

**AWM4**

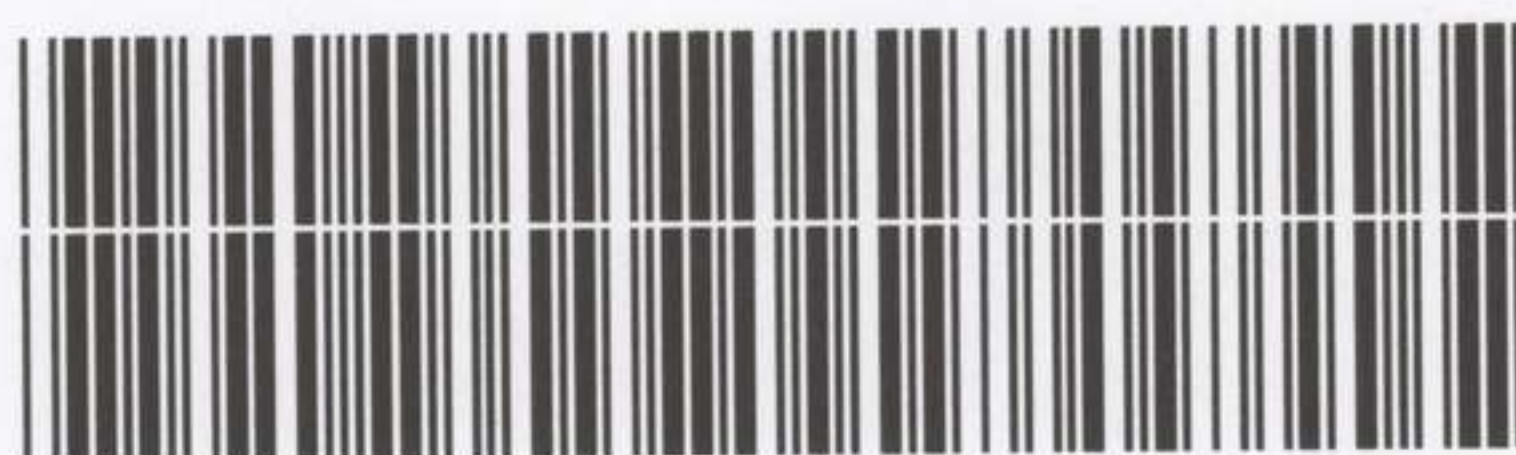
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,  
1914-18 War**

Machine Guns

**Item number: 24/2/5**

**Title: 2nd Australian Machine Gun Battalion**

July 1918



AWM4-24/2/5



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ORIGINAL.  
DUPLICATE.  
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Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

OF

*2nd. Australian Machine Gun Battalion*

FOR

*July*

**1918**

Signature of Officer compiling

*[Handwritten signature]*  
*Lieut*  
*adjt*

Signature of Officer Commanding

*[Handwritten signature]*  
*Lieut Col*



WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

2<sup>nd</sup> M.G. Bn  
Brig July

Army Form C. 2113.

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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
GLISY.	July	9.30	Order No.35, Machine Gun Action in operation by 6th. A.I.Bde. issued giving tasks for various batteries and groups. Part I.	Appx.I.
	1st.	p.m.	An operation is being undertaken by the Divn. on the left, in which the 6th. A.I.Bde. are co-operating. A full summary will be appended after the operation. <i>CRS</i>	
	2nd.	5 pm.	Part II of Order No.35 issued giving amended tasks for certain guns. At the present it would appear better to issue a series of "Machine Gun Instructions" and then cover these with an order, leaving the actual order as late as possible. "Machine Gun Instructions" would give Group Commanders an opportunity of organising their batteries and sub-groups in good time, and also an opportunity of making any slight alterations to programme occasioned by the departures of Brigades from the programme set out by Division, which, while they do not vary in the general idea, often make it necessary for Machine Guns to make slight alterations to their scheme. The order could combine all M.G.Instructions or could merely refer to them, as most convenient. <i>CRS</i>	Appx.II.
		10.30	Part III of Order No.35 issued, giving final instructions for times and rates of fire, position of Battery H.Q. and other details. <i>CRS</i>	Appx.III.
			Part IV of Order No.35 issued, owing to minor alteration in programme by 7th. A.I.Bde. who are co-operating by the capture of a strong post at P.25.d.35.25. This necessitates moving one barrage line some 250 yards forward. <i>CRS</i>	Appx.IV.
	3rd.		All guns moved up into positions detailed, <del>and all was reported ready</del> 22nd.Coy. moved four guns into front line, where they will reconnoitre and become acquainted with their jumping off line and route of approach to objective. Three batteries moved into positions detailed and all was reported ready for action at 1 am. <i>CRS</i>	
	3rd.	5 pm.	Zero hour notified. 3.10 am. on 4th. inst. (to-morrow). Lieut. L.J.Dickinson rejoined unit from Reg. Sec. List. <i>CRS</i>	
	4th.	3.10	Operation commenced. (A Summary of Operations is appended).	Appx.V.
		a.m.	Casualties reported. Lieut. R.N.Kershaw 22nd.Coy. wounded, bullet wound. Six other ranks wounded. Lieut. D.Wellington was also slightly wounded but remained at unit. <i>CRS</i>	
		5th.	8 am.	Lieut. R.P.Shelley 22nd.Coy. reported Killed in Action.
		10am.	"A" "B" & "C" Batteries disbanded, "B" & "C" Batteries returning to their ordinary line duties. "A" Battery distributed into defensive positions. Group Commanders moved back with Brigades. The new scheme is now working quite satisfactorily. Brigadiers have a Machine Gun Commander actually at Bde. H.Q. to whom they can refer for tasks required or for information. The question of communications still requires consideration and it will be necessary for Bn. H.Q. to have a good line, not interfered with by other units, <i>CRS</i>	



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~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
GLISY.	July 5th.	10am.	to Group Commanders, since it becomes necessary to send orders to - say - "A" Group to fire on "B" Sector front. Where possible Brigade H.Qs. are being placed in close proximity to one another. This will allow close co-operation by Group Commanders. It goes without saying that communications forward of Group, to Coys. and Batteries must be the very best possible. <i>CRJ</i>	
	5th.	8pm.	Four guns of 22nd. Coy. which went forward have been relieved by 5th. Coy. The necessary redistribution was carried out by Left Group Commander. <i>CRJ</i>	
	6th.	10.30 a.m.	C.O. visited Conference of M.G. Commanders at Corps H.Q. The matter of obtaining more signal personnel on establishment was introduced. This increase (from 4 sigs. to 8 sigs. per company) is absolutely necessary. It is to be hoped that authorities will see the pressing need of signallers and will give the matter the attention it deserves. We are very pressed to keep our guns manned and at the same time keep communications. <i>CRJ</i>	
	6th.	3pm.	Order No.36 Relief of 7th.Coy by 22nd.Coy. issued. A draft of 27 O.Rs. taken on strength from Base. With a few exceptions they are Infantry men who have been evacuated sick or wounded from their Battalions and, on discharge from hospital, have elected to transfer to the M.G.Corps. <i>CRJ</i>	Appx.VI.
	7th.	10.30 a.m.	Memo from Divn. sent for our information. There are to be four transport officers (1 per company) instead of one per Battalion. This is a desirable increase, and will be greatly appreciated, but, as a kind of counter-balance, 16 Range Takers have been taken off establishment. It is difficult to see just how the addition of three transport officers and three batmen can be taken as compensating for the loss of 16 "fighting" men. <i>CRJ</i>	
	7th.	4.15 p.m.	Both Brigades in the line are pursuing a "peaceful penetration" with the enemy advanced posts during the day, and Group Commanders are working in conjunction with Bdes. in this matter. Our line is in constant flux, and as guns are moved up, their places will be taken from guns in rear. <i>CRJ</i>	
	8th.	-	Line is being advanced to-day and S.O.S. Tasks are being re-arranged. Orders received for "Battle Stations Practice" Our Reserve Coy. reported "Standing to" at 9.30 pm. Relief of 7th.Coy. by 22nd.Coy. reported complete at 6.30 pm. <i>CRJ</i>	
	9th.	1.30 a.m.	Order to stand down received at 1.30 am. More Peaceful Penetration stunts have been carried out along the Divisional front during the past 48 hours, and as a result the line has been advanced up to 500 yards in parts without any casualties to our troops. Right Bde. have now captured enemy front line trench from O.36.d.95.95. down to railway at O.36.d.5.2. capturing four prisoners of 97th. I.R. Left Brigade have also established posts on line P.27.d.25.80. P.21.c.4.0. P.21.c.5.2. P.21.c.6.4. P.21.c.7.7. P.21.c.80.85. Lieut. W.Elliott was wounded and has been evacuated. <i>CRJ</i>	Ref. Maps Sheet 62D SE & SW.

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## ~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
GLISY.	July 9th.	11am.	Adj. moved forward and took over command of 22nd.Coy. A/Adj. taking over duties of Adj. This was necessitated by the shortage of senior officers, partly due to Coy. Commanders, and partly to the number of officers at present absent from unit. <span style="float: right;">CRJ</span>	Ref. Map Sheet 62D SW.
	10th.		The front line having been advanced to such a degree 2 guns have been moved forward to P.26.central. <span style="float: right;">CRJ</span>	
	11th.		A recommendation has been forwarded to Division, pointing out the urgent necessity for the increase of officers in the Bn.. Under the new organisation it is necessary to have two Group Commanders who must be of senior rank. Also an Intelligence Officer with each group. As in the past the Coys. still require an Intelligence Officer, this officer also acts as a relief for the Coy. Commander. To do this the Bn. will require 8 supernumary officers. <span style="float: right;">CRJ</span>	
	12th.		Peaceful Penetration has now ceased, but not before our line was considerably advanced, the trenches vacated by the enemy were found to be in a very dirty and insanitary condition. The French carried out a successful stunt on our right advancing their line and capturing the high ground in the vicinity of CASTEL. <span style="float: right;">CRJ</span>	
	13th.	9am.	C.O. visited French Division on our right and was shown their M.G.Positions, including several batteries of " ST.ETIENNE " guns. These guns are used mostly by the French for barrage work, and owing to being very easily put out of action through dirt, mud etc. are never used as front line guns. The only advantage they have over the Vickers Gun is their longer range viz. 3400 yards. <span style="float: right;">CRJ</span>	
	14th.	6pm.	A/Adj. visited 15 guns of the Right Group. 7th. A.I.Bde. moved forward on right by peaceful penetration resulting in the capture of MONUMENT WOOD. Very little opposition was met with. A post of 11 enemy offered some resistance, but was soon knocked out. Our casualties to infantry were 1 O.R. wounded and 2 O.Rs. wounded and at duty. This has considerably improved our position on the right and 2 guns have been moved forward to U.6.c.00.80. firing approx. 90 degrees grid and 240 degrees grid. <span style="float: right;">CRJ</span>	
	15th.	9am.	C.O. went round guns in Left Group and has decided, owing to the line being advanced, to move some of the rear guns forward. Gun at 0.27.c.30.90. and gun at 0.27.c.95.05. to move forward to "E" Keep 0.28.b.40.20. and two guns from 0.24.a.40.10. to 0.30.a.90.70. <span style="float: right;">CRJ</span>	
	16th.		Order No.37 issued. Relief of 5th.Coy. by 7th.Coy. <span style="float: right;">CRJ</span>	
	17th.	4pm.	Bn. Order No.38 issued. Capt A.N.McLennan who had been admitted to hospital while proceeding on English leave, rejoined unit. <span style="float: right;">CRJ</span>	
		9.45 p.m.	A minor operation was carried out by 7th. A.I.Bde. all objectives being gained. Summary of operation attached. <span style="float: right;">CRJ</span>	



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~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

(Erase heading not required.)

COI

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
GLISY.	July 18th.		<p>Prisoners captured in last night's advance state that the greater number of their casualties were caused by our barrage fire and few by artillery. This is the third occasion in the past two months that a similar statement has been made by prisoners.</p> <p>Lieut. A.J.Prichard was killed in action to-day.</p> <p>Capt. R.C.Webb M.C. rejoined unit from Reg. Sec. List and has taken command of 6th.Coy. He will also carry out the duties of a Group Commander when in the line. <i>CRJ</i></p>	
	19th.		<p>A memo has been received from Divn. H.Q. asking for the number of Longfield mountings required by us. These mountings have been found to be excellent for barrage and switch fire in that they provide a much larger direction dial. The number of degrees are easier to read thus differing from the dial on the Mk.IV Vickers Tripod. It is considered that 16 of these mountings would be sufficient and application has been made for this number, with a proviso that they remain as trench stores. Being so heavy and cumbersome it would be practically impossible to carry them on a move. <i>CRJ</i></p>	
	20th.		<p>Bn. Order No.39 issued. Relief of 22nd.Coy.</p>	Appx.X.
	21st.		<p>The C.O. visited the guns in the Right Group. <i>CRJ</i></p> <p>It has been proposed to alter somewhat the organisation of a Machine Gun Battalion and increase the number of H.Q. details by over 60. This number to be made up by decreasing the gun crews from 8 to 7. This suggestion sounds quite O.K. and would be workable in peace time, but is certainly not practical at the present time. Among the extra duties are 8 stretcher bearers - 2 per Coy. The Machine Gun Bn. is scattered over the whole of a Divisional area, sometimes in 50 different places and it would be absolutely impossible for 8 stretcher bearers to attempt the task of collecting wounded, even when on the defensive. Another suggestion is 16 drummers. This is absolutely out of the question, is unnecessary, and is a luxury that can very easily be done without. Owing to casualties sickness etc. it has been found very difficult to have inter-company reliefs, the men of a M.G.Bn. do an average of 30 days out of 40 in the line when the Division is in, and if these suggestions were carried out inter-company reliefs would be impossible. A memo to this effect has been forwarded to Divn. H.Q.</p> <p>D.I.M.G.U. visited some of the forward guns and expressed great satisfaction regarding the fields of fire of various guns.</p> <p>2nd.Lieut. E.G.Murray M.M. taken on strength from Cadet Bn. This officer was previously a N.C.O. of the 22nd.Coy.</p> <p>A draft of 18 O.Rs. old members of unit returning from hospital, arrived to-day. <i>CRJ</i></p>	



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## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
GLISY.	July 21st.		Instruction for Defence No.1 issued. Duties of M.G.Coy. in reserve detailed. Harrassing fire at night. <span style="float: right;">CRS</span>	
	22nd.		The 65th. American Bde. is being attached to the Australian Corps for training. The C.O. and a Company Commander from 129th.M.G.Coy. and 123rd.M.G.Coy. were here to-day and they proposed to attach 12 guns to this Battalion for training. If this is done it is proposed to make one gun in each pair an American gun (our guns at present are nearly all sited in pairs) leaving with the American crew a good No.1. No orders have yet been received from Div. H.Q. but as the attachment will necessitate a complicated relief in order to put the American gunners on guns that are doing night firing, a warning order has been issued to Coys. and Groups so that they may be prepared should the relief take place. C.O. visited Group H.Q. and some of the guns in the line. During the night 21/22nd. the 6th.Coy. relieved the 22nd.Coy. in front line and forward areas in accordance with Bn.Order No.39. Night firing carried out. S.A.A. expended 15,000 rounds. <span style="float: right;">CRS</span>	
	23rd.		VILLERS BRETONNEUX and areas in 0.35.c. and 0.34.d. were subjected to heavy bombardment during the night, 22/23rd. with mustard gas. Gas casualties 2 Offs. and 9 O.Rs. S.A.A. expended for period 26,000 rounds. <span style="float: right;">CRS</span>	
	24th.		During night of 23/24th. infantry captured portion of <del>enemies</del> enemy's trench in V.l.a. Gun R.20 was moved from V.L.a.2.1. to the road at V.l.a.6.1. and can cover the trench running from V.l.a.6.1. to V.l.c.30.60. Guns R.8 and 20 were moved a little forward to improved positions at approx. V.l.a.70.15. and V.l.c.20.65. respectively. S.A.A. expended 22,000 rds. <span style="float: right;">CRS</span>	
	25th.		Capt. R.C.Webb M.C. took over duties of Left Group Commander vice Capt. M.Burrell. During night of 24/25th. enemy attempted to raid one of our posts on right of sector. 2 of our guns opened with direct fire putting through 500 rounds and 2 opened on S.O.S. lines using 1000 rounds. One prisoner was taken and casualties to enemy believed to have been heavy. Harassing fire throughout the night. S.A.A. expended 38,000 rounds.	
	26th.		Os.C. of both American units conferred with the C.O. in regard to their Companies going into the line. Final arrangements were made and Battalion Order No.40 issued accordingly. <span style="float: right;">CRS</span> Harassing fire continued throughout the night 25/26th. S.A.A. expended 32,500 rounds. A prisoner stated that severe casualties had been caused in his regiment through M.G. fire and snipers. A/Adj. visited Group H.Q. and a number of guns in the line. Battalion Order No.41 was issued, relief of 6th.Coy by 5th.Coy. on night of 28/29th. in front line and forward areas on right sector. <span style="float: right;">CRS</span>	Appx.XI Appx.XII. Appx.XIII.

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## or INTELLIGENCE-SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
GLISY.	July 27th.		<p>Ammunition expended during night on indirect fire 30,000 rounds. American troops relieved some of the gun crews as per relief table with Order No.40. A/Adj. visited Coy. H.Q. and guns to which the Americans are attached. The men are all keen and very anxious to learn everything. Weather showery all day. <span style="float: right;">CRJ</span></p>	
	28th.		<p>Weather dull and cloudy. Wind westerly. C.O. visited French H.Q. and guns in line. Harassing fire at night. S.A.A. expended 40,000 rounds. <span style="float: right;">CRJ</span></p>	
	29th.		<p>Weather fine. Breeze westerly. A/Adj. visited Group H.Q. and number of guns, and explained to Groups and Coys. the new scheme of weather reports forwarded every 4 hours so that allowances can be made on guns for wind and climatic conditions. During night of 28/29th. 5th. Coy. relieved 6th. Coy. in front line and forward areas on right of sector in accordance with Order No.41. S.A.A. expended for 24 hours 47,000 rounds. <span style="float: right;">CRJ</span></p>	
	30th.		<p>Weather fine. Harassing fire at night 52,600 rounds expended. Enemy was subjected to heavy gas bombardment by our artillery. C.O. visited Groups and guns in the line. <span style="float: right;">CRJ</span></p>	
	31st.		<p>A/Adj. visited guns in the line. Night firing programme carried out expending 47,000 rds. Capt. J.H.Drummond M.C. relieved Capt. R.C.Webb M.C., of command of Left Group. Report by Transport Officer is attached.</p>	
				<p>The weather throughout the month has been very unsettled. For over a fortnight rain fell nearly every day and in addition there were two or three heavy thunderstorms. Casualties during the month, in view of the activity of the unit, cannot be described as heavy, but the proportion of killed to wounded is higher than usual ie 16 to 37. The killed include Lieuts. R.P.Shelley and A.J.Prichard, and the wounded Lieuts. W.Elliott, A.J.Jeffery and R.Dodgshun and 2nd.Lieut. R.N.Kershaw. Majority of wounded are slight cases and some have already rejoined unit. The Battalion has secured a fair share of Honours and Awards, Lieut. E.T.Towner and 2nd.Lieut. R.N.Kershaw being awarded Military Crosses, 1 O.R. a bar to Military Medal and 3 O.Rs. Military Medals.</p> <p>Sickness has been a little more prevalent than usual - over 80 being admitted to Field Ambulance. However, with the exception of a very small percentage, men evacuated sick rejoined unit after spending about a week at Field Ambulance. Most of the evacuations were due to Diarrhoea and the R.M.O. has taken every precaution to prevent it becoming epidemic. The strength of the unit throughout the month has not suffered to any appreciable extent, and at no time has it been very seriously below establishment, the lowest figure reached being 21 under and that for a few days only. In addition to several officers rejoining from hospital, the commissioned ranks have been further reinforced by the arrival of four officers from Cadet Battalion. A slight decrease in establishment in establishment which has not yet appeared in A.I.F.Orders, and the arrival of a draft of 18, which left the</p>

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
GLISY.	July		<p>base on the 27th., but has not yet reported, should bring the strength above establishment within the next few days.</p> <p>The following officers have been promoted:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lieut. H.H.Thomas to be Capt. 7.7.18.</li> <li>Lieut. C.R.Field to be Capt. 7.7.18.</li> <li>Lieut. R.C.Callister to be <del>Capt.</del> 7.7.18. Tempy. Capt. 7.7.18.</li> <li>Lieut. F.J.Blenkarn M.C. to be Tempy. Capt. 7.7.18. This officer relinquished his temporary rank of Captain when Capt. J.H.drummond M.C. rejoined unit on 29.7.18.</li> <li>2nd.Lieut. F.Loone to be Lieut. 29.6.18.</li> <li>2nd.Lieut. M.J.O'Brien to be Lieut. 29.6.18.</li> <li>2nd.Lieut. W.I.S.Story to be Lieut. 29.6.18.</li> <li>2nd.Lieut. D.Wellington to be Lieut. 29.6.18.</li> <li>2nd.Lieut. A.Ferguson to be Lieut. 29.6.18.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;">CRJ</p>	

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# WAR DIARY

OF

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2nd. Australian Machine Gun Battalion

FOR

July 1918

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1	Order No 35 operations
2	— — Part II do
3	— — Part III do
4	— — Part IV do
5	Summary of operations
6	Order No 36. Coy Relief
7	— 37 — —
8	— 38 Operations
9	Summary of Operations
10	Order No 39. Coy Relief
11	Order No 40 Attachment of American Machine Guns
12	Extract from Intelligence Summary
13	Order No 41 Coy Relief
14	Transport officer's Report
15	Q. M's Report



Headquarters **APPENDIX** / 9  
30th. June, 1918.

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1. At a date and time to be notified later, an operation will be carried out by 4th. Aust. Division on our left, the 6th. Aust. Inf. Bde. co-operating. Further details of objectives and intentions will be issued later when available.

2. The following will be the tasks of Machine Guns:-

(a) FORWARD GUNS.

4 guns of 22nd. A.M.G.Coy. will go forward under orders of G.O.C., 6th.A.I.Bde. to positions:-

- i. 2 guns approx. P21c26
  - 1 firing down valley towards ACCROCHE WOOD.
  - 1 firing towards P27 central.
- ii. 2 guns approx. P.26.b.4.6.
  - 1 firing towards P.21.d.
  - 1 firing towards P.26,d.

(b) REAR GUNS.

LEFT BRIGADE GROUP.

Left Bde. Group Commander will organise batteries as follows:-

Battery	Composition	Location	Tasks
A	4 guns 5th. Coy.	P.19.d.25.15.	as shewn
B	do 6th. Coy.	P.19.d.15.75	shewn
C	do 22nd. Coy.	P.19.b.05.00	on table.

Groups "Z" & "X" as shewn on attached map will be under his command for tasks as shewn on table.

RIGHT BRIGADE GROUP.

Right Group Commander will organise "W" & "Y" Groups as shewn on attached Task map on various tasks as shewn on table.

3. Battery Commanders will make out Organisation Charts and Fighting Maps, rendering copy of same to Group Commanders.

4. Orders as to Battle H.Q., Report Centres and Communications will be issued later.

5. S.A.A. Battery positions will have a supply of 20,000 rounds bulk S.A.A. per gun. This S.A.A. to be placed in positions at once, and carefully screened. Group Commanders will report to Battalion H.Q. the amount of S.A.A. required.

6. Time and Rate of Fire will be notified later.

7. ACKNOWLEDGE.

*Robert Reid*  
.....Lieut.  
Adj. 2nd. A.M.G. Battalion.

DISTRIBUTION.

Copy No.	To.	Left
1.	5th. Coy.	(Right Group Commander)
2.	6th.	"
3.	7th.	(Right Group Commander)
4.	22nd.	"
5.	2nd. Aust. Divn.	
6.	5th. A.I.Bde.	
7.	6th. A.I.Bde.	
8.	7th. A.I.Bde.	
9.	4th. A.M.G. Bn.	
10/14.	File & War Diary.	



10  
APPENDIX

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TASK TABLE ACCOMPANYING ORDER No. 35.

LEFT GROUP

GUNS	APPROX. LOCATION.	No.	TARGET
"A" Bty.	P.19.d.25.15	1. 2.	P.27.a.4.5. to P.26.b.75.05 P.27.d.50.95 to P.27.d.55.15.
"B" Bty.	P.19.d.15.75	1. 2.	P.27.a.50.50 to P.21.d.0.0. P.27.b.70.75 to P.27.b.45.00.
"C" Bty.	P.19.d.05.05	1. 2.	P.21.d.05.20 to P.21.d.45.75. P.22.a.35.85 to P.22.a.60.10.
2 guns "Z"	0.24.a.	1. 2.	P.26.d.25.80 to P.26.b.60.00. P.32.a.45.90 to P.32.a.10.50.
7 guns "X"	0.30.a.	1. 2.	P.31.b.10.45 to P.26.c.05.40. P.33.a.10.75 to P.33.c.05.95.

RIGHT GROUP

GUNS	APPROX. LOCATION.	No.	TARGET
5 guns "Y"	0.36.a.	1. 2.	P.26.c.20.50 to P.26.d.20.75. P.32.a.45.90 to P.26.d.30.05.
9 guns "W"		1.	P.31.d.0.0. to P.31.b.00.50.

Battery positions will have a supply of 20,000 rounds per gun. This S.A.A. to be placed in positions at once, and carefully screened. Group Commanders will report to Battalion S.G. the amount of S.A.A. required.

Time and rate of fire will be notified later.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Adj. Gen. A.M.G. Battalion

COY No.	To.
1.	2nd Coy. (Left Group Commander)
2.	3rd Coy.
3.	4th Coy. (Right Group Commander)
4.	5th Coy.
5.	6th Coy. Asst. Bn.
6.	7th Coy. A.I. Bde.
7.	8th Coy. A.I. Bde.
8.	9th Coy. A.I. Bde.
9.	10th Coy. A.I. Bde.
10.	11th Coy. A.I. Bde.
11.	12th Coy. A.I. Bde.
12.	13th Coy. A.I. Bde.
13.	14th Coy. A.I. Bde.
14.	15th Coy. A.I. Bde.
15.	16th Coy. A.I. Bde.
16.	17th Coy. A.I. Bde.
17.	18th Coy. A.I. Bde.
18.	19th Coy. A.I. Bde.
19.	20th Coy. A.I. Bde.
20.	21st Coy. A.I. Bde.
21.	22nd Coy. A.I. Bde.
22.	23rd Coy. A.I. Bde.
23.	24th Coy. A.I. Bde.
24.	25th Coy. A.I. Bde.
25.	26th Coy. A.I. Bde.
26.	27th Coy. A.I. Bde.
27.	28th Coy. A.I. Bde.
28.	29th Coy. A.I. Bde.
29.	30th Coy. A.I. Bde.
30.	31st Coy. A.I. Bde.
31.	32nd Coy. A.I. Bde.
32.	33rd Coy. A.I. Bde.
33.	34th Coy. A.I. Bde.
34.	35th Coy. A.I. Bde.
35.	36th Coy. A.I. Bde.
36.	37th Coy. A.I. Bde.
37.	38th Coy. A.I. Bde.
38.	39th Coy. A.I. Bde.
39.	40th Coy. A.I. Bde.
40.	41st Coy. A.I. Bde.
41.	42nd Coy. A.I. Bde.
42.	43rd Coy. A.I. Bde.
43.	44th Coy. A.I. Bde.
44.	45th Coy. A.I. Bde.
45.	46th Coy. A.I. Bde.
46.	47th Coy. A.I. Bde.
47.	48th Coy. A.I. Bde.
48.	49th Coy. A.I. Bde.
49.	50th Coy. A.I. Bde.
50.	51st Coy. A.I. Bde.
51.	52nd Coy. A.I. Bde.
52.	53rd Coy. A.I. Bde.
53.	54th Coy. A.I. Bde.
54.	55th Coy. A.I. Bde.
55.	56th Coy. A.I. Bde.
56.	57th Coy. A.I. Bde.
57.	58th Coy. A.I. Bde.
58.	59th Coy. A.I. Bde.
59.	60th Coy. A.I. Bde.
60.	61st Coy. A.I. Bde.
61.	62nd Coy. A.I. Bde.
62.	63rd Coy. A.I. Bde.
63.	64th Coy. A.I. Bde.
64.	65th Coy. A.I. Bde.
65.	66th Coy. A.I. Bde.
66.	67th Coy. A.I. Bde.
67.	68th Coy. A.I. Bde.
68.	69th Coy. A.I. Bde.
69.	70th Coy. A.I. Bde.
70.	71st Coy. A.I. Bde.
71.	72nd Coy. A.I. Bde.
72.	73rd Coy. A.I. Bde.
73.	74th Coy. A.I. Bde.
74.	75th Coy. A.I. Bde.
75.	76th Coy. A.I. Bde.
76.	77th Coy. A.I. Bde.
77.	78th Coy. A.I. Bde.
78.	79th Coy. A.I. Bde.
79.	80th Coy. A.I. Bde.
80.	81st Coy. A.I. Bde.
81.	82nd Coy. A.I. Bde.
82.	83rd Coy. A.I. Bde.
83.	84th Coy. A.I. Bde.
84.	85th Coy. A.I. Bde.
85.	86th Coy. A.I. Bde.
86.	87th Coy. A.I. Bde.
87.	88th Coy. A.I. Bde.
88.	89th Coy. A.I. Bde.
89.	90th Coy. A.I. Bde.
90.	91st Coy. A.I. Bde.
91.	92nd Coy. A.I. Bde.
92.	93rd Coy. A.I. Bde.
93.	94th Coy. A.I. Bde.
94.	95th Coy. A.I. Bde.
95.	96th Coy. A.I. Bde.
96.	97th Coy. A.I. Bde.
97.	98th Coy. A.I. Bde.
98.	99th Coy. A.I. Bde.
99.	100th Coy. A.I. Bde.

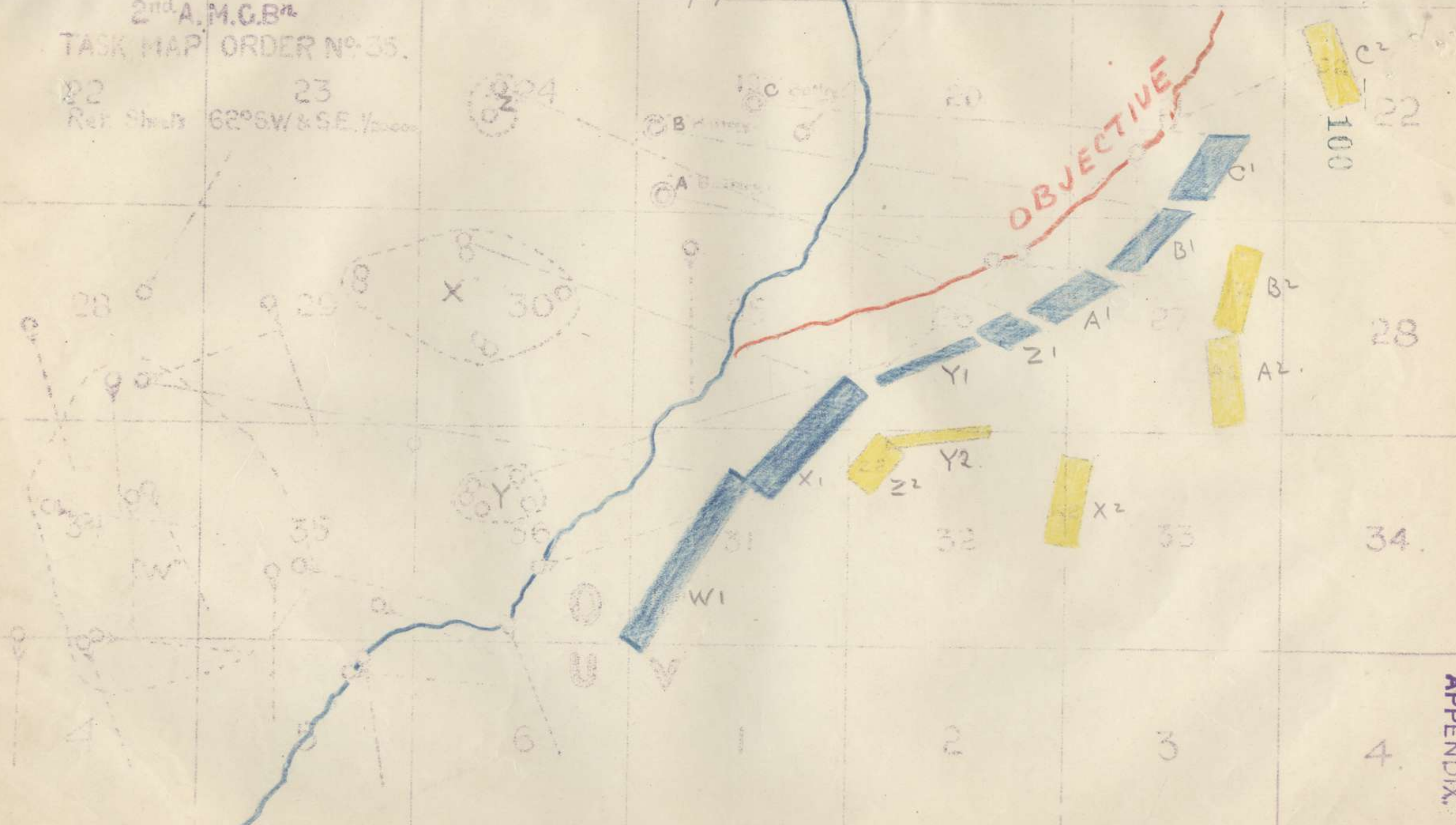


SECRET.

Copy. No 10

2nd A.M.G.Bn  
TASK MAP ORDER No 35.

22 23  
Ref. Sheets 62° SW & SE 1/20000



APPENDIX



*Appendix II*

SECOND AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION. ORDER No. 35.

S E C R E T.

Copy No.....

Headquarters,  
1st. July 1918

PART II.

1. Amended task tables herewith for "A" "B" & "C" Batteries and 2 guns "Z". Other guns remain as before.
2. Task map, as amended, is being issued.
3. Acknowledge.

*Chodfield*  
 .....Lieut.  
 Adj. 2nd. A.M.G. Battalion.



*Appendix II*SECOND AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION.TASK TABLE ACCOMPANYING ORDER No. 35. PART II.

## LEFT GROUP.

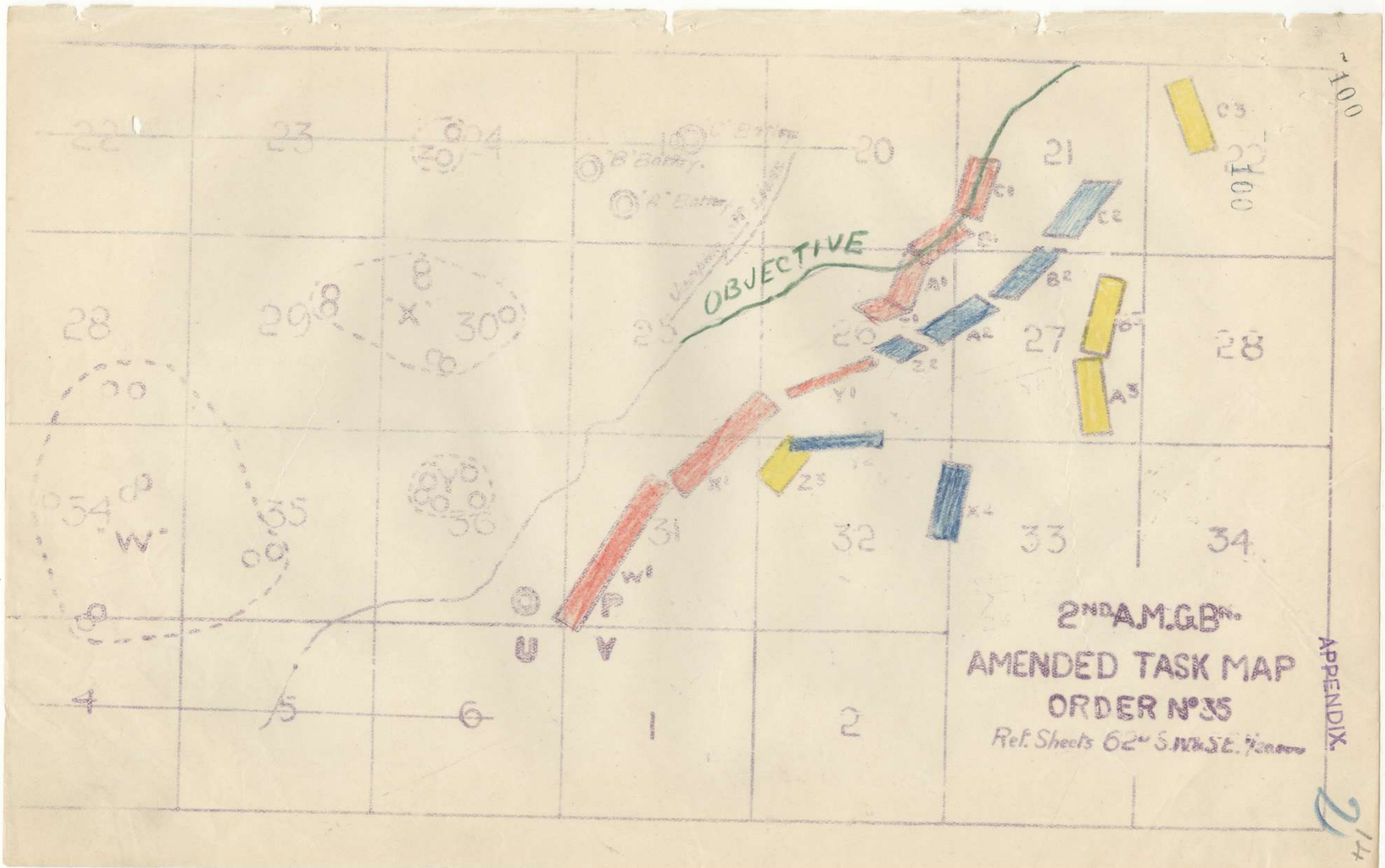
CUN.	APPROX. LOCATION.	TARGET No.	TARGET.
"A" Battery	P.19.c.50.45.	1.	P.26.b.40.40. to P.26.b.05.95.
		2.	P.27.c.40.50. to P.26.b.75.05.
		3.	P.27.d.50.95. to P.27.d.55.15.
"B" Battery	P.19.c.15.33.	1.	P.26.b.65.95. to P.21.c.10.40.
		2.	P.27.a.50.50. to P.21.d.00.
		3.	P.27.b.70.75. to P.27.b.45.00.
"C" Battery	P.19.b.18.10.	1.	P.21.c.10.40. to P.21.c.30.00.
		2.	P.21.d.05.20. to P.21.d.45.75.
		3.	P.22.a.35.65. to P.22.a.60.10.
E guns "2".	O.24.a.	1.	P.26.b.40.40. to P.26.b.10.35.
		2.	P.26.d.25.60. to P.26.b.60.00.
		3.	P.32.a.45.00. to P.32.a.10.50.

NOTE: It will be seen that Nos. 2 & 3 targets on this table coincide with Nos. 1 & 3 on old table.  
 No. 1 Target is the line of objective.  
 No. 2 Target is the protective line in most cases (except "C" Battery)  
 No. 3 Target is searching fire during consolidation, when tanks are working forward of our line.

DISTRIBUTION.

Copy No. 1. 5th. M.G. Coy.  
 2. 6th. M.G. Coy.  
 3. 7th. M.G. Coy.  
 4. 2nd. M.G. Coy.  
 5. 2nd. Aust. Div.  
 6. 5th. A.I. Brigade.  
 7. 6th. A.I. Brigade.  
 8. 7th. A.I. Brigade.  
 9. 4th. A.M.G. Bn.  
 10/14. File & Ser Diary.







Headquarters,  
2nd. July 1918.PART III.

1. BATTLE H.Q.  
Left Group Commander's Battle H.Q. will be established at 6th. A. I. Brigade Battle H.Q., O. 24. c. 1. 2. by Zero minus 5 hours.  
Signal Officer is arranging telephonic communication to Batteries from this point.  
Right Group Commander will remain at his present H.Q.
2. SYNCHRONISATION OF WATCHES will be notified later.
3. SUCCESS SIGNALS will not be used.
4. S.A.A. DROPPING BY AEROPLANE.  
22nd. A. M. G. Coy. will arrange to mark the position of their forward guns in vicinity of P. 21. c. 1. 6. with a WHITE "V", the arms of which are to be 6 feet in length and 1 foot in width. Aeroplanes doing this work will have the underside of the lower planes painted BLACK for a distance of 2½ feet from tips.
5. TIMES AND RATE OF FIRE. will be  
Rate of fire on all tasks except S.O.S. / 50 rounds per minute except in special cases ordered by Group Commander.

(a) Left Group.

Zero Time	Guns	Target	Remarks
Zero to 2 plus 10 min.	All Guns	No. 1	
Zero plus 10 minutes to Zero plus 16 minutes.	A. Bty. ) B. " ) C. " ) "2" guns.) "X" guns.	No. 2	
Zero plus 16 minutes to Zero plus 45 minutes.	A. Bty. ) B. " ) C. " ) "2" guns ) "X" guns.	No. 3. No. 2.	
1. On 2 day 9.50 p.m. to 10.20 p.m.	A&B. Btys.) "X" & "2" guns)	No. 2.	Protective
2. On 2 plus 1 day 2.30 a.m. to 3.30 a.m.	"C" Bty.	No. 3.	Barrage.
S.O.S.	A, B & C. Btys ) "2" guns ) "X" guns	No. 2. No. 1.	Rate of fire 250 rounds per min. for 10 min. 50 rounds per min. for 10 min.

C. Bty. is to produce harassing fire on No. 3. target during night 2/2 plus 1. as ordered by Group Commander.  
Other batteries as ordered by Group Commander.

(over)

*Appendix III*



(b) Right Group

ZERO TIME	GUNS	TARGET
Zero to Zero plus 16 minutes.	"Y" & "W" guns.	No. 1.
Zero plus 16 minutes to Zero plus 45 minutes.	"Y" guns "W" "	No. 2. No. 1.
On Z day. 9.50 p.m. to 10.20 p.m.) On Z plus 1 day. 2.30 a.m. to 3.30 a.m.)	"Y" & "W" guns.	No. 1. Protective Barrage.
S.O.S.	"Y" & "W" guns.	No. 1. Rate of fire. 250 rounds per min. for 10 mins. 50 rounds per min. for 10 mins.

6. ACKNOWLEDGE.

*Chas. Reed*  
 .....Lieut.  
 Adj. 2nd. A.M.G. Battalion.

DISTRIBUTION.

- |          |                       |
|----------|-----------------------|
| Copy No. | To.                   |
| 1.       | Left Group Commander. |
| 2.       | Right Group do        |
| 3.       | 6th. Coy.             |
| 4.       | 22nd. "               |
| 5.       | 6th. A.I. Bde.        |
| 6.       | 2nd. Aust. Divn.      |
| 7.       | 5th. A.I. Bde.        |
| 8.       | 7th. A.I. Bde.        |
| 9.       | 4th. A.M.G. Bn.       |
| 10.      | File.                 |
| 11 / 13. | War Diary.            |



Copy No.....

Headquarters,  
2nd. July 1918.

PART IV.

1. 7th.A.I.Brigade is co-operating in the attack by the capture of the enemy trench from and including STRONG POST at P.25.d.35.25. to P.25.b.2.0. approx. gaining trench with 6th.A.I.Bde. This line will swung back to our present front line at about P.25.c.65.00. <sup>be</sup>  
The following alterations in M.G. Tasks.
2. FORWARD GUNS. (additional).  
2 guns of 7th.A.M.G.Coy. will move forward with 7th.A.I.Bde. under orders of G.O.C.
3. REAR GUNS.  
Following change of Target is notified.  
Guns "X" Target No.1. P.31.b.65.10. to P.26.c.50.10.
4. ACKNOWLEDGE.

*Alfred*  
.....Lieut.  
Adj. 2nd.A.M.G.Bn.

DISTRIBUTION.  
As for Order No.35 Part I.

CORRIGENDUM TO ORDER No.35 PART I.

TASK TABLE RIGHT GROUP.

9 guns "W" Target No.1  
for P31.d.0.0. read P.31.c.0.0.

*Appendix IV*



Ref. 62D.3W&3E.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION. S E C R E T.

Headquarters, 7th. July, 1918.

100

Summary of Machine Gun Action in Operations at HAMEL 4th. July, 1918.

1. INTENTION & OBJECTIVES.

The 4th. Aust. Div. were to capture the spur running from the main VILLERS BRETONNEUX Plateau at P.25. central, about 1000 yards East of VAINS and HAMEL WOODS, East of HAMEL to the present front line at SE end of BOUZENCOURT.

6th. Aust. Inf. Brigade co-operated by capture of the objective on the 2nd. Aust. Div. front and 7th. Aust. Inf. Brigade captured a strong post and length of trench.

2. M.G. RESOURCES.

Four guns of 22nd. Coy. (Reserve Coy.) were detailed to go forward with the attacking infantry.

Two guns of 7th. Coy. were detailed to move forward from their front line position into strong post.

It was found that, without altering to a great extent the defensive scheme, and by introducing four guns of Reserve Coy., 35 guns could be used for supporting barrage fire. These guns were organised as follows:-

Left Group.

- A)
- B) Batteries 4 guns each.
- C)
- "Z" Sub-Group 2 guns.
- "X" " " 7 guns.

Right Group.

- "Y" Sub-Group 5 guns.
- "W" " " 9 guns.

These guns were given tasks as shown on Task Map issued with 2nd. A.M. G. Battalion Order No. 35.

3. PREPARATION.

Three days elapsed between the issue of first order and the operation. This was found quite ample. S.A.A. to the amount of 20000 per gun was placed in all active positions. Some of these positions were already stocked, being the ordinary defensive position of the Sector. These guns did not actually fire from their ordinary battle emplacements where this would have been dangerous to the future safety of the position, but moved to a flank to execute their tasks for the operation. All guns were ready for action on 3rd. July at 11 pm. Group Commanders established their H.Q. at Brigade H.Q.

4. ACTION.

The operation commenced at 3.10 am. on 4th. July, and all objectives were successfully carried.

(a) Forward Guns.

4 guns of 22nd. Coy. moved forward 2 with 21st. Bn. and 2 with 23rd. Bn. occupying positions at P.21.c.10.60. and P.25.b.3.8. respectively.

During the advance these gun teams were subjected to heavy machine gun fire resulting in 1 officer and 8 O.Rs. becoming casualties.

A V shaped formation was adopted for the advance, each gun team went forward in groups of 2 with guns 20 yards apart.

4 light German M.Gs. captured by 21st. Bn. were overhauled and put into action being used with good effect also 1 heavy German gun and 8 boxes of ammunition were used.

Two guns of 7th. A.M.G. Coy. moved forward with 25th. Bn. occupying positions at P.25.d.3.2. and P.25.d.35.40. These guns had some shooting at close range.

Three casualties were sustained in this sub-section.

(b) Rear Guns.



(b) Rear Guns.Left Group. Phase I.

All guns fired their first task from 3.10 am. to 3.55 am. 50 rounds per minute without incident.

At 4.30 am. in response to an S.O.S. Signal on the right, "X" "Y" & "W" sub-groups fired S.O.S., fire ceasing by order at 4.40 am.

At 6.55 am. on receipt of report by aeroplane of enemy assembling in P.21.b.&d., "A" & "G" Btys. (8 guns) engaged this target, fire being ordered by Left Group Commander. No further report was received of this enemy massing and no counter-attack developed.

Phase II.

On 5th. July (day following the attack) a protective barrage was to be fired from 9.50 pm. to 10.20 pm. as pre-arranged. At 9.45 pm., Left Brigade ordered S.O.S. to be put down, owing to the activity of enemy artillery and to the fact that S.O.S. Signal had been seen on the left flank. This was immediately done, by guns of Left Group and "Y" guns of Right Group, and at the conclusion of the usual programme guns continued their protective barrage at the rate of 50 rounds per minute.

During the night harassing and searching fire was directed on to the following targets.

P.22.a. Head of L'ACCROCHE GULLY (A line of approach for enemy counter-attack).

P.26.d. Track junction.

P.32.a.&c. Tracks.

with the object of harassing and upsetting the enemy, who would naturally be somewhat disorganised.

On 6th. July from 2.30 am to 3.30 am. the protective barrage was again put down by all guns.

Expenditure of Ammunition. The total expenditure in the action by barrage guns was 253850 rounds.

5. RESUMPTION OF NORMAL CONDITIONS.

"B" & "C" Batteries which had been drawn from Reserve, stood down at 8 am. on the morning of the 5th. and moved back to their normal positions.

A redistribution of guns was necessary and proposals were submitted on 6th. inst.

6. CASUALTIES.

Casualties in forward guns were:	Killed 10	off. 4	O.Rs. Wounded 10	off. 8	O.Rs.
" " rear	" " "	" " "	- 3	O.Rs.	" - 4
	occurred				

These casualties mainly after the attack, only 2 O.Rs. being killed and 1 officer and 6 O.Rs. being wounded in the actual advance.

7. NOTES ON THE OPERATION.

1. Communications to Batteries were good and lines stood very well. Switching was successfully carried out by Group Commanders,

2. Quantities of M.G. Ammunition were dropped by aeroplanes during the attack, the S.A.A. boxes being attached to parachutes, the ammunition landed gently and contents remained intact and undamaged.

3. Several prisoners of the 3rd. Bn., 137th. I.R., captured by our Right Brigade during the operations of 4th. July, stated that their casualties during the time they had been in the line had been heavy, and that they were very largely due to machine gun fire at night.

*A. W. K. ...* Lieut. Col.  
C.O. 2nd. A.M.G. Battalion.

Distribution overleaf.



DISTRIBUTION.

- | Copy No. | To         |
|----------|------------|
| 1.       | D.I.M.G.U. |
| 2.       | C.M.G.O.   |
| 3.)      |            |
| 4.)      | War Diary. |
| 5.)      |            |
| 6.       | File.      |
| 7.)      |            |
| 8.)      | Spare.     |



SECOND AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION ORDER No. 30. S E C R E T.

Copy No. 13.....

Headquarters,  
6th. July, 1918.

1. The 22nd. A. M. G. Coy. will relieve 7th. A. M. G. Coy. in Right Sector on 6th. July and night 8/9th. July.
2. Relief will so far as possible take place during daylight, but there must be no movement in the forward area before dusk in parties of more than Sub-Sections with one limber. Details will be arranged between Coys. concerned.
3. On completion of relief of 7th. Coy., Capt. D. F. Roe (6th. Coy.) will take over the duties of Right M. G. Group Commander, (7th. A. I. Bde.) from Capt. M. Durrell.
4. Copies of receipts for trench stores ration dumps etc., will be forwarded to Battalion H. Q. within 48 hours after relief.
5. Completion of relief to be notified to Right Group H. Q. and Battalion H. Q. in B. A. B. code.
6. ACKNOWLEDGE.

*Ch. D. Reed*  
.....Lieut.  
Adj. 2nd. A. M. G. Battalion.

DISTRIBUTION.

- Copy No. 1. Right M. G. Group Commander.  
 2. Left M. G. Group Commander.  
 3. 5th. M. G. Coy.  
 4. 6th. M. G. Coy.  
 5. 7th. M. G. Coy.  
 6. 22nd. M. G. Coy.  
 7. 2nd. Aust. Division.  
 8. 5th. A. I. Bde.  
 9. 6th. A. I. Bde.  
 10. 7th. A. I. Bde.  
 11. File.  
 12)  
 13) War Diary.  
 14)



Ref. Maps.  
Sheets 62D, S.W & S.E.

Headquarters,  
16th. July, 1918.

1. The 7th. M.G.Coy. will relieve the 5th. M.G.Coy. in the left sector of the line on the night 18/19th. July.
2. On relief the 5th. M.G.Coy. will be come the Reserve Coy., taking over from the 7th. Coy. present reserve M.G. positions and all orders for the Reserve Coy.
3. O.C., 7th. Coy. (Capt. Burrell) will relieve Left Group Commander (Major Ordish, D.S.O.), taking over command of Left Group on completion of relief.
4. Trench stores, emergency rations, etc., will be handed over, and copies of receipts forwarded to En. H.Q. by 6 p.m. on 19.7.18.
5. Relief may, as far as practicable, be carried out in daylight, but there must be no unnecessary movement in the forward area before dusk.
6. Subject to the terms of this order all details of relief will be mutually arranged between Coy. Commanders concerned.
7. Completion of relief to be notified to Left Group Commander and En. H.Q. by priority wire in code.
8. ACKNOWLEDGE.

*J. Cunningham*  
.....Lieut.  
Adjut. 2nd. A.M.G. Battalion.

Issued through Signals at 5.15 p.m.

- |             |                    |
|-------------|--------------------|
| Copy No. 1. | Right Group Comdr. |
| 2.          | Left " "           |
| 3.          | 5th. Coy.          |
| 4.          | 6th. " "           |
| 5.          | 7th. " "           |
| 6.          | 22nd. " "          |
| 7.          | 2nd. Aust. Divn.   |
| 8.          | 5th. A.I. Bde.     |
| 9.          | 6th. A.I. Bde.     |
| 10.         | 7th. A.I. Bde.     |
| 11.         | File.              |
| 12)         |                    |
| 13)         | War Diary          |
| 14)         |                    |



*Spare*

SECRET.

COPY No. 14

100

Headquarters,  
17th. July, 1918.

Ref. Maps.  
Sheets 62D. S.W.  
62D. S.E.

1. On a date and time to be notified later, the 7th. A.I.Bde. will carry out an attack advancing its line so as to straighten out and shorten our front.

2. The objectives are U.6.c.55.80 through U.6.central to Railway Bridge V.1.b.5.6. (both Bridge and Mound inclusive) to 5th. A.I.Bde. flank on road exclusive near P.32.central.

3. The Machine Gun support will be carried out as follows:-

(a) Forward Guns.

Four guns of 22nd. Coy. will move forward under orders of G.O.C., 7th.A.I.Bde., two with right Bn. and two with left Bn.

(b) Rear Guns.

Twenty guns will place down barrage as shown on attached map.

4. Time and Rate.

All Barrage Guns with exception of those doing D1 and D2 barrage.)	)	Zero to Zero plus 75.	)	60 rounds per minute.
--	---	-----------------------	---	-----------------------

Guns doing D1 & D2 Barrage.	Target	Time	Rate of Fire.
	D1.	Zero to Zero plus 6.	60 rounds per minute.
	D2.	Zero plus 6 to Zero plus 75 minutes.	60 rounds per minute.

5. S.O.S. Lines.

The Barrage lines placed down for the attack will on completion of same become S.O.S. lines, with an additional two guns firing on cross roads at P.33.b.6.4. shown on attached map.

6. All watches will be synchronised at Group H.Q. at a time to be notified by Group Commanders.

7. ACKNOWLEDGE.

*[Signature]*  
.....Lieut.  
A/Adj. 2nd. A.M.G. Battalion.

DISTRIBUTION issued through  
Signals at

- Copy No. 1. Right Group Comdr.
- 2. Left " "
- 3. 5th. Coy.
- 4. 6th. "
- 5. 22nd. "
- 6. 5th. A.I.Bde.
- 7. 7th. A.I.Bde.
- 8. 2nd. Aust. Divn.
- 9. 2nd. Aust. Divn. Artillery
- 10. File.
- 11/ 13. War Diary.



SECRET

100

29

30

25

26

"H"  
□  
Guns L7, L8

28

35

36

31

32

Guns L1, L2  
□ S.O.S. only.  
On completion  
of operation.  
33 "G"  
□ Guns  
L3, L4

34

5

6

1

"E"

Guns R5, R6

"F"

Guns L5, L6

3

4

"A"

Guns R9, R10  
□ "D1"

2<sup>ND</sup>. A.M.G.B<sup>N</sup>.

Guns R23, 22, 18, 16, 17, 21, 19, 20

"B" □ "C"  
L11, L12  
□ "D2"

TASK MAP ORDER N<sup>o</sup> 38

11

12

Gun R13

7

8

Ref. Sheets 62<sup>o</sup> 6W & S.E  
1/20,000.

APPENDIX.  
24  
8



Headquarters,  
19th. July. 1918.

Ref. Maps.  
62 D S.W.  
62 D S.E.

Summary of M.G. Action in operation East of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX, night 17/18th. July, 1918.

1. INTENTION & OBJECTIVES.

To capture and consolidate a line S.E. of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX U.G.c.55.30. to U.G.central to railway bridge V.l.b.5. 6. (both Bridge and mound inclusive) to 5th. A.I. Brigade flank at road exclusive near P.32.central. Operation to be carried out by 7th. A.I. Brigade.

2. MACHINE GUNS.

4 guns of 22nd. Coy. were detailed to move forward, with the infantry. These were taken from forward positions being replaced by reserve guns.

Without altering any defensive positions it was found that 21 guns could be used for supporting barrage fire, 14 from the Right Group and 7 from left Group. (Barrage shown on attached map).

3. PREPARATION.

Very short notice was given for the operation, the order being issued at 9 am. for the attack which was to take place approx. 12 hours later.

In almost every case the guns placing down the barrage had at their positions 20000 rounds, and the few that had not were able to make good the deficiency from the Forward S.A.A. Dumps during the day.

4. ACTION.

The attack commenced at 9.45 pm. on 17.7.18. All objectives were gained successfully.

(a) Forward Guns.

At 9.45 pm. our artillery and machine gun barrage opened. The infantry moved forward and with them 4 guns of the 22nd. Coy. The "V" shaped formation was again adopted with gun numbers at 15 yards interval. After moving forward about 300 yards the infantry were slightly checked by an enemy post in "Horse Shoe" trench, which was soon mopped up and the guns then moved forward. 2 were placed in the vicinity of P.31.d. 7.6., 1 at V.l.s.2.2. and the others at V.l.s.6.5.

Although casualties occurred the objectives were reached with an average of 10 boxes of ammunition per gun. These were later increased to 14.

(b) Rear Guns.

At Zero hour 9.45 pm. all barrage guns opened fire and continued to fire at the rate of 60 rounds per minute for 75 minutes. The barrage was a complete success, and in all 102000 rounds were expended.

At about 4.45 am. on the morning of 18.7.18 in response to an S.O.S. signal on right B.C.D2.E. & F. barrages were fired. It was later ascertained that the enemy were preparing a large counter-attack, but owing to our artillery and M.G. fire the attack dwindled away to a very feeble effort.

5. PROTECTIVE BARRAGE.

A counter preparation scheme was carried out from 10 to 10.30 pm. 12.30 to 1 am. and 2.30 till 3 am. on the night 18/19th. July, all guns firing on their S.O.S. tasks.

6. EXPENDITURE OF AMMUNITION.

The total expenditure in the action by barrage guns was 205000 rounds.



SECOND AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION.

Summary of M.G. action contnd.

7. CASUALTIES.  
The casualties during the operation were 1 officer and 7 O.Rs. killed and 6 O.Rs. wounded.

8. NOTES.  
Prisoners captured during the operation state:-  
"Losses during attack - a large number of casualties were caused in close support by M.G. fire, but few from Artillery"

*A.W. Roberts*  
.....Lieut. Col.  
Commanding 2nd A.M.G. Battalion.

DISTRIBUTION.

Copy No.	To.
1	D.I.M.G.U.
2	C.M.G.O.
3	File
4/6	War Diary.



Appendix 10  
APPENDIX 10 27

Copy No.....

Ref. Maps.  
100  
Sheets 62D S.W&S.E.

Headquarters,  
19th. July, 1918.

1. (a) The 6th. Coy. will relieve the 22nd. Coy. in the right sector of the line on the night 21/22nd. July, 1918.  
(b) The 22nd. Coy. on being relieved will take over the positions of the 6th. Coy. in the centre sector of the line on the night 21/22nd July, 1918.
2. Trench Stores, emergency rations, etc., will be handed over and copies of receipts forwarded to Battalion H.Q. 24 hours later.
3. Relief will as far as practicable be carried out in daylight.
4. Subject to the terms of this order all details of relief will be mutually arranged between Coy. Commanders concerned.
5. Completion of relief will be wired in B.A.B. Code to Group and Battalion H.Qs.
6. ACKNOWLEDGE.

*J. Cunningham*  
 .....Lieut.  
 A/Adj. 2nd. A.M.G. Battalion.

DISTRIBUTION issued through  
Signals at 7.30 am. 20/7/18.

- Copy No. 1. Right Group Comdr.  
 2. Left " "  
 3. 5th. Coy.  
 4. 6th. " "  
 5. 7th. " "  
 6. 22nd. " "  
 7. 2nd. Aust. Divn.  
 8. 5th. A.I. Bde.  
 9. 6th. A.I. Bde.  
 10. 7th. A.I. Bde.  
 11. Bn. Nucleus.  
 12. File.  
 13/15. War Diary.



Ref. Maps: Sheets 62D.S.W.  
62D.S.E.

Headquarters,  
25th. July, 1918.

1. (a) The attachment of 123rd. and 129th. American Machine Gun Coys. will take place on night 26/27th. July, 1918.
- (b) Relief to be carried out as per attached table and, as far as practicable, will be carried out in daylight.
2. One American Coy. Commander and 2 Section Officers will be attached to 7th. Coy. from 123rd. Coy.  
One American Coy. Commander, 1 Int. Officer and 1 Section Officer will be attached to 6th. Coy. from 129th. Coy.
3. Trench Stores, Tripods, etc. to be handed over in position by Coys. with the exception of 5th. Coy., who will arrange to bring out all gear with the exception of bulk S.A.A.
4. O.C. 123rd and 129th. American Coys. will bring guns, tripods, spare parts, and 14 belt boxes per gun into the line, and will each arrange to hand over 4 tripods and 56 belt boxes to O.C., 22nd. Coy.
5. Subject to the terms of this order, details of relief will be mutually arranged between Coy. Commanders concerned.
6. Completion of Relief to be notified to Group H.Qs. in B.A.B. Code - Groups to notify Bn. H.Q.
7. ACKNOWLEDGE.

*[Signature]*  
.....Lieut.  
A/Adj. 2nd. A.M.G. Battalion.

DISTRIBUTION issued through Signals

at..... *7 Dec 26. 7. 18* .....

- | Copy No. | To.                            |
|----------|--------------------------------|
| 1.       | Right Group                    |
| 2.       | Left Group                     |
| 3.       | 5th. Coy.                      |
| 4.       | 6th. "                         |
| 5.       | 7th. "                         |
| 6.       | 22nd. "                        |
| 7.       | 123rd. American Coy.           |
| 8.       | 129th. American Coy.           |
| 9.       | 5th. A.I. Bde.                 |
| 10.      | 6th. "                         |
| 11.      | 7th. "                         |
| 12.      | 2nd. Aust. Divn.               |
| 13)      |                                |
| 14)      | War Diary.                     |
| 15)      |                                |
| 16.      | File                           |
| 17.      | Bn. Nucleus                    |
| 18)      | <i>129th American Inf. Bde</i> |
| 19)      | Spares                         |
| 20)      |                                |



Relief table to accompany Order No. 40.

	Relieved by.	On relief move to.	Come under command of.
L3.	123rd. American M.G. Coy.	Positions vacated by L15 & L 16.	O.C., 7th. Coy.
L7.	do do do		
L5.	123rd. American M.G. Coy.	Positions vacated by	O.C., 7th. Coy.
L11.	do do do	L22 & L23	
L1.	123rd. American M.G. Coy.	Position to be made P.25.d.30.40. One Amer. gun to be placed at this position.	O.C., 7th. Coy.
R5. <del>R4.</del> <del>R10.</del> R9.	129th. American M.G. Coy.	Positions vacated by <del>R17 &amp; R24.</del> R17 & R24.	O.C., 6th. Coy.
R16.	129th. American Coy.	Positions vacated by	O.C., 22nd. Coy.
R19.	do do do	R30 & R29.	
R17.	6th. Coy.	Positions vacated by	O.C., 22nd. Coy.
R24	do	R31 & R23.	
L15.	7th. Coy.	0.32.s.80.40.	O.C., 22nd. Coy.
L16.	do	Clock Face.	
L22.	7th. Coy.	0.27.d.10.90.	O.C., 22nd. Coy.
L23.	do		
R28.	22nd. Coy.	LANOTIE	O.C., 5th. Coy.
R29.	do	Reserve Coy.	
R30.	do		
R31.	do		

## In addition to above:-

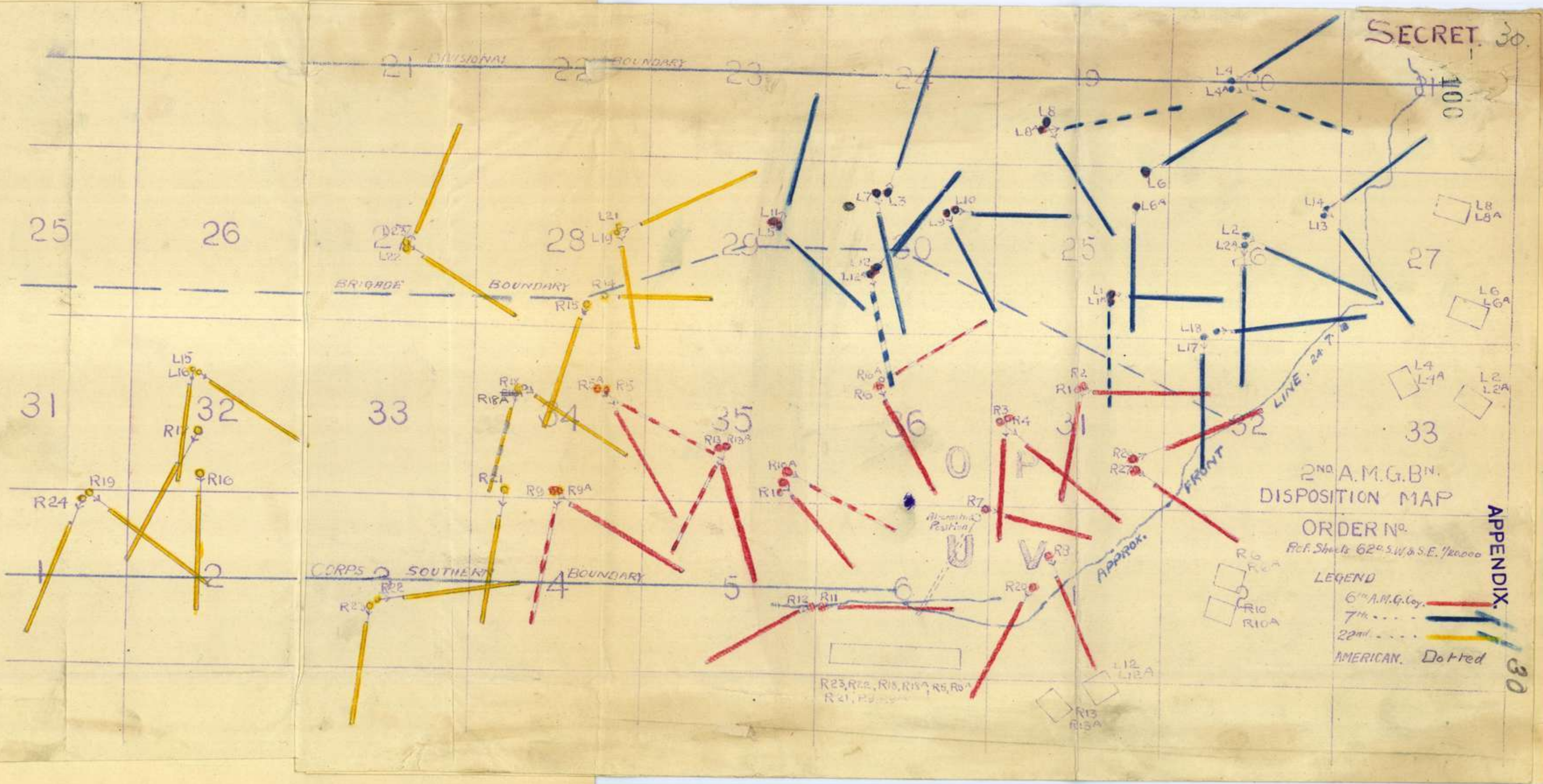
One 129th. American M.G. (R13a) will be placed in vicinity of R13 to complete pair and will come under orders of O.C., 6th. Coy.

One 129th. American M.G. (R16a) will be placed in vicinity of R16 to complete pair and will come under orders of O.C., 22nd. Coy.

Disposition as after relief and new gun numbers are shown on attached map.



SECRET 30



APPENDIX 30



*Appendix XII*

SECOND AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION.    S E C R E T.

271/7B.

Headquarters,  
28th. July, 1918.

D.I.M.G.U. 4th. Army.  
C.M.G.O. Aust. Corps.

The following is an extract from 5th. A.I. Bde. Intelligence Summary dated 27.7.18:-

IDENTIFICATIONS. - A prisoner of the 152 I.R., 41st. Div. was taken by one of our posts in P.27.a. about 10 p.m., 26th. inst. (Normal).

INFORMATION GIVEN BY PRISONER. Coy. strength is given as 1 Off. and 80 O.Rs. with 5 L.M.Gs. Owing to number of casualties in his battalion caused mainly by M.G. fire he stated that all 4 Coys. were in the line with 1 platoon in support to each. It is believed that a new Div. will shortly relieve them. He does not know of any intention to attack us here, but an attack by us is expected daily. Enemy troops are now of the opinion that the war will not be ended by the late German offensives.

*A.W. Rabbitt*  
.....Lieut. Col.  
Commanding 2nd. A.M.G. Battalion.



SECOND AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION ORDER NO 41.

SECRET.

Copy No. 15.....

Headquarters,  
26th. July, 1918.

Ref. Maps.  
Sheets 62D S.E.  
62D S.W.

1. (a) The 5th.M.G.Coy. will relieve the 6th.M.G.Coy. in the right sector of the line on the night 28/29th. July.  
(b) On relief the 6th.Coy. will become the Mobile Reserve Coy. taking over from O.C. 5th.Coy. all orders for same.
2. Trench Stores, emergency iron rations etc. will be handed over and copies of receipts forwarded to Bn. H.Q. by 6 p.m. on 30.7.18.
3. Relief as far as practicable may be carried out in daylight.
4. Subject to the terms of this order all details of relief will be mutually arranged between Coy. Commanders concerned.
5. Completion of relief to be notified to Right Group Commander and Bn. H.Q. by wire, in code.
6. ACKNOWLEDGE.

*J. Cunningham*  
.....Lieut.  
A/Adj. 2nd.A.M.G.Battalion.

Distribution issued through  
Signals at .....

<u>Copy No.</u>	<u>To.</u>
1.	Right Group Comdr.
2.	Left Group Comdr.
3.	5th.Coy.
4.	6th.Coy.
5.	7th.Coy.
6.	22nd.Coy.
7.	2nd.Aust.Divn.
8.	5th. A.I.Bde.
9.	6th. A.I.Bde.
10.	7th. A.I.Bde.
11.	Bn. Nucleus.
12.	File.
13.	)
14.	) War Diary.
15.	)



SECOND AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION.REPORT BY BATTALION TRANSPORT OFFICER

The Battalion Transport consists of 152 horses 64 mules and 64 vehicles under the Command of one Transport Officer Lieut. H. DeB. Newcomen. Present situation (Map 62D. M.17.c.20.00.) is one with few drawbacks. Near the main road, a bountiful supply of water which is within an easy distance of the camp thus facilitating the watering of horses, washing of limbers harness etc., and is much used as a swimming pool. The sleeping quarters and horse lines are all that could be desired, spacious huts which provide room for the harness, horse lines that are sheltered from wind and protected by revetted walls from bombs. The forward area VILLERS BRETONNEUX (about 10 kilos from the horses lines) where troops rations and S.A.A. are carried daily, also a dump of 200,000 rounds is maintained.

The refuse from the billets under the charge of the Town Major for the town of CAMON is collected and carted to incinerators each day.

Two limbers daily are required to keep up the supplies of the Battalion Canteen, one drawing from the E.F.C. Canteen SALIEUX and the other from the 2nd. Aust. Divisional Canteen.

Painting and overhauling of all the vehicles is an important feature which has been carried out during the month, being commenced on the 2nd. and was carried on briskly until a brief stop being caused through difficulty in obtaining paint. However paint salvaged from VILLERS BRETONNEUX enabled us to carry on until a fresh supply was obtained from ordnance.

The Divisional Commander Gen. Rosenthal inspected the transport on the 20th. inst. He was much impressed with the high standard and mentioned, that during his career as a soldier he had never seen better.

The ration issued for the animals is now below normal, being supplemented by crop cut in the forward area, and green forage purchased by the Supply Officer from farmers in the rear.

There have been very few evacuations of horses during the month.

11th. inst. 22nd. Coy. 1 mule Cellulitis.  
15th. inst. 22nd. Coy. 1 ride "  
13th. inst. 5th. Coy. 1 Light draught. Wound near knee.

The epidemic, influenza made itself very much felt through the ranks of the transport claiming at one time 30 per cent of the total. It was however finally mastered and apart from that there has been little sickness.

A considerable amount of work has been done during the month, horse lines have been improved, additional protection against hostile aircraft being erected.

Owing to temporary requirement, the transport was called on to supply a small number of men 10 in all for the line. As all the drivers are trained gunners there was no difficulty.

Six horses were drawn from Remount Depot on the following dates to replace those evacuated.

11th. 5th. Coy. 2 Heavy draughts.  
24th. " " 1 Light draught.  
9th. 7th. Coy. 1 Mule.  
25th. 22nd. Coy. 1 Ride.  
25th. 22nd. Coy. 1 Light draught.

American Transport and Supply Officers visited the transport and the methods as used by us were explained to them.



SECOND AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION.

Headquarters,  
31st. July, 1918.

REPORT BY Q.M.

COMFORTS FUND. The following goods were received on 2.7.18 from Comforts Fund Representative attached to 2nd. Aust. Divn:-

Cocoa & Milk	10 cases.
Milk	10 cases.
Curry Powder	36 pkts.
Tobacco	480 plugs.
Fruit	3 cases.

On opening the fruit, it was found to be tainted and on being examined by the R.M.O. was declared unfit to eat. An unfortunate occurrence for at the time tinned fruit was not obtainable through canteens.

A set of boxing gloves and a soccer ball were also received later in the month and were handed over to the P. & B.T. Instructor attached to the Battalion.

In addition to the stores already mentioned a bag of sugar (70 lbs.) was received 24.7.18.

GUNS VICKERS EXCHANGED. During the month 14 Machine Guns were exchanged at D.A.D.O.S., the majority of which had been pierced in the barrel casing with the exception of two which were repaired by the Bn Armourer Sgt. (One showed signs of a leak in the barrel casing, and the other had been hit by a piece of shell which knocked off the muzzle attachment and bent the barrel.)

INSTRUCTIONAL GUN. A gun for instructional purposes was drawn from D.A.D.O.S. on 12.7.18. This is an addition to the establishment which will prove useful for the instruction of O.Rs. drawn from infantry battalions and other units.

BARRELS EXCHANGED. During the month 42 Machine gun barrels have been exchanged at D.A.D.O.S. after examination by the armourers of the Battalion.

GERMAN M.G. BELT BOXES. 178 German belt boxes were received from D.A.D.O.S. and companies have been warned to salvage as many as possible to complete 32 per gun.

PISTOLS WEBLEY. 23 pistols and accessories have been received from D.A.D.O.S. during the month. With the exception of 1, these were to replace those destroyed by shell fire.

A.A. SIGHTS. 42 Hill Jackson A.A. Sights have been received to complete one per gun.

ADDITIONS TO MOB. TABLE. The following additions to the Mobilization Table have been received during the month:-

Compasses Liquid Prismatic	3
Protractors Air photo	1
Machines chaffcutting	1
Pumping Plant outfits	1.

SUITS ANTI-GAS. 100 suits Anti-gas have been allotted to this unit for trial.

KITCHEN. One body of Kitchen Travelling was condemned by L.I.O.M. and exchanged on 8.7.18 for 22nd. Coy.

TOMMY COOKERS. The Sergt. Cook has satisfied the demands of Coys. for trench cookers. (improvised). The chief difficulty in this respect has been to find empty tins with sufficiently airtight lids. The component parts used in the manufacture of these cookers are, sawdust, dripping and kerosene. Dripping has been supplied by Coys. as they require cookers.



SECOND AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION.

Headquarters,  
31st. July, 1918.

100

REPORT BY Q.M. contd.

CONDENSER TUBES. An improvement on Condenser steam tubes (Vickers M.G.) is being carried out by Battalion armourers as opportunity offers. The collar which is placed just behind the union, serves to stop the union from slipping back and getting lost.

RESPIRATORS exchanged. 63 Box Respirators and 14 containers have been exchanged at D.A.D.O.S. after examination by the Battalion Gas N.C.O.

SALVAGE. The following of Fat etc. have been returned to Railhead for month ending 25.7.18. 840 lbs. Fat, 196 lbs. paper 470. lbs cardboard, and 2137 jam cartons.

U.S. RETURNS. The following articles have been received u/s and returned to D.A.D.O.S. for month ending 31.7.18.

Articles.	Received.	Returned u/s.
Jackets S.D.	34	53
Trousers D.S.	116)	42)
Pants M.S.	51)167	95)137.
Greatcoats	3	4
Puttees	60	61
Boots ankle. prs.	64	63
Sheets ground	-	16
Chains collar	44	13
Blankets saddle	44	13

42 pairs of trousers D.S. were received on 28.7.18. This number have not yet been returned as u/s from Coys. 25 chains collar were returned to D.A.D.O.S. as u/s on 1.8.18.

RATIONS AND FODDER. Ration supplies on the whole have been good. Fresh vegetables have not been plentiful, but tinned pork and beans have largely made up for this shortage. Bacon has not always been a full issue but the equivalent in M. & V. tinned ration has been supplied in such cases. Fresh meat has been generally up to standard although during periods of sultry weather the M.O. has ordered that the meat be cooked at once to save deterioration. Horse fodder rations have been up to standard. Hay ration has been reduced 2 lbs per horse and mule. Hay has been received loose (cut locally) as well as in bales. Oil cake has also been drawn periodically.

RATIONS & WATER TO FORWARD AREA. The distribution of rations to the forward area has been carried out with despatch by Coy. Q.M. Sgts., the system of labelling etc. of rations being satisfactory. Water is being sent forward regularly petrol tins being used for the purpose.

CANTEEN. Supplies for the Battalion Canteen were very difficult to obtain at the beginning of the month, but later with the aid of a buyer who went further afield supplies have been kept up very well, the canteen proving itself a most valuable institution.

BOOTS REPAIRED. More than 150 pairs of boots have been repaired by H.Q. bootmakers during the month.