

AWM4

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

Machine Guns

Item number: 24/17/5

Title: 12th Australian Machine Gun
Company

July 1916



AWM4-24/17/5

Date	New item.
1/7/16	Received instructions to be ready to move
2/7/16	Commenced march to Sully. Advance party left billets at 4 pm. Company marched through Osterstern 5.45 pm reaching Sully 8.30 pm
3/7/16	C.O. & 4 Section Officers inspected firing positions on all lines. One half of Coy. & 8 guns, marched to Coy. H.Q. of 1 st M.G. Coy. & stayed for night.
4/7/16	Remainder of Coy. marched to Head Quarters. All guns, stores, etc. sent on to Elbow Farm, near Fleuhais. 8 guns of 1 st M.G. Coy. relieved by us. - Six in front line and two in 300' line
5/7/16	Remainder of guns relieved. Completed relief by 4 pm. Receipts given for all French stores, & communication established to all guns, & back to H.Q. from Elbow Farm 11.45 pm. Gas alert for 1 1/2 hours.
6/7/16	Guns now stand - 6 in front line, four in second line (300-yard line) & five in 3 rd line (Strong ports) One gun being held at Coy. H.Q. as reserve gun. During night overhead fire being used from 4 guns in strong ports.
7/7/16	Gas alert during night. 5 guns in strong ports fired during night (Overhead fire) & 4 guns in 300' line still not fired except in case the enemy occupy our trenches. 4 guns in front line firing also. Reported 1 st 2 gun silenced a German in trench
8/7/16	Quiet night. 9 guns all told firing. Distribution of officers now stands: 2 in front line, 2 300', 3 in Strong ports
9/7/16	Line inspected by C.O. every day. Arrangements re patrols etc. working smoothly. Communication working very smoothly. Two officers from 1 st M.G. Coy. reported to inspect line with a view of relief.
10/7/16	Arrangements at H.Q. are as follows: C.O. inspects line daily & arranges overhead fire, etc. during the afternoon. Spare parts most valuable. Up to date 7 muzzle caps broken, 1 lock spring, 1 firing pin. Ten guns firing during night. Received orders to hand over to 1 st M.G. Coy. on nights of 11-12, 12-13 & arrangements completed accordingly.
11/7/16	Five guns firing during night. no relaxation on account of moon. All guns were relieved today & relief appeared to work without confusion.
12/7/16	Relief completed & all Coy. returned to old billets at Sully by 6 am. At 5.30 pm. left Sully & marched to old billets at Moolenacker, via Osterstern. Men well tired out.
13/7/16	Repacking wagons. Received orders to entrain at Bailloul
14.7.16	Entrained at Bailloul & left by train at 6.28 am. Men all tired but in good heart. Arrived at Caudas

Date	Detail
14/7/16	midday & marched to Berteaucourt. les-dames. - about 9 miles. Very severe on men but none dropped out.
15/7/16	Well settled in billets. Men resting.
16/7/16	Route marches 5 miles for the company, with transport. Remainder of day packing wagons.
17/7/16	Route march 6 miles without transport, latter permitting etc, etc. Sick parade 14%. Received orders to be ready for move.
18/7/16	Route march 7 miles with transport. Training reserves.
19/7/16	Route march with remainder of brigade, about 5 miles. Sick 10%. Feet getting better. Training reserves.
20/7/16	All transport being painted grey. Busy with instruction & gun drill, overhead fire, etc. Sick 3%.
21/7/16	In billets at Berteaucourt. Gun & wagon drill being kept up. Great improvement in Sick parade.
22/7/16	
24/7/16	Coy. with remainder of brigade carried out manoeuvres at PILLER, near St. Omer.
25/7/16	Section route marched 5 miles.
26/7/16	Transport inspected by Col. Holdsworth.
27/7/16	Coy. marched to Loaten court, & took up billets
28/7/16	Remained here all day, carrying out inspections - feet, rations etc.
29/7/16	Marched to Hergoville
30/7/16	Cleaning guns, harness, etc.
31/7/16	Cleaning guns, harness, etc.

W. G. Dawber Capt.
 of 12th M. G. Coy