

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

Machine Guns

Item number: 24/22/14

Title: 22nd Australian Machine Gun
Company

August 1918



AWM4-24/22/14

2ND
AUSTRALIAN
MACHINE GUN BATTN.
No.....
Date.....

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.
(Erase heading not required.)

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DQUART
Sheet No. 1.
22nd AUST. M.G. COY.

Army Form C. 2118.

04

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
Lamotte	1918. Aug. 1st.	9pm.	During the night guns R.18. & R18.a. (American) , fired on road U6.c.6.0. to U.6.c. X roads. harassing fire of 2000 rounds per gun. R18 gun fired on corner of wood and road in U11.d.80.20. Expenditure 2000 rounds. Guns R22 & R23 fired 2000 rounds per gun on road in U11.d. from Basilide Alley to corner of wood U11.d.80.20. (Reference map 62d. SE. & SW.) sent for July Diary. Hostile artillery was active from 3pm. till 9pm. yesterday. 5.9. shells falling in U3.b. & xxx and a few gas shells fell in O34.c. Between 4 & 5.30am. 5.9's and 4.2 shells fell on railway in O34.b. xxxxxxxx At 10.45pm yesterday , hostile aircraft bombed main road in O27.c.&d. During the day, enemy H.V. gun fired intermittently in from O26.d. to O27.d.	
	2nd.	"	During last night R18. & R18a. guns fired 2000 rounds harassing fire on target U6.c.5.0. Nth. of X roads. R21. gun fired 2000 rounds on corner of wood and road in U11.d.8.2. R.22. & 23 guns fired on target in U11.d. traversing road from Basilide Alley to wood. A few gas shells fell in rear of gun positions in U3.b. & c. also in O34.b. & d. Orders are received that relief will take place tonight and Company order has been issued regarding same. Appendix.1.	No.1.
	3rd.	"	Compang is relieved by 4th. A.M.G. Bn. and 5th. A.M.G. Company. This Company now taking over the duties of mobile reserve coy. On return from forward area, men have had hot baths and foot inspection.	
	4th.	"	A syllabus of training has been drawn up for the ensuing week. Appendix.2.	No.2.
		11pm.	Orders received from Battalion that an attack will shortly be made in which this Company will take part.	
	5th.	9pm.	Preparations for move forward are in progress.	
V. Brett	7th.	6pm.	Company moved forward from LAMOTTE to take up positions prior to taking part in attack in front of VILLERS BRETTONNEUX.	
	8th.		This Company was allotted to 7th. A.I. Bde. for the attack on GREEN LINE . At 4.20 am. the artillery barrage opened and 8 guns went forward with the second wave of infantry. Four on the right with the 26th. Bn. and four on the left with the 27th. Bn., tanks accompanying. These guns had all reported in position by 7.30pm. Eight guns went forward on rules leaving O23.d.cent. at 5.30. am. These guns were reported in position at 7.30am. Company. H.Q. moved from P36.a.6.5. at 5am. and arrived at P34.d.8.2. about 6.30am.	No.3

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WAR DIARY
OR
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

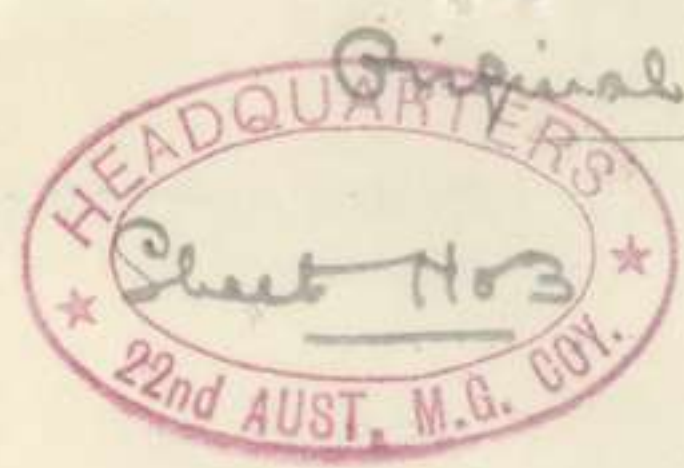
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
V. Bret.	8th.	-	The extremely dense fog which lifted at about 7am. caused some inconvenience but on the whole probably in our favour. An escort of one section of infantry with each subsection of forward guns was provided by the 25th. Bn. and in one instance was extremely useful. Our casualties were very light. The move by pack transport was very successful, no casualties were sustained in personnel and only one mule being wounded. The guns transported by pack were used to consolidate in depth. Also through the first phase on the attack the enemy artillery fire was unusually feeble, although the Machine Guns were at times rather active. The 5th. Aust. Div. accompanied by tanks and cavalry went through the GREEN LINE running east of WARFUSSEE and LA BASTILLE MILL. at 8.30am.	
War' sec.	9th.	noon.	At about 11.30am. after having refitted, the Company moved forward to BLUE LINE, guns moving on limber to within 300 yards of "Jumping off place", to take part in attack on FRAMERVILLE and VAUVILLERS. This attack took place at 4.30pm. without artillery barrage. The attack was supported by an attachment of tanks. Eight guns went forward with the attacking infantry, the remaining eight guns being in Brigade reserve. Four guns on the left established themselves in X4.d. vicinity. These guns had some favourable targets. Party of 200 enemy in the valley south of RAINECOURT were fired upon, the officer in charge of the guns claims 100 casualties. A motor lorry moving towards HERLEVILLE was fired upon and stopped, a field gun in same vicinity was engaged, the gun disappeared behind a hedge leaving one horse. Four guns on the right advancing with the infantry lost direction somewhat finally establishing themselves in the vicinity X16.c.&.d. This section fired on an enemy party of 70 crossing the ridge in X10.d. and dispersed them.	
	10th.	"	Small enemy parties were engaged at intervals, particularly near copse X17.c.20.95. Casualties in this attack and consolidation were slight. In both operations mobility was assumed with ease both pack and limber transport being used. The subsection in each case took charge of his own transport. Throughout the guns attacked in pairs under subsection officer. The utmost harmony and liaison was maintained throughout the infantry battalions.	
	11th.	"	Shortly after reaching objective a small party of bosche tried to rush post garrisoned by Vickers Gun and some infantry about X4.d.9.4., fire was opened and bosche was driven off. Observation was bad owing to fog. During day enemy did not show in sufficient numbers to warrant expenditure of M.G. Amm. Gun crews joined with infantry in sniping individual bosche.	

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WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

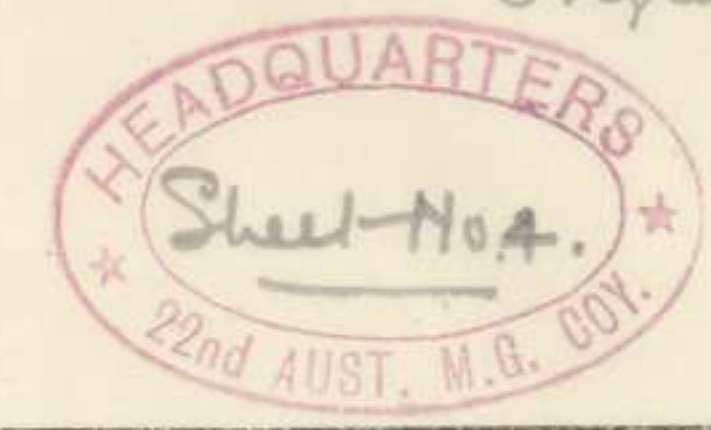
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Harbonniers.	12th.		On the night 11/12th. the company was relieved by the 5th. A.M.G. Coy. and took up reserve positions with the 7th. A.I. Bde. in a sunken road at W12.a.&.c. Four guns from No.1. Section were mounted at W6.d.8.4. for A.A. work. Enemy artillery activity was quiet with the exception of H.V. guns which shelled HARBONNIERS and vicinity at intervals during day and night.	
	17th.	11pm.	The Company was relieved on the evening of the 17th. by "B" Company of the 32nd, Imperial M.G. Battalion, and embussed at 11.30pm. at BAYONVILLERS for BUSSY. Our casualties from the 8th. to the 17th. inclusive were Killed. O.R.'s. 5. Wounded. Offs. 1, O.R.'s. 18. (One other rank remained at duty, 2 B.R.'s subsequently died of wounds).	
BUSSY	18th.	9pm.	Coy. arrived at No.10 Camp BUSSY at 4.30AM.	
	27th.	9AM	During the period 18th/27th the Coy. remained at BUSSY. The first 2 days were spent in overhauling arms. + cleaning gun gear also in general reorganization. The third day the CO. made an inspection + the Coy. was favourably commented on. The rest of the time was spent in rest, sports + a little drilling. The Coy. received orders for move + remain attached to 7th A.I. Bde.	
MORCOURT	27th.	9pm	Today the Coy moved out at 7.15pm by bus for MORCOURT + bivouaced in old German dugouts at Q18.C.5.5	
PROYART AREA.	28th.	-	Today we moved to PROYART Area + camped in German billets in Wood at R4b 38	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CAPPY. AREA.	1918 Aug. 29 th	4.30 AM	Coy. moved forward. Sections Nos 1, 2 & 3 proceeded to jumping off line, which was the MAIN ROAD running from H14 b through H20, H26 to H32. The 7 th A.I. Bde group attacked at 7.30 AM. with their objective - the SOMME CANAL running from PERONNE in a southerly direction. No. 4 Section remain with adv. Coy HQ. which is now situated at HERBECOURT - H32. b.12 (62 ^o sheet), Rear Coy HQ. being taken up near CAPPY at G31. b.8.4.	
HERBECOURT	30 th	1 PM	Rear Coy HQ. have now moved to H.32. b.12	
	31 st	9 AM	No. 2 & 3 sections came out of line during last night, being relieved by the 15 th A.M.P. Coy.	
		9 AM	No. 1 section remained in position with 27 th BATTN.	
		9 PM	At 2.30 pm the Coy., less No. 1 Sect., moved forward. Advanced Coy. HQ. has been taken up at I 7. c. 15. 95 & Rear HQ. at H9. a. 5.1 (Sheet 62 ^o) No. 1 Sect. joined the Coy. at 5 pm today in the forward position.	
			Total Casualties since 28 th are 21 killed. 40 injured & 8 O.P. wounded & 1 O.P. killed.	

Shawcross Lt

for O.C. 22nd AUST. M.G. Coy

Operation Order VV/15. Appendix 1

2.8.18

1. Divisional boundaries are being readjusted & the following reliefs will take place in connection with this adjustment on the night 2nd/3rd Aug. 1918.

Section	Guns	Relieved by	Remarks
No 1	R 21 R 22 + R 23	Withdrawn 4th Am G Bn	SAA Bult to be handed over to 4th Am G Bn
No. 2.	L 22 + L 23 R 18 R 18 A	5th Am G Bn Stands fast	
No 3	R 14 + R 15 L 19 + L 21	5th Am G Bn.	
No 4.	R 16 + R 17 R 19 + R 24 L 15 + L 16.	4th Am G Bn. Withdrawn	SAA Bult handed over to 4th Am G Bn

2. R 18 A (129th US. M G Coy.) comes under command of O.C. 5th Am G Bn on relief of 22nd Am G Bn.

3. All Trench stores &c. will be handed over.

Special care will be observed in obtaining receipts in triplicate (1 copy to be handed to relieving Officer) for Emergency Reserve Rations & Anti Gas suits.

4. Details of relief as regards tripods & belt boxes will be communicated later. All guns, spare parts, barrels & H.P. belts will be brought out of the line.

(On Relief)

5. On relief sections will move independently to LAMOTTE, the Company taking over duties of mobile Reserve Coy.

6. Section Commanders will report completion of relief to Adv. Coy HQ. by wire or runner

7. Acknowledge.

Distribution

As C. Sections
Right Group
File.

A. G. Chalmer
for C. 22nd Aust Lt Coy

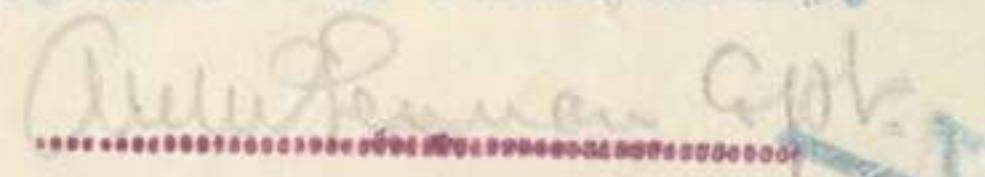
22nd. AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN COMPANY.

Appendix 2

SYLLABUS OF TRAINING. 5. 8. 18.

	9.30. to 10.	10. to 10.30.	10.45. to 11.	11. to 12.	2 to 3.	3. to 3.30.
MONDAY.	Close Order Drill and Rifle Exercises	Dubbing Parade.	Over-hauling (thorough) of Guns and Gear.	Company Drill.		Bombing.
TUESDAY.	-do-	S.B.R. inspection and Drill.	Description.	Limber Drill.		S P O R T S .
WEDNESDAY.	-do-	ROUTE MARCH. FIGHTING ORDER.				Tactical Exercise. "Mobile M.G. Section in attack"
THURSDAY.	-do-	Sect. Lect. Action to be taken during & after Mustard Gas bombardment.	Mechanism.	Pack-horse Drill.		S P O R T S .
FRIDAY.	-do-	Sect. Lecture. Handing over in Line.	I. A.	Barrage Drill.		Route March with Transport. (Fighting imminent).
SATURDAY.	-do-	Sect. Lecture. Sanitation in Camp & Line.	Elementary Gun Drill in S.B.R.	Barrage Drill.		S P O R T S .

1. At 9am. each morning, new men and 3 instructors, with necessary gear, will report to Lt. Stephens for instruction.
2. At 9.30am. 12 N.C.O's will report to R.S.M. for instruction.
3. Each afternoon S.M. Whitworth will take Sections in turn (1/2 hr. each). for P.T.
4. 6 N.C.O's will report to Major. More at 2pm. each day for Compass Work.
5. Lieut. Everett will detail Instructors. Etc.


 O.C. 22nd AUST. M.G. Coy.

Appendix

Appendix 3

22nd. AUST. M. G. COMPANY.

Appendix 3/8

Coy. H.Q's.,
6.8.18.

Order No. 30.

1. The 22nd. Aust. M.G. Company is allotted to the 7th. A.I. Bde. for impending attack on GREEN LINE.
2. On capture of GREEN LINE, the dispositions and tasks of the guns will be as under:-

No. of Guns.	Sect. No.	Off. Comdng.	Approx. Location.	Tasks.
2.	1.	Lt. Byatt.	P36.c.2.7.	1. to fire towards V6.central 1. towards Q31.a.0.5.
2.	1.	Lt. Stephens.	P35.d.cent.	1. to fire towards P36.a.cent. 1. towards V5.b.central.
2.	3.	Lt. Foley.	V5.c.8.6.	1. to fire down gully S.E. 1. towards V6.a.7.3.
2.	3.	Lt. Murray.	V5.a.2.6.	1. to fire towards V11.central 1. towards P36.d.0.0.
4.	2.	Lt. Burcher.	P35.a.0.3.	(a) Direct fire. (b) S.O.S. P36.d.95.65. to P36.d.15.00.
4.	4.	Lt. Cadden.	V4.a.5.2.	Direct fire to command approaches from MARCELCAVE. to LA BASTILLE MILL. S.O.S. V6.c.3.0. to V11.b.6.2.

3. Light Signals.

Australian Corps. S.O.S. No. 32 Grenade. G. over G. over G. Success. No. 32 Grenade. W. over W. over W.

Canadian Corps. S.O.S. No. 32 Grenade. R. over R. over R. (on our right). Lengthen barrage. G. over G. over G.

Three VERY LIGHTS in quick succession equals "We have reached this point".

4. Company Headquarters.

Zero minus 3 hours to Zero plus 1 hour. O36.a.6.6.

At Zero plus 1 hour, Company H.Q's will move forward to vicinity P34.d.7.0.

5. Reports.

Section Officers will send in disposition reports etc. as early as possible to forward Coy. H.Q. at P34.d.7.0.

6. Acknowledge.

Amu Leman Cph

Distribution.

O.C. 22nd. Aust. M.G. Company.

Section Officers.
7th. A.I. Bde.
2nd. Aust. M.G. Bn.
War Diary.
File.

AN. McLennan