 30th.		C.O. after Batt. Parade inspected Transport Sections. A class for junior & aspirant N.C.Os. was commenced. 20 limbers were provided to cart coal for people of the village. To-day advice was received from Div. that Australian Troops would not be used to garrison Germany, as it had been found that this would interfere with the work of Demobilisation. Rain fell practically all day; temperature mild.	
do	31st.		Repatriation & Demobilisation Forms completed and forwarded to Director General. A Batt. Batt. Muster Parade was held this mor i g. Sky overcast, but temperature mild.	

100

WAR DIARY

OF

SECOND AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION

FOR

DECEMBER

1918

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
I	Advance to the RHINE
II	Advance to the RHINE
III	Administrative Memo.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION

S E C R E T.

Copy No.

Headquarters,
7th. December, 1918.ADVANCE TO THE RHINEInstructions No. 5.

1. The Division will move to the new area on dates to be notified later.
2. Para 5 of Instructions No. 4 is cancelled and the following substituted:-

For the purpose of the move the 2nd. Aust. M.G. Bn. will be grouped with the 5th. A.I. Brigade.
3. The 6th. and 7th. M.G. Coys. will join the Bn. during the march on "A" day at a time and place to be notified later.
4. It is not expected that the move will commence before the 10th. instant.
5. On arrival in the new area the Bn. will be located in YVES-GOMERES.
6. Attached is probable table of moves.
7. ACKNOWLEDGE.

[Signature]
Ident.
 Adj. 2nd. A.M.G. Battalion.

Distribution.

- Copy No. 1. 5th. Coy.
 2. 6th. Coy.
 3. 7th. Coy.
 4. 22nd. Coy.
 5. Second-in-Command.
 6. Q.M.
 7. Sig. Officer.
 8. File.
 9. War Diary.
 10. " "
 11. " " ✓

SECOND AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION

MARCH TABLE

To accompany "Advance to the Rhine". Instructions No.5 dated 7.12.18

100

Date.	UNIT.	From.	To
"A" Day.	5th. A.I. Bde. Group.	PRISCHES area.	AVESNELLES area - PLAMONT - SEMERIES area.
"B" Day.	5th. A.I. Bde. Group.	AVESNELLES area.	SIVRY area.
"C" Day.	5th. A.I. Bde. Group.	SIVRY area.	RENLIERS - VERGNIES - BARBENCON - SOLRE St. CARY area.
"D" Day.	5th. A.I. Bde. Group.	RENLIERS area.	Billets in SILENRIEUX area.

100

SECOND AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION.SECRET

COPY No. 10.....

ADVANCE TO THE RHINE.Headquarters,
15th. December 1918Reference Maps
Valenciennes & NamurInstructions No. 7.

1. (a) The 2nd. A.M.G. Battalion will move from the present area to YVES-COMEZEE between the 17th. and 20th. December, 1918, in accordance with attached table.
(b) For the purpose of the move the Battalion will be attached to the 5th. A.I. Bgde. Group.
2. (a) The 6th. Coy. will move with the 6th. A.I. Bgde. Group to FLAUMONT and there join the Bn. on 17th. December.
(b) The 7th. Coy. will join the Bn., in rear of 22nd. Coy., at forked roads south of E in CARTIGNIES at 1002 on 17th. December.
3. The following distances will be maintained on the march throughout the four stages:-

Between units	200 yards.
" Coys.	100 "
" each section of 6 vehicles.	25 "
4. Administrative Instructions will be issued later.
5. ACKNOWLEDGE.


Lieut.
 Adj. 2nd. A.M.G. Battalion.
Distribution.

Copy No. 1. 5th. Coy.
 2. 6th. "
 3. 7th. "
 4. 22nd. "
 5. Second-in-command.
 6. Q. M.
 7. Signal Officer.
 8. File.
 9/11. War Diary. ✓

MOVE TABLE to accompany Instructions No. 7.

DATE	Starting Point.	Time of Passing S.P.	Order of March	ROUTE	TO	REMARKS
Dec. 17th.	2nd. A.M.G.Bn. Cross roads where road from BEAUREPAIRE meets road PRISCHES-CARTIGNIES	09.20	H.Q. 22nd.Coy. 5th.	CARTIGNIES-GODIN - Southern portion of AVESNES	FLAUMONT	Bn. will move in rear of Bde. H.Q.
18th.	2nd. A.M.G.Bn. Where RAV de BAUVRET crosses road from FLAUMONT to FELLERIES north of A in FLAUMONT	09.02	5th. 6th. 7th. 22nd. H.Q.	FELLERIES-CLAIRFAYS	SIVRY	Bn. will lead the column. The group will halt for lunch from 11.30 to 13.00.
19th.	2nd. A.M.G.Bn. 500 yds. E. along main SIVRY-SIVRY St. Road from point where this road is met by the road from GRAND-RIEU to SIVRY.	09.14	6th. 7th. 22nd. 5th. H.Q.	Through BOIS de MARTINSORT to main road near SIVRY St. along main road LORROIR - SOLRE St. GERY - BARBENCON	BARBENCON	Bn. will lead the column.
20th.	2nd. A.M.G.Bn. Road Junction N.W. of BARBENCON where road running through 3 of 38 meets main road.	09.00	H.Q. 7th. 22nd. 5th. 6th.	Main road BOUSSU - SILENNIEUX. Column will divide at SILENNIEUX. Bn. moving north to WALCOURT.	YVES-GOMEZEE.	M.G.Bn. from WALCOURT will proceed to YVES-GOMEZEE via VOGNE and will halt from 1250 to 1400 for lunch.

Note:- Coy. Transport will move complete in rear of their respective Coys.

Headquarters,
15th. Dec. 1918.

ADMINISTRATIVE MEMO to accompany Instructions No. 7.

1. SUPPLIES - Railhead LANDRECIES commencing 12th. inst. During the move all supplies will be drawn from Railhead by M.T. Refilling points for the Bgde Group will be as under:-

17th. Dec.	for consumption on 19th. Dec.	Church, AVESNESLERS.
18th. Dec.	"	" 20th. " " SIVRY.
19th. Dec.	"	" 21st. " " SOLRE St-GERY.
20th. Dec.	"	" 22nd. " " WALCOURT.

After 22nd. instant Refilling point will be at Church FORTSHELE whilst Group is in WALCOURT Area, and supplies will be drawn by 1st line transport.
2. 22 1 Motor Lorry and 2 G.S.Wagons are at the disposal of the. Bn. for the move and have been allotted as follows:-

6th. Coy.	1 G.S.Wagon	To report to Coy. on 16.12.18.
7th. "	1 G.S.Wagon	do do do
1 Motor Lorry	(Bn. H.Q.)	

(5th. Coy. 5th. and 22nd. Coys. will forward to Bn. H.Q. by noon, 16th. surplus gear up to 10 cwt. not required during the 4 days move.

(22nd. Coy.

ALL blankets will be carried by horse transport.
3. BILLETING
 - (a) 1st. Staging Area.
Billeting Party of 1 officer per Coy. will report to Lieut. R.C.Callister, M.C. at church, AVESNESLERS, at 10.00 on 17th. inst.
 - (b) 2nd. Staging Area.
Billeting Party of 1 officer per Coy. will report to Lieut. R.C. Callister, M.C. at Hall, SIVRY, at 10.00 on 18th. inst.
 - (c) 3rd. Staging Area.
Billeting Party of 1 officer per Coy. will report to Lieut. R.C.Callister, M.C. at church, SOLRE StGERY, at 09.00 on 19th. inst.
 - (d) Final Staging Area.
Billeting Party of 1 Officer per Coy. will report to Capt. C.R.Field at 13.00 on 19th. inst. at church, WES-COMZEE.
Billeting Officers to be mounted on horses or bicycles.
4. BILLETING CERTIFICATES.
 - (a) Billeting Certificates (in detail) will be rendered by Coys. to Bn. H.Q. by 17.30 each day from 17th. to 19th. inclusive.
 - (b) Certificates to the effect that Billets and transport lines have been vacated in a clean and sanitary condition will be forwarded to Bn. H.Q. by 08.45 daily, commencing 17th. inst.
5. During the move forward the R.M.O. will hold sick parade daily at 07.30 at Bn. R.A.P. Location will be notified to Coys. daily.
6. Special attention is called to Div. Memo re "Notes on the March" of 26. 11.18 and G.3./1/1038 issued with this order.
7. Before leaving present area, all Coys. will obtain certificates from civilians to the effect that all claims have been adjusted.

DISTRIBUTION

As for Instructions No. 7.

.....Lieut.
Adjlt. 2nd. A.M.G. Battalion.

2 War Diary
Sat etc

Returns for month

Sat lbs 50
 Sun (Antony) 25

Repairs...

Clothing Repairs were effected by
 Battr Tailor to 50 Rupees.

Boots. 361 pairs of Boots were
 repaired by Battr Bootmaker.

Bicycles 3 bicycles were repaired
 at S. S. S. workshops.

Transport Vehicles. Repairs were
 carried out by wheelers
 to 12 lumber and 12 wagons.

Machine Guns Overhauled by Battr
 Arm Sgt and assistants
 and repairs were effected
 where necessary.

Notes for War Diary December 1918.
 by 10th Bn 2nd Aust MG Bn

Comforts Fund

The following stores
 were received from Aust Comforts Fund
 during month of December.

Good as New	Shirts	1246
Underwear	"	216
Shirts	"	331
Shirts	lbs	490
Cigarettes	pkts	2350
Tobacco Flake	pkts	250
" Plug	"	384
Fruit	Shirts	36
Messing Cans	Shirts	60
Mustard Powder	lbs	56
Tea Boxes		488

Vegetables Bought

The following
 vegetables were bought from
 Battalion Trust etc to augment
 issue of same drawn from A. S. C.

Potatoes	lbs.	880
Carrots	lbs	440
Cabbages	lbs	440

2 Receipts and Returns of Clothing

The following schedule shows clothing received from D.A.O.s as well as returns of unserviceable articles.

	received	returned
Jackets 10.	53	37
Trousers 10.	41	21
Pants 115.	27	16
Shirts	66	17
Boots Ankle	61	20
Coats	1	-

Rations & Fodder

Rations for month of November were satisfactory with the exception of vegetables, which were not kept up to authorized issue by A.S.C. consequently vegetables were bought locally to augment issue. As fodder improvement could be made in the securing of oat packs to save wastage these matters have been brought to notice of supply officers.

SM 2nd MG Bn

[Signature]