

AWM4

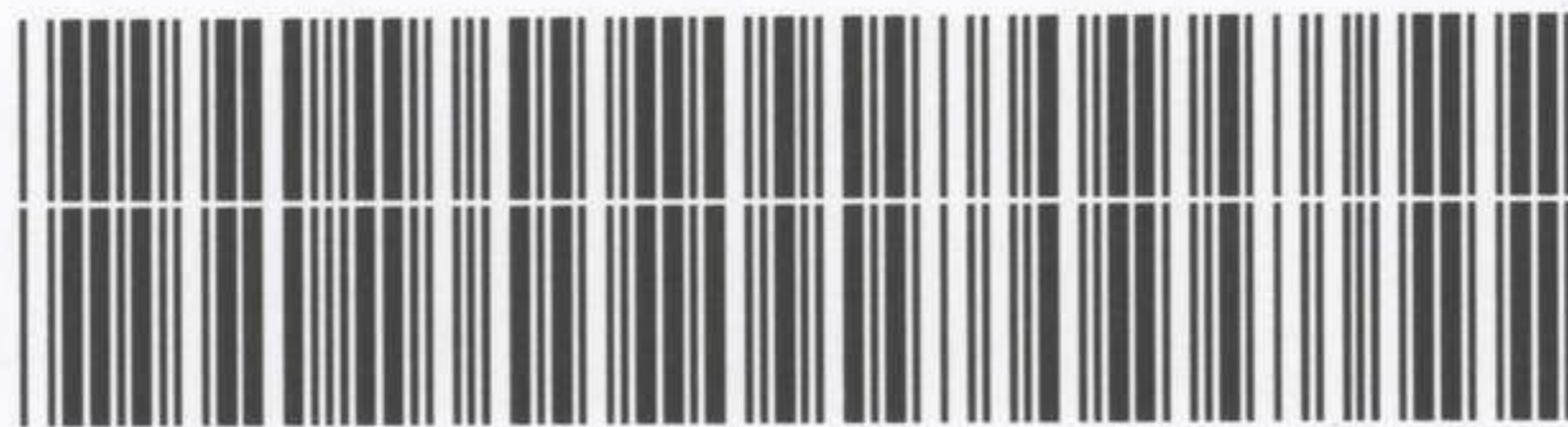
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War**

Machine Guns

Item number: 24/21/7

Title: 21st Australian Machine Gun
Company

July 1917



AWM4-24/21/7

CONFIDENTIAL

WAR DIARY

ORIGINAL

Army Form C. 2118.

36

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

VOLUME 4

Ab

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|-------------|--------|------|--|--------------------------------------|
| DERNANCOURT | 1 JULY | | SUNDAY - No parades | |
| - " - | 2 - | | Training proceeded with - Company Drill, Mechanism, Gun Drill Each section in afternoon had one hour's instruction on German gun, finished afternoon with one hour's practice belt filling. | |
| - " - | 3 - | | Company Drill, Immediate action, Combined Drill, Afternoon route march of two hours. | |
| - " - | 4 - | | Field general Court Martial on 330 Sgt. LITTLE held at MAILLY. Company marched to RIBEMONT & were put through the gas tests. Afternoon the Company were lectured by the M.O. 1 st Aus Pioneer. | |
| - " - | 5 - | | Morning sectional tactical schemes. Afternoon auxiliary mount drill | |
| - " - | 6 - | | Promulgation of F. G. C. M on 330 Sgt LITTLE J. C. - Morning practice in tapping off (traversing) & laying on auxiliary aiming mark. Afternoon marched to RIBEMONT & saw demonstration of FLAMMENWERFER - Very hot weather. | |

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| DERHAMCOURT | 7 July | | Men all had hot bath at VIVIER MILL - On return points before during & after firing were carried out. | |
| do | 8 July | | MAJOR W. R. R. FRENCH C.O. 21 st Aus MGC appointed Divisional M.G. officer but retains command of the Company - another Captain has been placed in establishment of Divisional Company to relieve him of front line work. | |
| do | 9 | | As raining hardly carried out instruction in mechanism & Immediate action in huts. Sickness seems on the increase in the Company, taking the form of a low fever, consider the village unhealthy as it is dirty & low-lying - will be glad when moved. Afternoon Nos. 2 & 4 Sections carried out musketry. Remainder Machine gun signals & Semaphore. Changed billets of No 1 Section as consider them damp. | |

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| DERNAN COURT | 10 JULY | | <p>Morning Company Drill, Combined Drill, Immediate action blindfolded. Demonstration of YUKON PACK - consider it very useful article. Afternoon Numbers 1 & 3 Sections carried out musketry - ball firing on 100 yards range. Remainder Semaphore & M.G. Signals.</p> | |
| u - | 11 JULY | | <p>Morning tactical scheme - very well done. Officers showed aptitude & men keenness. Afternoon inspection by C.O. of whole Company in full marching order. All numbers painted, also steel helmets painted same colour (grey) for uniformity.</p> | |
| d - | 12 JULY | | <p>Special inspection parade. Troops of 1st Aus. Div. lined AMIENS - ALBERT road from ALBERT to LAVIEVILLE. King GEORGE V passed in motor car. Troops cheered. Afternoon for helmet drill & inspection</p> | |

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| DERNANQUAT | 13 JULY | | Route march, transport as well. Afternoon practice in stripping & assembling. Company paid. | |
| -do- | 14- | | Hot baths at VIVIER MILL. All ranks had hot bath. Remainder of morning spent in brushing breeches with stiff brushes & washing clothes. The origin of the low fever prevalent in the Division has been traced to the LOUSE. Stringent measures are to be taken to combat the pest. | |
| -do- | 16- | | Morning Company Drill - Practice in traversing & searching etc. Afternoon Mechanism. Nos 304 Sections carried out calibration on 25 yards range | |
| -do- | 17- | | Morning finished calibration of guns by Nos 304 sections. Kit Inspection, followed by a short route march. Visited by GOC 1 st Am. Div. | |

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| DERNANCOURT | JULY 18 th | | Morning Nos 3 & 4 Sections carried out route march and afterwards practise in searching and traversing. Nos 1 & 2 Sections carried out calibration of guns. Afternoon demonstration in "Fire Direction" Para's 26/27 IMGT 1917. | |
| - do - | 19 | | Morning Company drill one hour and afterwards Sectional Tactical exercises as per Sec 22. IMGT 1917 Afternoon Fire Direction Sec 28 IMGT 1917 | |
| - do - | 20 | | Morning route march with transport. Afternoon "Fire Direction" Sec 30 IMGT 1917 | |
| - do - | 21 | | Whole morning was devoted to baths and on completion all clothing was thoroughly brushed inside to combat louse. | |
| - do - | 23 | | Morning. Company drill rough ground drill and later Fast Stripping and assembling to accustom men when blindfolded to working in darkness Afternoon Carried out a thorough inspection of the whole company bel. filling blindfolded and "Fire Direction" tests | |

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| DERNANCOURT | JULY 24 | | The whole company including transport carried out a route march in full marching order at the end of which a foot inspection was held and all feet found to be in good condition. Afternoon Combined drill Fire direction and passing of verbal messages in the field. | |
| - do - | 25 th | 25 | The day was devoted to cleaning limbers gun gear and equipment in preparation for move to new area | |
| - do - | 26 th | 26 | Morning Sections carried out a route march afternoon all men had hot baths at VIVIER. MILL after which a gas helmet inspection was held. | |
| - do - | 27 | | The company entrained at ALBERT the entraining being carried out very well and in good time limbers and animals being trucked without any difficulty. Left ALBERT at 1.10 pm Arrived at STEENBEQUE at 9.30 pm & prepared to detrain. Men were all given a hot cup of cocoa by Y.M.C.A. and detraining went off well Marched to PRISONER OF WAR Camp 2 miles N.N.W. of HAZEBROUCK. The men felt this march of 5 miles over the cobbled roads very much and it was decided to practice them more in route marching | |
| STEENBEQUE | 28 | | Morning was given over to packing & checking contents of limbers | |

