

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

Machine Guns

Item number: 24/17/9

Title: 12th Australian Machine Gun
Company

November 1916



AWM4-24/17/9

War Diary for Month of November.

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503

12th Aus. H. Coy.

VOLUME VIII

1/11/16.

Company marched to Vignacourt & billeted there.

2/11/16.

Company marched to Herelles & billeted there. Rifles & equipment inspected.

3/11/16

at Herelles. Instruction carried on. Fourteen reinforcements arrived for Company from Base Depot. Horse rugs supplied for all horses.

4/11/16.

at Herelles. Instruction & drill.

5/11/16.

at Herelles. Church parade. Capt's Power & Whilton awarded congratulatory cards.

6/11/16.

Company proceeded by Motor buses to Dernancourt & took up billets. Transport proceeded under Brigade instructions arriving Dernancourt 7/11/16.

7/11/16.

At Dernancourt. Gun instruction & fitting men for trenches.

8/11/16.

at Dernancourt. Gun instruction, transport harness cleaned.

9/11/16.

at Dernancourt. Rifle & equipment inspection.

10/11/16.

At Dernancourt. Waggon's greased. All arrangements made for proceeding to trenches.

11/11/16.

Company marched to Tricourt & bivouacked there. Capt Whilton & four section officers went ahead to make arrangements for relief.

12/11/16.

Company proceeded to trenches & took over from 2nd Aus. H. Coy. Ten guns in front line, five guns in support, one being damaged. When taking over Sgt Lewis & two men were wounded. Relief completed by 2 a.m. 12/11/16. Transport lines at Bonnier's Redoubt. Weather wet & foggy.

13/11/16.

Pte Lowman wounded & since died of effects while ensuring communication. Weather unsettled. Indirect fire carried out by three guns, on targets in rear of salient. Communications successfully carried out.

14/11/16.

Weather fine & frosty. Usual Heavy shelling on Brigade sector. Trenches improved generally, indirect fire carried out by four guns during the night.

503 cont'd.

14/11/16.

3 free guns withdrawn from front line to support line. Weather very trying.

15/11/16.

Heavy shelling as usual. Two anti-airplane guns mounted at Switch Trench, & battle emplacements constructed in Bird Trench to cover Gendecourt Wood. Indirect fire positions completed & marked. Corps Commander inspected sector. Usual indirect fire by night.

16/11/16.

Weather foggy with hard frost. Shelling quieter. Usual construction work & indirect fire carried out.

17/11/16.

Weather milder with slight fall of snow. Men in fair health, no cases of trench feet. Seven re-inforcements arrived. Usual indirect fire carried out.

18/11/16.

Weather mild & dull. Corps Commander inspected support line. Usual indirect fire by night.

19/11/16.

Plts Cumming & Anderson wounded. Usual improvement work & indirect fire.

20/11/16.

Five guns withdrawn from front line. Disposition now is two in front line, eight in support line, two aeroplane, four in reserve. Usual indirect fire carried out.

21/11/16.

Heavy rain most of day & night. Indirect fire carried out.

22/11/16.

Weather still wet but mild. Shelling heavy. Work very difficult to carry on. Indirect fire carried out.

23/11/16.

Weather still bad. Health of Company good. Indirect fire as usual.

24/11/16.

Weather frosty. Shelling heavy. Indirect fire carried out.

25/11/16.

Plts Daniel & Olley killed by a shell at Coy Hd Qrs, & buried at same place a cross being erected. Weather very wet, & shelling heavy. Indirect fire carried out.

26/11/16.

Fourth Bn. of Coy reconnoitred with view to taking over. Weather still foggy & wet. Indirect fire as usual.

P. cont'd.

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27/11/16.

Fourth Aus. H. G. Coy relieved us in front line. Our Coy moved in three echelons to Bazentin Le Grand, into reserve. No casualties occurring & relief well carried out.

28/11/16.

Weather very cold & dull. Cleaning of camp & putting up cabins etc carried out.

29/11/16.

Weather still very cold & foggy. Improvement works continued.

30/11/16.

Weather cold & bleak. Men kept on making dug-outs etc.

F. G. DAWSON Capt.

CO 12th Aus. H. G. Coy.