

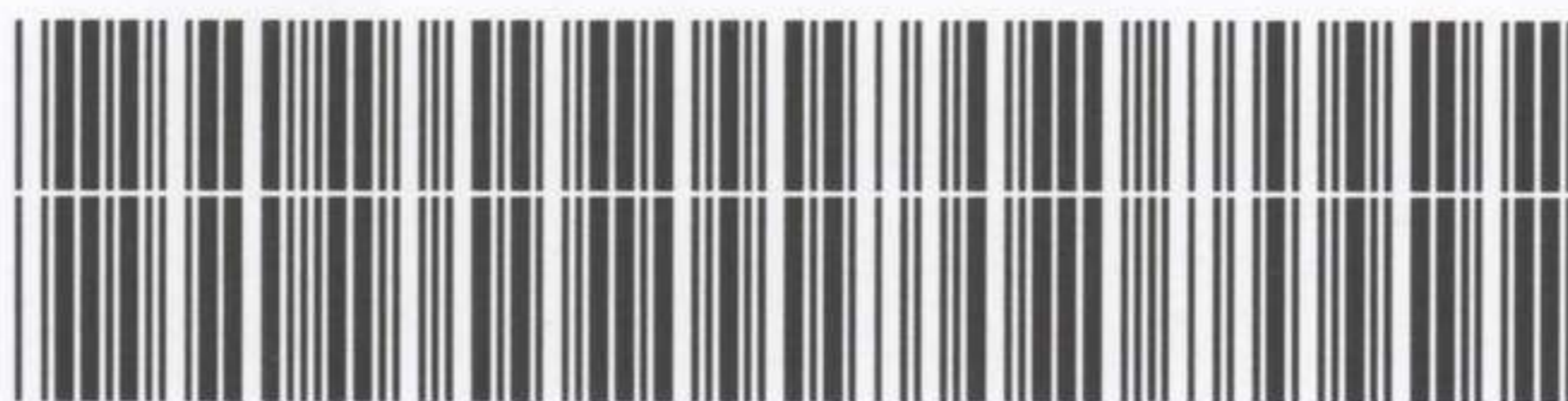
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Machine Guns

Item number: 24/23/10

Title: 23rd Australian Machine Gun
Company

May 1918



AWM4-24/23/10

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Reference Sheet 62° N.E. Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<u>TREUX</u>	1.5.18		<p>Lieut R B Coleman and Lieut R L Walker transferred to 9" Machine Gun Coy.</p> <p>Lieut Thomas from 9" Aust M.G. Coy. (in the Divisional Reserve) visited company Headquarters with a view to becoming familiar with the ground. He was taken round and shown main ground features.</p> <p>O.C. "D" company, 3rd Troopers, was taken round and shown sites fixed for machine gun dugouts. Satisfactory commencement has been made of one of these dugouts in D.28. b</p> <p>First list of targets issued in connection with night firing guns in D.30. b 30.38. Guns visited about midnight and appeared to be firing quite satisfactory, with the exception that a box containing a percentage of "tracers" was used. This emphasizes the necessity of constant overhauling of all ammunition boxes, especially those taken over from other units.</p> <p>Visited O.C. No. 2 Section in railway embankment and found that embankment was being constantly swept by fire from enemy machine guns. Arrangements were made to send out a gun to deal with this gun.</p>	

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TREUX	1.5.18.		<p>Lieut. R. G. Coleman and Lieut. R. L. Walker transferred to 9th Aust. M.G. Coy. 4700 rounds were fired on the following targets at irregular intervals throughout the night by 2 guns selected at J.S.C. 50.45.</p> <p>1. TRENCH. K.1. b. 10.75. 2. SUNKEN ROAD. K.1. b & d. 3. CEMETERY. K.1. a. 85.75. 4. M.G. K.1. a. 60.60. 5. HOLLOW. K.2. c. 05.70. 6. M.G. K.1. d. 45.40. 7. OCCUPIED QUARRY & TRACKS to RAILWAY LINE. F. 14. C.</p> <p>Enemy artillery very quiet throughout the day and night. Enemy M.G.'s. more active than usual. Enemy aircraft. Nil owing to weather conditions.</p> <p>Parade State</p>	APPDX.
	2.5.18		<p>Circular received based on observation and lessons learned from recent gas shelling of VILHERS-BRETONNEUX extracts taken and issued to Sections.</p> <p>Received telephone message to visit M.G. Batta. Hdqrs. in connection with certain special targets requiring to be engaged by Brigade. Arrangements had already been made to engage these targets.</p>	

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TREUX	2-5-18		<p>Lieut. G. Mc S. Grain reported to M.G. Bdr. Hqs for Transport Duty.</p> <p>Lieut J. Mc Whinney reported for duty and proceeded to N° 15 and 16 guns in reserve line.</p> <p>Battalion Order issued showing Promotions, appointments etc. to bring establishment of N.C.O's up to strength.</p> <p>Same Order confirmed that N° 6275 A/SGT. CLARKE, W.T. of this Unit had secured M.M. in connection with good work carried out on the 5-4-18.</p> <p>The following targets were engaged at irregular intervals throughout the night by 2 guns situated at J. S. C. 45.50, 2,500 rounds being expended: -</p> <p>1. CROSS ROAD. K.1.b.05.40. 2. M.G. CRUCIFIX. K.1.a.35.70. 3. M.G. K.7.a.80.80.</p> <p>4. TRENCH. K.7.b.10.45. 5. M.G. K.1.a.95.50. 6. M.G. K.1.d.65.45.</p> <p>One gun situated at D.30.b.30.33. engaged the following targets, 2,000 rounds being used: -</p> <p>1. ENFILADE FIRE, ROAD. K.1.b.10.45 to K.1.d.13.27. (2) ENFILADE FIRE ENEMY FRONTLINE. E.139.14</p>	

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TREUX.	2-5-18		<p>Enemy Artillery directed light harassing fire in and around TREUX during the day and night.</p> <p>Enemy M.G.s. fired short bursts throughout the period.</p> <p>Enemy Aircraft inactive.</p>	
	3-5-18		<p>D.C. visited Left Battalion and handed in sketch of gun dispositions.</p> <p>Selected two night firing positions at _____ and _____</p> <p>and visited 22nd AUSTR. M.G. Coy. attached. Drainage programme carried out by 2 guns at J. 5. C. 50. 45., 2,100 rounds being used:-</p> <p>1. M.G. K. 7. a. 80. 80. 2. M.G. K. 1. d. 65. 45. 3. HOLLOW. K. 2. C. 05. 70.</p> <p>4. CEMETERY. K. 1. a. 90. 70. 5. VILLE-SUR-ANCRE. E. 25. C. 75. 30.</p> <p>Enemy artillery very slight activity on forward area during the night.</p> <p>Enemy Machine Guns fairly active.</p> <p>Enemy Aircraft, slight activity.</p>	
	4-5-18		<p>The following special synchronised concentrations were carried out during the night by guns situated as follows:-</p> <p>2 at D. 30. a. 05. 95. 1 at D. 30. b. 30. 33. 4 at J. 5. C. 50. 45.</p>	

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TREUX	4.5.18		<p>Targets engaged as follows:-</p> <p>1. CROSSROADS. K.I.G. 10.45. 2. SUNK ROAD K.I.G. 20.00. 3. SUNK ROAD K.I.G. 13.27</p> <p>4. DERNANCOURT & RAILWAYLINE. 5. QUARRY in E.H.C 6. ENEMY FRONTLINE E13 & 14.</p> <p>7. RAILWAYLINE E. 20. 8. BRIDGES ON RIVER ANCRE AT DERNANCOURT.</p> <p>5,500 rounds expended on above targets.</p> <p>Besides above, ordinary programme was carried out by two guns situated at J. 5. C. 50. 45., 2,100 rounds being used.</p> <p>1. M.G. K.I.G. 60.05. 2. M.G. K.I.G. 90.45. 3. M.G. K.I.G. 65.45.</p> <p>4. STREETS VILLE-SUR-ANCRE. E 25. a. 75. 30., 5. ENEMY POST K.I.G. 65.60.</p> <p>Enemy Artillery showed light activity during the night.</p> <p>Between 7 & 7.30 PM. 2 light mines were against RAILWAY EMBANKMENT E. 25. without doing any damage.</p> <p>Enemy M.G. Active Enemy Aircraft showed slight activity.</p> <p>Fighting strength Return</p>	
	5.5.18		<p>D.C. visited Battalion Hqs. and received information of operation by 9th Bde (Bde on our right) whereby our line was</p>	APPX.

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TREUX	5.5.18		<p>to be advanced about 500 yards on a 1500 yds front.</p> <p>Arrangements were made for this company to co operate by dealing with selected localities of enemy activity and posts. To this end special targets were given to 8 guns for firing during the night.</p> <p>Programme carried out was as follows:-</p> <p>1. DERNANCOURT & RAILWAY. 2. QUARRY E. 14. C. 3. ENEMY FRONT LINE E. 13 & 14. 4. SUSPECTED. H. Q. E. 2. 6. 9. 15. 5. BRIDGES AT DERNANCOURT.</p> <p>Special heavy concentrations in conjunction with forward movement of 9th Bde. were carried out; special attention being paid to SUNKEN ROAD IN K. 1. 6. & d. REVERSE SLOPE IN K. 2. a. & c. STRONG POINT. K. 1. d.</p> <p>Number of rounds expended 8,500.</p> <p>Enemy Artillery. Light retaliatory fire to our shoot about midnight with 15 cm & 10.5. quiet for the remainder of period.</p> <p>Enemy Aircraft light activity.</p> <p>Enemy M.G.s short bursts throughout the night.</p>	APPX.

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TREUX.	6.5.18		<p>In continuation of the operations carried out by the 9th Bde. it was decided to advance the right posts of the Right Battalion of this Brigade so as to join up with the 9th Bde. advance line. W. C. visited Battalion HQs to arrange details of M. G. co-operation. Special areas likely to give trouble were given attention.</p> <p>During the day enemy artillery directed heavy shelling on area from MARETT WOOD to TREUX, shrapnel and H. E. of all calibres up to 15 cm being used.</p> <p>A direct hit was obtained on Officers Mess at C. H. Q. the following officers being slightly wounded: - Capt. W. A. Whitehead m.c. Lieut. G. H. P. MacPherson Lieut. G. P. Ross, Lieut. P. R. Invern.</p> <p>After being treated at the Dressing Station the Officers resumed their usual duties.</p> <p>Instructions received from C. O. Battalion for Capt. A. L. Chambers (in charge of Coy. 'B' Echelon) to take over 10th Aust. M. G. Co.</p>	

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TREUX.	6.5.18		<p>The following targets were fired on at irregular intervals throughout the night, two and three guns being concentrated on each:-</p> <p>1. FORK ROADS. K.1. a. 2. DERNANCOURT & RAILWAYLINE 3. QUARRY E.14. c. 4. BRIDGES AT DERNANCOURT. 5. SUSPECTED H.Q. E.2. b. 6. ENEMY POST. K.1. a 65.60. 7. M.G. K.1. a. 60.05. 8. M.G. K.1. d. 65.45.</p> <p>Special heavy concentrations in conjunction with forward movement of 10th Bde. were carried out during the night, special attention being paid to:-</p> <p>SUNKEN ROAD IN K.1. b. & d. REVERSE SLOPE IN K.2. a. & c. STRONG POINT IN K.1. d.</p> <p>S.A.A. expended 8,500 rounds.</p> <p>Enemy Artillery directed light shelling during the night on TREUX and surroundings.</p> <p>Enemy M.G.'s fairly active.</p> <p>Enemy aircraft more active than usual. 500 rounds were fired on enemy planes during the day.</p>	

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TREUX.	7.5.18		<p>Operations of the 10th Bde were postponed until tonight. Some arrangements holding good.</p> <p>D. C. 6th M.G. Co. visited C. H. Q. with a view to gathering information and becoming familiar with the line with a view to possible relief on the 10/11th. Similar shooting programme as laid down on the 6th was carried out.</p> <p>8500 rounds were expended on targets at irregular intervals throughout the night, up to 7 guns being concentrated in each: -</p> <p>1. SUNKEN ROAD IN K.I. 6 & d. 2. DERNANCOURT & RAILWAY LINE 3. QUARRY E. 14. C. H. BRIDGE AT DERNANCOURT. 5. STRONG POINT. K.I. 2. 50. 60. 6. ENEMY POST. K.I. a. 65. 60. 7. M.G. K.I. a. 60. 05. 8. M.G. K.I. d. 65. 45. 9. SUNKEN ROAD. K.I. a. 4. 1.</p> <p>Enemy Artillery fairly active in retaliation of our programme. In response to double red flares he put down barrage on line through C.C. 5 E. 19 to East of VILLE-SUR-ANCRE. During the day enemy bombarded VILLE-SUR-ANCRE TREUX and surroundings.</p> <p>Enemy M.G.'s more active than usual.</p>	

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TREUX.	7-5-18		<p>Enemy aircraft fairly active. They flew continuously low over front line in front of and South of MARETTWOOD apparently directing the fire of 5-9 batteries firing in the vicinity of prisoner-of-war cage, MARRETTWOOD.</p>	
	8-5-18		<p>O.C. (Capt. D.A. Whitehead) visited 10th M.G. Co. with a view to co-operation on the right flank. Obtained permission from the G.O.C. 10th Bde. to move 11th H gun from the Railway Crossing and to use it work on the right flank. O.C. visited Batt. Hdqrs. about 8 p.m. in connection with these dispositions.</p> <p>New gun position finally settled in a splendid field of fire towards VILLE-SUR-ANCRE at and instructions issued to the gun crew to take up position tomorrow night.</p> <p>Indirect fire had to be curtailed considerably owing to active patrolling operations by both Battalions with a view to finding whether VILLE-SUR-ANCRE was occupied or not.</p> <p>5,000 rounds were expended on the following targets during the night, up to 7 guns being concentrated on each:-</p>	

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TREUX.	8-5-18.		<p>1. RAILWAY LINE + STREETS DERNANCOURT. 2. BRIDGES at DERNANCOURT. 3. QUARRY at E 14 C.</p> <p>4. ENEMY FRONT LINE. E. 13 + 14 5. SUSPECTED H. Q. K. 26. 90. 15. 6. SLOPE. K. 2. a + c.</p> <p>During to illness Capt. A. L. Chambers was evacuated from line and returned to Company B Echelon.</p> <p>Enemy artillery showed more activity than usual, during the night concentrations of 10.5 and 15 cm. in and around TREUX being frequent.</p> <p>In the village a house was set on fire as a result of a direct hit.</p> <p>One of our guns situated at _____ was put out of action as a result of direct hit. No casualties.</p> <p>Enemy M.G's more active than usual.</p> <p>Enemy aircraft; fairly active, 500 rounds were fired on enemy planes during day.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Parade State</u></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Actually with unit.</th> <th colspan="2">Absent</th> <th rowspan="2">Sick</th> <th rowspan="2">Detached</th> <th rowspan="2">Total Strength</th> <th rowspan="2">Estab. listment.</th> <th rowspan="2">Wanting to complete</th> <th rowspan="2">Attached</th> <th rowspan="2">Ration strength.</th> </tr> <tr> <th>with leave</th> <th>on shore leave</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>off. NCO Men</td> <td>off. NCO Men</td> <td>off. NCO Men</td> <td>off. NCO Men</td> <td>off. NCO Men</td> <td>off. NCO Men</td> <td>off. NCO Men</td> <td>off. NCO Men</td> <td>off. NCO Men</td> <td>off. NCO Men</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Actually with unit.	Absent		Sick	Detached	Total Strength	Estab. listment.	Wanting to complete	Attached	Ration strength.	with leave	on shore leave	off. NCO Men	off. NCO Men	off. NCO Men	off. NCO Men	off. NCO Men	off. NCO Men	off. NCO Men	off. NCO Men	off. NCO Men	off. NCO Men											
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TREUX.	9.5.18.		<p>3rd M. G. BATT. Orders regarding relief received. Arrangements already made with 6th AUST. M. G. Coy still hold good and orders to that effect issued to Sections.</p> <p>The following targets were fired on at irregular intervals throughout the night, up to 7 guns being concentrated on each:-</p> <p>1. SUNKEN ROAD K.1.47a. 2. RAILWAY LINE & STREETS DERNANCOURT. 3. BRIDGES AT DERNANCOURT.</p> <p>4. QUARRY E. H. C. 5. FORK ROAD K.1.a. 6. ENEMY FRONT LINE E.13NH.</p> <p>7. SUSPECTED H.Q. K.2.40.15. 8. STRONG POINT K.1.d. 9. ENEMY POST. K.1.a. 65.60.</p> <p>10. SLOPE K.2.a.c. 11. M.G. K.1.a. 60.60. 12. M.G. K.1.d. 45.40. 13. TRENCH K.7.f.15.70.</p> <p>Number of rounds fired 7500.</p> <p>Enemy Artillery. Intermittent shelling of TREUX during the night.</p> <p>Enemy M.G's Active.</p> <p>Enemy Aircraft showed slightly more activity about 4 am a number of planes flew over TREUX three bombs being dropped in the vicinity of the chateau CHATEAU.</p>	
	10.5.18.		<p>Final instructions regarding relief made. Guides reported as follows:-</p> <p>SUGAR REFINERY CORNER. 2 Guides. MERICOURT RAILWAY CROSSING. 2 Guides.</p>	

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TREUX	10-5-18		<p>Relieving Sections guided into line and stores removed: - 2 limbers Northern Sector, 2 Limbers Southern Sector, 2 limbers Headquarters 7 limbers and 1 G.S. Wagon waited in RIBEMONT to convey troops to FRANVILLERS. Relief reported complete at 11 p.m. Troops given hot meal on arrival at FRANVILLERS. Battalion Order for march to Corps Reserve received. Instructions based on same issued. Rear Coy. Hodges. moved from FRANVILLERS to QUERRIEU.</p>	
FRANVILLERS	11-5-18		<p>Reveille 5 a.m. Breakfast 5:30 a.m. Men paraded at 7.45 a.m. Transport reported 7:30 a.m. and fighting stores & Officers kits loaded. Company marched to QUERRIEU, passing starting point at 8:10 a.m. via LAHOUSOYE and PONT NOYELLES, arriving at camp in Chateau grounds at 10:15 a.m.</p>	APPX.
QUERRIEU			<p>The 22nd Aust. M.G. Coy. still occupied lines and did not move out till 2 p.m. Camp taken over and men allotted to tents. A guard</p>	

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QUERRIEU	11-5-18		<p>consisting of 1 N.C.O and 3 men mounted on limbus at 6 P.M.</p> <p><u>Fighting Strength Return.</u></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">A</th> <th colspan="2">B</th> <th colspan="2">A MINUS B</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Officers</th> <th>O.Ranks</th> <th>Officers</th> <th>O.Ranks</th> <th>Officers</th> <th>O.Ranks</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>10</td> <td>178</td> <td>1</td> <td>4</td> <td>9</td> <td>178</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	A		B		A MINUS B		Officers	O.Ranks	Officers	O.Ranks	Officers	O.Ranks	10	178	1	4	9	178	
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Officers	O.Ranks	Officers	O.Ranks	Officers	O.Ranks																	
10	178	1	4	9	178																	
	12-5-18		<p>Men paraded at 9 AM sorting stores on limbus.</p> <p>Church parade at 10.30 AM.</p> <p>Orders were received that D. Co. Companies were to meet C. Co. 3rd Aust. M.G. Batt. at CROSSROADS N. 26.6.10.90.</p> <p>D. Co left camp at 8.45 AM - remainder of day spent in making reconnaissance of ground in vicinity of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX.</p>																			
	13-5-18		<p>Bath parade from 8 to 10 am.</p> <p>Inspection of arms in the afternoon.</p>																			

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QUERRIEU	14.5.18		Company carried on work as per attached syllabus.	APOT.																																																												
			O.C. (Capt. D.A. Whitehead) visited SOMME Defences in company with C.O. 3 rd Aust. M.G. Batt.																																																													
	15.5.18		Inspection of Camp etc by C.O. and Second-in-command, 3 rd Aust. M.G. Batt.																																																													
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	16.5.18		Orders received for a Battalion parade on Saturday the 18 th . Instructions given that limbers, equipment, etc. should be cleaned.																																																													
			Sections given an hour's lecture on bombing by Divisional Bombing N.C.O.																																																													
			Orders received at 10.30 PM that Company would parade																																																													

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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(Erase heading not required.)

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QUERRIEU	16-5-18		as part of Battalion under 11 th Brigade for inspection by the Commander-in-chief on the 17 th at about 3 pm.	
	17-5-18		Company paraded at 12.15 pm. moved off at 12.30 pm along QUERRIEU-ALLONVILLE ROAD to parade ground about G.12.C. Company marched past as part of M.G. Battalion and Transport with Brigade group. Company returned to camp and repacked limbers which had been emptied for the occasion.	
	18-5-18		Company complete with Transport moved from camp along ALBERT-AMIENS road to parade ground in H.20.b. Formed up as Company in line with Transport in rear on the left of Battalion. Inspected by G.O.C. 3 rd AUSTR. DIVISION who remarked on the steadiness of the company. After the march past the G.O.C. spoke a few words to the Battalion as a whole and after being photographed the Coy. returned to camp.	

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QUERRIEN	18.5.18		<i>Fighting Strength Return</i>						
			A		B		A. MINUS B.		
			<i>Fighting Strength including attached</i>		<i>100 percent with unit and independent of C.O. (Included in A)</i>		<i>Available Fighting Strength including personnel of Batt. Ppt. & Q.M. Store</i>		
			<i>Officers</i>	<i>ORanks</i>	<i>Officers</i>	<i>ORanks</i>	<i>Officers</i>	<i>ORanks</i>	
			10	176	2	6	8	174	
	19.5.18		<p><i>Camp bombed by enemy aircraft about 4 AM. Casualties of personnel - 3 Wounded. Horses - 2 Killed, 10 Wounded.</i></p> <p><i>Warning notice received that 3rd Aust. Division would relieve 4th Aust. Division in the VILLERS-BRETONNEUX Sector and that the 23rd M.G. Co. would work with the Left Brigade (9th Bde.)</i></p> <p><i>D^{no} b. companies met C.O. 3rd M.G. Batt. at HALTE in N.H.C. at 1 P.M. and received what information had been obtained from the C.O. 4th M.G. Batt.</i></p> <p><i>Visited 12th Coy H.Q. in O.21.C. and fixed up details of relief. Returned to camp and gave instructions for move on the 20th.</i></p>						

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QUERRIEU	20.5.18		<p>Camp again bombed about 4 am - no casualties.</p> <p>Section limbers with stores for 4 guns less belt boxes and tripods packed in one limber per section.</p> <p>Men's packs branded and stacked then handed over to Q. M. S.</p> <p>Sections 2 & 4 were able to relieve in daylight. Men moved by transport from QUERRIEU to DAOURS where guide from 12th M. G. Coy was picked up. Limbers moved to O. 16. C from whence stores were carried to positions.</p> <p>Sections 1 & 3 met guide at DAOURS CHURCH at 7 P.M. proceeding by similar route to positions in the line.</p> <p>O. C. visited all positions during the afternoon and obtained all information from 12th M. G. Coy.</p> <p>Relief wired complete by 12.5 am on 21-5-18.</p>	
	21.5.18		<p>Positions again visited between midnight and 5 am. and all details as to rations fixed up. Orders for food were as follows:-</p> <p>On and after 22.5.18 the following will draw rations in bulk:-</p> <p>"C. H. Q." "B" "P. I."</p>	

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	21.5.18.		<p>The following will draw dry rations only in bulk:- 'F' 'P.2' 'R'</p>																													
			<p>The meat ration for these teams will be cooked at such a time as to be put on the lumber in dishes with every precaution such as straw packing etc to keep the food as warm as possible. That for 'P.2' will be reheated by 'B'. That for 'F.' will be reheated by 'P.1'. 'R' will be able to reheat after dark.</p>																													
			<p>Ration strengths as follows:-</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">1.</td><td style="text-align: center;">2.</td><td style="text-align: center;">3.</td><td style="text-align: center;">4.</td><td style="text-align: center;">No.</td><td style="text-align: center;">Total.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1.</td><td style="text-align: center;">2.</td><td style="text-align: center;">3.</td><td style="text-align: center;">4.</td><td style="text-align: center;">No.</td><td style="text-align: center;">Total.</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>F.</td><td>6.</td><td>5.</td><td>5.</td><td>5.</td><td>3.</td><td>24.</td> <td>R.</td><td>5.</td><td>5.</td><td>5.</td><td>5.</td><td>4.</td><td>24.</td> <td>'P.1' bulk 14. 'P.2' bulk 13.</td> </tr> </table> <p>'B' bulk 24. C.H.Q. bulk 6.</p>	1.	2.	3.	4.	No.	Total.	1.	2.	3.	4.	No.	Total.		F.	6.	5.	5.	5.	3.	24.	R.	5.	5.	5.	5.	4.	24.	'P.1' bulk 14. 'P.2' bulk 13.	
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			<p>This excludes Corporals who will be reporting to Rear Lines tonight. C. O. 3rd Aust. Mt. Batt. visited C.H.Q. and discussed position of guns. Nothing definite could be settled until 9th Aust. Inf. Bde. had taken over and 11th A.I. Bde. adjusted its boundaries.</p>																													
			<p>O.6 (Capt Whitehead) reported to Bde. Major of the 12th Aust. Inf. Bde. who had no further instructions to give.</p>																													

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	21.5.18		<p>The following targets were engaged by one gun situated at O.29.a 80.85. 3000 rounds being fired: -</p> <p>1. FORK ROADS at P.26.C.85.38. 2. TRENCHES at P.32 a. 9.2. 3. ROAD JUNCTION P.31.C.85.65 4. CROSS ROADS at V.1. a 75.05. 5. ENEMY TRENCHES, in P.26.C. 6. ENEMY TRENCHES. P.31.6TC.</p> <p>Enemy Artillery. Light shelling throughout the day Enemy M.G. fired shot bursts at irregular intervals. Enemy Aircraft. A few planes up at dawn & dusk, but slightly below normal.</p> <p>Weather. Fine day and night - visibility poor - hazy.</p>	
	22.5.18		<p>O.C. (Capt. Whithead) visited M.G. Battalion and Right & Left Bde. Hdqrs. and discussed Infantry schemes in conjunction with distribution of guns.</p> <p>O.C. visited suggested site for C.H.Q. in QUARRY at O.22.b.50.20.</p> <p>Capt. A.L. Chambers reported to C.H.Q. and Lieut. W.H. Mathieson took charge of Rear Hdqrs.</p> <p>The following targets were engaged during the night 22/23rd: -</p>	

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	22.5.18		<p>1. FORK ROADS at P. 26c. 85.38. 2. ROAD JUNCTION at P. 31c. 85.65. 3. TRENCHES P. 32a. 9.2. 4. TRENCHES P. 26c. 5. TRENCHES P. 31. 6. 7c. S.A.A. expended 2000 rounds. Enemy artillery & machine gun activity normal - M.G. positions in ROAD on P. 19c. infiltrated during the night by M.G. fire. Enemy artillery did some damage to wire in front of VILLERS LINE in O.30h. Enemy aircraft quiet during day. A squadron of 7 machines flew along enemy front during the night. <u>Parade State.</u></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="3">Actually with Unit</th> <th colspan="2">Absent</th> <th colspan="2">Sick</th> <th colspan="2">Detached</th> <th colspan="3">Total Strength</th> <th colspan="3">Establishment</th> <th colspan="3">Wanting Complete</th> <th colspan="3">Attached</th> <th colspan="3">Position Strength</th> </tr> <tr> <th>off</th><th>NCO</th><th>Men</th> <th>off</th><th>NCO</th><th>Men</th> <th>off</th><th>NCO</th><th>Men</th> <th>off</th><th>NCO</th><th>Men</th> <th>off</th><th>NCO</th><th>Men</th> <th>off</th><th>NCO</th><th>Men</th> <th>off</th><th>NCO</th><th>Men</th> <th>off</th><th>NCO</th><th>Men</th> <th>off</th><th>NCO</th><th>Men</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>9</td><td>26</td><td>137</td> <td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td> <td>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td> <td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td> <td>3</td><td>10</td><td>26</td> <td>142</td><td>10</td><td>27</td> <td>178</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>36</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td> <td>4</td><td>8</td><td>26</td> <td>141</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Actually with Unit			Absent		Sick		Detached		Total Strength			Establishment			Wanting Complete			Attached			Position Strength			off	NCO	Men	off	NCO	Men	off	NCO	Men	off	NCO	Men	off	NCO	Men	off	NCO	Men	off	NCO	Men	off	NCO	Men	off	NCO	Men	9	26	137	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	3	10	26	142	10	27	178	-	1	36	-	-	-	4	8	26	141	
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	23.5.18		<p>O.C. (Capt D.A. Whitehead) visited Batt HQs with reference to citing of M.G. Position chosen for C.H.Q. being considered suitable. O.C. took Pioneer Officer and O.C. Batt. Signallers to reconnoitre the position.</p>																																																																																	

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WAR DIARY

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	23.5.18.		<p>Capt. Whitehead visited several houses in VILLERS-BRETENNEUX with a view to their employment as a Temporary Hqs. none found suitable.</p> <p>Visited Batt. in the line of Left Bde. and accompanied C.O. Brigade (Colonel White) round forward system, and discussed guns there.</p> <p>Three existing gun positions were slightly altered, and arrangements if possible are to be made to protect the re-entrant on the left flank of the Bde. in P. 19. b & d.</p> <p>Two thousand rounds were expended by gun situated at O. 29 a, 8085 at irregular intervals throughout the night on the following targets:-</p> <p>1. FORK ROADS at P. 26 c 55, 38 2. TRENCHES at P. 32. a. 9. 2. 3. ROAD JUNCTION P. 31 c 85. 65</p> <p>4. ROAD JUNCTION V. 1. a. 75. 05. 5. TRENCHES at V. 1. a. 9. 7. 6. CROSSING at V. 1. k 5. 6.</p> <p>Enemy artillery shooting was normal throughout the day & night. Between 15 & 20 10.5cm. fell in vicinity of Trenches at O. 21. c central about 10 am.</p> <p>During the night shooting appeared chiefly to be harassing fire directed against our roads & tracks.</p> <p>Enemy M.G. fire scattered over our tracks in rear of VILLERS line. Enemy aircraft. Inactive.</p>	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	24-5-18		<p>By arrangement S.C. (Capt. D.A. Whitehead) met C.O. Battalion at the southern corner of Orchard in O. 29. b. to discuss new gun positions. G.O.C. 11th Bde (General (Annan) also there, and position decided for 2 machine guns and deep dugout at corner of hedge about O. 30. c. 60. 80. Position for guns also sited west of orchard on the high point of ground about O. 29. b. 50. 50. To increase field of fire of the guns, part of the hedge and trees of orchard will have to be demolished, also one house.</p> <p>Engineer Officers were taken to both these sites, also to site of C.H.Q. in O. 28. b. 55. 20. The work on these dugouts is to commence immediately.</p> <p>Conference of Company Commanders and C.O. was held at Batt. Hqs. to discuss and set preliminary distribution of guns prior to the issue of a map to various units. Sketch was to be sent in to Batt. on the 25th showing dispositions of guns on secondary tasks.</p> <p>The following targets were engaged at irregular intervals throughout the night, 2000 rounds being fired: - Gun position at O. 30. a. 19. 73.</p>	

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118. 1/0

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	24-5-18		<p>1. TRENCHES at P. 32. a. 9. 2. 2. FORK ROADS at P. 26. c. 85. 38. 3. ROAD JUNCTION N.P. 31. c. 85. 65 4. ROAD JUNCTION V. 1. a. 75. 05. 5. TRENCHES at V. 1. a. 9. 7. 6. CROSSING V. 1. b. 5. 6. Enemy artillery activity throughout the day normal. Light harassing fire during night, chiefly in O. 28. a & b., probably searching for single guns of our own which were active about this time. Two of our H. V. guns (about 6") were seen to move well forward into the valley O. 22. c. and fire during the night. FORK ROADS in O. 27. b. lightly shelled about 11 am.</p>	
	25-5-18		<p>Sketches as required by BATT. completed and sent on at 12 noon. Capt. Chambers visited three BATT. Hqs. of Left Bde. and also certain guns and new positions in C. 24 a. Work on construction of new positions in O. 29 b. proceeded with. At irregular intervals throughout the night one gun at O. 30. a. 19. 73. engaged the following targets, 1500 rounds being expended: - 1. FORK ROADS at P. 26. c. 85. 38. 2. TRENCHES at P. 32. a. 9. 2. 3. ROAD JUNCTION N.P. 31. c. 85. 65. 4. ROAD JUNCTION V. 1. a. 75. 05. 5. TRENCHES at V. 1. a. 9. 7. 6. CROSSING at V. 1. b. 5. 6.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	25.5.18		<p>Enemy artillery activity was much above normal. At 12 noon an area shoot was carried out on O.29. a. r. b. with 10.5, about 150 rounds being fired. About 2.15 pm about 20 rounds 10.5 were fired on our front line. Shelling was scattered until about 6.45 pm. when enemy carried out an area shoot with 10.5 in the battery area about O.20. c. r. a. About 90 shells fell between 6.45 pm and 7.30 pm. a large percentage being 'duds'. Little damage was done.</p> <p>About 8 pm enemy commenced a heavy concentration of gas shelling in the WOOD and CUTTING at O.27. a. r. c. This bombardment was also carried out on VILKERS LINE and the VILLAGE. It slacked off about 10 pm. This shelling was carried on lightly and intermittently throughout the night until about 3.30 am when the shoots in O.27. r. 29 again became concentrated and lasting till nearly 5 am.</p> <p>Enemy M. G.'s were fairly quiet throughout the night.</p> <p>Enemy Aircraft. None seen during the day - several planes heard at night.</p>	

WAR DIARY

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	25.5.14.		<i>Fighting Strength Return.</i>																									
			<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">A</th> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">B</th> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">A MINUS B</th> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;"><i>Fighting Strength (Excluding attached)</i></td> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;"><i>Not present with unit and at disposal of C.O. Included in A.</i></td> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;"><i>Available fighting strength including personnel of Batt. Pt. 4 B. M. Stal.</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>Officers</i></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>ORanks</i></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>Officers</i></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>ORanks</i></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>Officers</i></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>ORanks</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">10</td> <td style="text-align: center;">170</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> <td style="text-align: center;">166</td> </tr> </thead> </table>	A		B		A MINUS B		<i>Fighting Strength (Excluding attached)</i>		<i>Not present with unit and at disposal of C.O. Included in A.</i>		<i>Available fighting strength including personnel of Batt. Pt. 4 B. M. Stal.</i>		<i>Officers</i>	<i>ORanks</i>	<i>Officers</i>	<i>ORanks</i>	<i>Officers</i>	<i>ORanks</i>	10	170	2	8	8	166	
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	26.5.14.		<p><i>D. C. (Capt. D. A. Whitehead) visited sections in the line and finally decided on sites of positions in D. 27. b. and O. 24. a. Instructions issued as to exact type of emplacement required and special precautions that were to be taken regarding camouflage. Discussed site of guns in forward system with OC. "A" Battalion and decided to move gun in support line to a position between support and front line about P. 19. d. 20. 10. commanding a valley in P. 19. b. & P. 20. a. by firing between the posts of the 5th Division. Guns in VILLERS-BRETONNEUX defences also visited to ascertain how these linked up with guns of this company.</i></p>																									

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	26.5.18		<p>Reserve of gunners changed with men in the line, making first relief after a 6 day tour. N° 4 Section Headquarters moved from position at O. 17. C. 30. 40. to a small Quarry O. 29. b. 05. 70.</p> <p>N° 2 Section Hqs. about O. 30. a. 35. 65. moved to approx. O. 24. a. 40. 50.</p> <p>Guns now regrouped in depth.</p> <p>Night firing carried out as follows: -</p> <p>1. FORK ROADS P. 26. C. 85. 38. 2. TRENCHES P. 32. a. 9. 2. 3. ROAD JUNCTION P. 31. C. 85. 65.</p> <p>4. ROAD JUNCTION P. 31. C. 85. 65. V. 1. a. 75. 05. 5. TRENCHES V. 1. a. 9. 7. 6. CROSSING. V. 1. b. 5. 6.</p> <p>S. A. A. expended 1500 rounds.</p> <p>Enemy artillery normal, the usual has light harassing fire being put down on the main tracks.</p> <p>Enemy planes only active at night bombing.</p> <p>Enemy M. G. fire normal.</p>	