

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

Machine Guns

Item number: 24/24/11

Title: 24th Australian Machine Gun
Company

July 1918



AWM4-24/24/11

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
DUPLICATE.
TRIPLICATE.

215

Australian Imperial Force.



WAR DIARY

OF 24TH
AUST.

M.G. COY.

FOR

JUL 1918

191

Signature of Officer compiling

H. Shenden Lt

Signature of Officer Commanding

J. B. Linton Major

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	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BUSSY	1:7:18.		16 Guns in position. Combined Church Parade at Nucleus by Chap. See App. Collins.	"X"
	2:7:18.		Training proceeded with by Nucleus.	
	3:7:18.		No.413A Cpl. CANET J. wounded. Preparations for attack to be carried out on morning of 4th.	
	4:7:18.		Attack carried out at dawn. Enemy Planes bombed BUSSY and surrounding districts. 14 horses killed and wounded at Bn.Transport Lines.)	
	5:7:18		32 O/Ranks marched out from Nucleus as relief.	
	6:7:18		Men relieved marched in and provided with hot bath and clean change in BUSSY Church Parade for C.of E. held in BUSSY. R.Cs. at QUERRIEU.	
	7		1 N.C.O. and 12 men proceeded to forward area as salvage party. No.6822	
	8		Pte. Harris K. wounded (Gas) and struck off strength.	
	9		2x Training and Lectures carried out at Nucleus.	
	10		" " " "	
	11		" " " "	
BUSSY	12		Parades 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Cleaning up Camp preparatory to relieving Unit marching in.	
ALLONVILLE			2 p.m. Nucleus marched out to ALLONVILLE Area and took over Camp of 11th M.G.Coy.	
			Coy. in line relieved by 23rd A.M.G. Coy. On relief Coy. marched back to Nucleus Camp, BUSSY, and bivouaced for the night.	
	13		At 10.30 a.m. remainder of Coy. in Camp at BUSSY marched out to ALLONVILLE area accompanied by Transport, and arrived at noon. The midday meal was served at 12.30 p.m. At 2 p.m. a Muster Parade was held and the Coy. re-organised. The remainder of the day was devoted to building shelters.	
	14		Reveille 8 a.m. Breakfast 9 a.m. First Parade 10 a.m. to 10.30 a.m.Brisk March. The afternoon was devoted to Cricket. Lt.LANTZKE evacuated to Hospital.	
	15		9 a.m. Brisk march, 9.30 to 12 noon Sorting Gun gear, etc. Party of 40 O/Ranks erected Bomb. shelters at Horse Lines. 2 p.m. The Coy. played Bn.H.Q. Cricket resulting in a win for the Coy.	
	16:7:18		Training carried on as per syllabus.	see Appendie "B"



WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ALLONVILLE.	17:7:	'18.	Training carried on as per Syllabus. The Coy. was paid, 13,500 Francs being disposed of.	Appd. "B"
	18:		Training carried on as per Syllabus.	
	19		" " " "	
	20		" " " "	
	21		Combined Church Parade held in ALLONVILLE by Chap. FINIGAN, C.of E. by Chap. Collins, R.Cs. at Church ALLONVILLE.	Appd. "B"
	22		9 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. Training as per Syllabus. 12.15 p.m. to 5 p.m. 4th Aust. Div. Race Meeting held at ALLONVILLE and was attended by every available member of the Coy. The O.C's (Major HINTON M.C.) "GEORGE" won the main event, MOQUET FARM PLATE (open to all horses in Allied Forces also another event.	Appd. "C"
	23		Battalion Sports postponed till 25 inst. on account of wet weather.	
	24		Training carried on as per Syllabus.	"C"
	25		4th Aust. M. G. Bn. Sports. The Coy. had entries in almost the whole of the program, and secured second place in the aggregate.	
	26		Training carried on as per Syllabus.	
	27		" " " "	
	28		" " " "	
	29		" " " "	"E"
	30		" " " "	
	31		Company paid 7000 Francs disposed of. The Coy. moved off at 4 p.m. to TRONVILLE WOOD, resting there for 3 hours. 16 Gun teams marched into the Line to relieve the French and the Nucleus proceeded to BOVES wood. Strength of Coy. 8 Offs. 212 O/Ranks.	



WAR DIARY

OF

215

24th AUST. MACHINE GUN COY.

FOR

JULY

1918.

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
"A"	Report on Operations, 1:6:'18 - 12:7:'18.
"B"	Syllabus of Training.
"C"	" "
"D"	Order No.1.
"E"	Syllabus of Training.
"F"	Order No. 5.
"G"	Order No.6.
"H"	Ration Report for month and Diet Sheets.
"I"	Infectious Disease.
"J"	Balloons.
"K"	Tank Signals.
"L"	Protection of Gas.
"M"	Precis of information regarding enemy's preparation for Attack and our Counter preparation measures.
"N"	Tank Flags.
"O"	Intelligence Summary No.303.
"P"	4th Aust. M.G.Bn.Order No.15.
"Q"	Intelligence Summary No.304.
"R"	4th Aust. M. G. Bn. Order No.11.
"S"	4th A.M.G.Bn.Order No.14.
"T"	Type of Armoured Car.
"U"	Silhouettes of Allied Aeroplanes.
"X"	Gun Dispositions.
"Y"	" "
"Z"	" "

REPORT ON OPERATIONS

24th AUST. MACHINE GUN COMPANY.

For period, while in the Line, from 1:6:'18 to 12:7:'18.

Ref. Map 62D.

During the night 1-2nd June, the 5th AUST. DIVISION was relieved by the 4th AUST. DIV., and the dispositions of the 25th AUST. M.G. Coy., were taken over by the 24th AUST. M. G. Coy. These dispositions were in the centre of the Divisional Area with 9 Guns in the left Brigade Area and 7 with the right Brigade Area. Details of relief were completed mutually between the O.Cs. concerned (Capt. BARKER D.C.M. 25th Coy., and Major HINTON M.C. of 24th Coy.) The relief was completed without event. The dispositions on relief were:-

F 1. P 2 b 4.0
F 2. P 2 b 1.6
F 3. J 32 d 8.1
F 4. J 33 c 3.2
F 5. J 33 c 6.3
F 6. J 33 c 7.4
F 7. J 33 d 1.7
F 8. J 34 c 1.7
F 9. J 34 c 2.8

S 10. J 31 d 8.2
S 11. J 31 d 8.2
S 12. J 33 b 5.7
S 13. J 33 b 9.8
R 14. P 1 a 8.2
R 15. P 1 a 7.3
R 16. P 1 a 8.8

(See Appendix. "X").

The task of this Coy. was to assist the Infantry in close defence and consolidation of the Divisional Area, in depth, and to harass the enemy operations by indirect fire at night.

Four Sections were placed in the Line, "A" Section on the left -- two guns in the front line F 8 and F 9, two on S.O.S. targets in close support S 12 & S 13. "B" Section had five guns in the front line, F 3, F 4, F 5, F 6 & F 7. "C" Section had 2 guns in front line, F 1 & F 2, and two guns in close support on S.O.S. targets, which carried out harassing fire (S 10 & S 11) "D" Section had three guns in the Support line, which did indirect fire nightly and which also were always laid on S.O.S. line R 14, R 15 & R 16. The guns were numbered thus so as to easily show the front line guns (F) from the Supports (S) and the Reserve guns (R) on paper.

Four all ranks per gun comprised each gun crew with a small Sect. H.Q. of 1 Officer, 1 runner, 1 Linesman, and 2 Sect. cooks. These dispositions were maintained until night of 4th when the two guns F 3 & F 5 were withdrawn, as being unnecessary, and placed in position at O 6 d 7.6 with a view to assisting the defence in depth of this Area. The guns were now re-numbered.

Nothing unusual occurred on this Front until 9th June when the 50th Bn. carried out a "bloodless" stunt by advancing the line. ~~from~~ F 6 gun went forward about an hour after the objective was assured and dug into an Infantry post at J 34 d 3.2 This was completed without incident. See appendix "Y". Constant liason was maintained between Section H.Q. and Infantry Coy. H.Q. and between Coy. H.Q. and Inf. Bn. H.Q.

Major HINTON M.C. was relieved by Capt. CROUCH M.C. on the 10th, the former reporting to the nucleus Coy. at BUSSY for a spell for 9 days.

Inter-Coy. reliefs of Gun teams took place every eight days, the relieved teams on return to BUSSY being at once given a bath and clean change of clothes and generally cleaned up.

Throughout the period, the enemy had been particularly quiet. Shelling was light and scattered, but he carried out a good deal of harassing machine gun fire on to the Support lines at night.

The amount of ammunition used nightly on indirect fire by all the Coy. guns was between 8000 and 12000 rounds.

REPORT ON OPERATIONS

24th AUST. MACHINE GUN COMPANY

For period, while in the Line, from 1:6:'18 to 12:7:'18.

Ref. Sheet 320

1st Lt. J. H. G. G. G.

1st Lt. J. H. G. G. G.

1st Lt. J. H. G. G. G.

1st Lt. J. H. G. G. G.

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1st Lt. J. H. G. G. G.

1st Lt. J. H. G. G. G.

1st Lt. J. H. G. G. G.

1st Lt. J. H. G. G. G.

1st Lt. J. H. G. G. G.

(2) and the following (B) on 1st Lt.

1st Lt. J. H. G. G. G.

1st Lt. J. H. G. G. G.

1st Lt. J. H. G. G. G.

1st Lt. J. H. G. G. G.

1st Lt. J. H. G. G. G.

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1st Lt. J. H. G. G. G.

1st Lt. J. H. G. G. G.

Direct fire was only obtained from Guns F5 and F6 and then only at small parties of Infantry and an occasional waggon entering or leaving HAMEL.

On the evening of the 2nd July, orders were received that an attack was to be launched on to HAMEL and the ridge beyond. An additional 12 guns belonging to the 10th Aust.M.G.Coy., were brought up and dug in at J 34 b to assist with the attack. The part played by this Unit in the attack consisted of the following - standing barrages by 4 guns and direct fire on to Strong points, etc. by 5 guns "Z". The attack succeeded and no casualties were suffered by the Coy. The dispositions of the Coy. were not altered until the 9th July when the following came into force. The Coy. was given the following area to defend, on a four gun frontage, with consolidation in depth.. The ground was reconnoitred by Major HINTON M.C. and one Section was placed in the front line (4 guns), one Section (4 guns) in close support, one Section (4 guns) in Support, and one Section (4 guns) in reserve. The Map locations were:-

F1	P 4 d 4.3
F2	P 4 d 4.7
F3	P 4 d 5.8
F4	P 4 b 8.0
S5	} P 3 d 6.6
S6	
S7	
S8	
R 9	} P 2 a 8.5
R10	
R11	} P 2 a 4.4
R12	
B13	} P 1 a 8.2
B14	
B15	
B16	P 1 a 5.8



These dispositions were maintained until relief by the 23rd M.G.Coy. arrived on the 12th July.

During the tour of duty, strict attention was paid to camouflage, especially gun positions and dug-outs.

In addition to 16 belt-boxes per gun, the following bulk ammunition was maintained.

All front guns	4000 rds.
Support "	70000 "
Reserve "	8000 "

A dump of 70,000 was kept at Coy. H.Q. which remained at O 6 b 6.4 throughout.

Two hot meals per night were delivered to all guns, the cooking being done by two men per section in cellars in VAIRE and HAMELET.

Telephone communication was maintained between Coy.H.Q. forward to all section H.Q. and rear to Bn.H.Q. and proved most useful.

The casualties for the stunt were 1 Off. wounded and one O/Rank wounded, which was very light considering the length of term of duty.

All rations and ammunition arrangements were controlled from the Nucleus Coy.H.Q. at BUSSY.

During the tour, visits were received by American Officers and men, some of whom stayed and noted the routine, etc. Throughout the piece, the transport sect. did splendid work.

Manakin *App. B*
SYLLABUS.

(TRAINED GUNNERS.)

24TH
AUST.

M.G. COV
NO.

Day.	9 - 9.30 a.m.	9.30 - 9.45	9.45 - 10 a.m.	10 - 11 a.m.	11 - 12 noon
<u>MONDAY.</u>	Run	Cleaning	Gear	and Repacking	Limbers.
<u>TUESDAY.</u>	Physical Drill of run.	Saluting.	Gas Drill.	B, C, & D Secs. Lecture by Sec. Offs.-	Range Cards and Barr & Stroud. Duties of a gunner in the Line.
	One Section firing (in Gas Masks) stoppages on the Range.				
<u>WEDNESDAY.</u>	Run	Saluting	Gas Drill	10 - 12 noon. Practical Instruction on points all gunners should know by Sect. Officers.	
<u>THURSDAY.</u>	Digging	Gun Positions.		Lecture by O.C. on Anti-Aircraft.	
	One Section firing (in Gas Masks) stoppages on the Range.				
<u>FRIDAY.</u>	Run	Saluting	Gas Drill	Gun Drill	Lecture on Direct Fire by O.C.
<u>SATURDAY.</u>	Run	Saluting	Gas Drill	Gun Drill	Packing Limbers and cleaning Gun-gear.
	One Section firing stoppages on Range (in Gas Masks).				

215

APPENDIX. B

Workbooks

S Y L L A B U S.

(INSTRUCTIONAL CLASSES)

24TH

AUST.

M.G. COY.

No.

SIGNALLERS to be trained under Signal Corporal - as ordered by Battn. Sig. Officer.

All Corporals will parade at 7.30 a.m. for 15 minutes Communication Drill under C. S. M.

Drivers to be trained under Transport Sergeant.

RECRUITS - i.e., gunners who have not passed their firing tests will be trained as under daily:-

9 to 9.30.

9.30 to 10.30

10.30 to 11

11 to 12.

Run (with
Coy.)

Gun Drill.

Mechanism.

Stoppages.

except on such days as Sections are firing on the Range, when recruits will fire with their respective Sections.

One N.C.O. per Section will be detailed by O.C. Section for permanent instructional work.

Coy. Commander will lecture as under:-

MONDAY 5 p.m.

All Corporals and L/Cpls.

TUESDAY. 5 p.m.

Officers and Sergeants

WEDNESDAY 5 p.m.

Officers and N.C.O's.

THURSDAY 5 p.m.

" "

FRIDAY 5 p.m.

N. C. O's.

SUBJECT.

RANGE CARDS.

CODES.

INDIRECT FIRE.

" "

DUTIES OF SECTION
N.C.O's. when in
the Line.

APPENDIX

215

H. M. M. P.

App. C.

SYLLABUS.(TRAINED GUNNERS.)

Day. 9 - 9.30 a.m. 9.30 - 9.45 9.45 - 10 a.m. 10 - 11 a.m. 11 - 12 noon.

MONDAY. Run Saluting Gas Drill Preparing for Sports.
One Section firing stoppages on the Range (in Gas Masks.)

TUESDAY. S P O R T S.

WEDNESDAY Run Digging Gun Positions.
One Section firing stoppages on the Range (in Gas Masks)

THURSDAY Run Inspection of Gun Gear and spare Parts. Lecture on Gas
by Lt. RITCHIE

FRIDAY. Run Saluting. Gas Drill Gun Drill Stoppages.
One Section firing stoppages on the Range (in Gas Masks.)

SATURDAY. Run Packing Limbers and cleaning Gun Gear. -----

24TH

S Y L L A B U S.

(INSTRUCTIONAL CLASSES)

SIGNALLERS to be trained under Signal Corporal - as ordered by Battn.
Sig. Officer.

All Corporals will parade at 7.30 a.m. for 15 minutes Communication Drill
under C. S. M.

Drivers to be trained under Transport Sergeant.

RECRUITS, i.e., gunners who have not passed their firing tests will be
trained as under daily:-

9 to 9.30.

9.30 to 10.30

10.30 to 11

11 to 12.

Run (with
Coy.

Gun Drill

Mechanism

Stoppages.

except on such days as Sections are firing on the Range, when recruits will
fire with their respective Sections.

One N.C.O. per Section will be detailed by O.C. Section for permanent
instructional work.

2 N.C.O's. per Section will attend BAYONET FIGHTING and PHYSICAL TRAINING
Class under C.S.M.I. SMITH daily on the Cricket Ground.

215

APPENDIX

6.9

APPENDIX

Day. 8 - 9.30 a.m. 9.30 - 9.45 9.45 - 10 a.m. 10 - 11 a.m. 11 - 12

MONDAY. Saluting. Gas Drill Preparing for Sports.

TUESDAY.

212

SECRET.

APPENDIX
Copy No.....

215 24th AUST. M. G. COY.

ORDER No.1.

Ref. Map VAUX
1/20,000.

3rd July, 1918.

1. The 4th AUST. DIV. will attack and capture the spur running from the main VILLERS BRETONNEUX PLATEAU at P 25 Central - about 1000 yards East of HAMEL WOODS - East of HAMEL to the present front line at the South East end of BOUZENCOURT. The 6th Infantry Brigade on the right will co-operate.

2. The 24th M.G.Coy., will assist the attack as follows:-

(a) Guns R 14 and R 15 will place a standing barrage on the line P 3 d 6.3 to P 9 b 4.9 (times laid out in Gun Commanders' Chart issued separately).

(b) Guns S 8 and S 9 will place a standing barrage on the line P 4 a 7.1 to P 4 c 55.75 (times as laid down in Gun Commanders' Chart).

(c) Gun F 7 will fire direct on to the strong point in P 4 b and P 5 a - maintaining a rapid rate of fire from Zero to plus 24.

(d) Guns F 5 and F 6 will fire on such targets as present themselves in Squares P 4 d up till Zero plus 10.

(e) At Zero minus / ~~at~~ guns F 3, F 4, ~~F 5~~, ~~F 6~~ and ~~F 7~~, will carry out direct fire on to selected targets (strong points, etc.) and Guns ~~S 8~~, ~~S 9~~, ~~R 14~~, ~~R 15~~, ~~R 16~~, will ~~fire on to their usual indirect fire targets~~. This fire will be maintained until Zero minus 5, when all guns will switch on to their barrage targets, etc. (The reason for this fire is to drown, as far as possible, the sound of the tanks approaching the front line).

(f) Guns R 12 and R 13 will be kept in reserve at Coy.H.Q.

3. The following Ammunition dumps have been formed - as well as 10,000 rounds bulk at each gun -

Coy. H.Q. 70,000
VAIRE " 130,000

4. Each Section is in possession of at least 24 hours reserve rations and water. These are over and above the Iron-rations on the man and will not be used without orders from the Coy. Commander.

5. Officers will be personally responsible for Guns,

R 14 and R 15	-	Lieut. SINCLAIR.
S 8 and S 9	-	Lieut. RITCHARD.
F 5	-	Lieut. WATTS.
F 7	-	Lieut. SHELLEY "MM".

In addition to these guns, senior N.C.O's., will be placed at Guns F 6, F 4, F 1.

6. Relay Message Posts have been established as follows:-

Lieut. WATTS' H.Q. and Lieut. RITCHARD's H.Q.

One Telephone operator will be in charge of each Telephone - i.e., Left, Centre and Right Section H.Q.



215

APPENDIX *11*

7. Casualties will be replaced by Section Officers from their Section Reserves at VAIRE.
8. A brief report on the progress of the operation will be rendered by each Section Officer to reach VAIRE Sect. H.Q. by 6 a.m. and 8 a.m. on Z day. These will be repeated over the wire by the Telephonist to Coy.H.Q. Section Casualties to be included in this report.
9. Present disposition of guns will not be altered without orders from Coy. H.Q. unless asked for by the Infantry Company Commanders, or when, in the opinion of the Section Officer, the tactical situation urgently demands a change of position.
10. Coy., H.Q. will remain at HAMELET.
11. Acknowledge.

J. B. Hunter
.....Major.
O.C. 4th Aust. M. G. Coy.

Distribution:

Copy No.1 - Sect. "A".
2 - " "B".
3 - " "C".
4 - " "D".
5 - Bn. H.Q. ✓
6)
7) Coy. H.Q.
8)
9) War Diary.



SYLLABUS.

(TRAINED GUNNERS)

215

Day.	9 a.m. 9.30.	10 - 11 a.m.	11 - 12.	1.30 - 2.15 p.m.
MONDAY.	Run (Fighting Order.)	Limber Pack ing (time).	Range-finder.	Lecture - General- by O.C.
TUESDAY.	Physical Drill (Fighting Order.)	Combined Drill.	Belt-fill ing.	Lecture - Claims- by Div. Claims Officer.
WEDNESDAY.	Full Marching Rifle Drill order Parade. All Coy. for inspection.	Revolver practice.	Lecture to Coy. by O.C. Ordinary fire definitions.	Lecture - Salvage - by Div. Salvage Officer.
THURSDAY.	Run (Fighting Order.)	Gas Drill Saluting.	Stripping and Mechanism.	Lecture - Gas - by Div. Gas Officer.
FRIDAY.	Physical Drill (Fighting Order.)	Immediate Action competition under control of Lieut. Watts.	Lecture - Description of Lewis Gun - by 12th Bde. Lewis Gun Officer.	
SATURDAY.	Cleaning Gun gear and packing Limbers. Dress: Fighting Order.			

SYLLABUS.

(RECRUITS).

To be fallen out under Instructors on 9 a. m. Parade.

Day.	9a.m. - 10 a.m.	10 a.m. - 11 a.m.	11 a.m. - 12 noon.
MONDAY.	Gun Drill	Stoppages.	Belt filling.
TUESDAY.	Gun Drill	Stoppages.	Stripping and Mechanism.
WEDNESDAY.	Gun Drill	Stoppages.	Rangefinder.
THURSDAY.	Gun Drill	Stoppages.	Limber packing.
FRIDAY.	Gun Drill	Stoppages.	Lecture by O.C.
SATURDAY.	With Sections.		

SIGNALLERS to be trained under Sig. Corporal - as ordered by Bn. Sig. Officer.

CORPORALS under C. S. M. parade at 7.30 a.m. - RIFLE DRILL.

SECRET.

215

24th AUST. MACHINE GUN COY.

ORDER No. 5.

Copy No. 10

APPENDIX F

Ref. Sheet No. 62D
1/40,000

11:7:1919.

1. 10 Guns of the 24th Aust. M. G. Coy., will be relieved by the 23rd Aust. M. G. Coy., on 12th inst.
2. The following Guns will not be relieved, but will be brought out when the others are relieved:-

Guns	S	5	and	S	8.
"	R	9	"		10.
"	B	13	"		16.

3. The following material will be handed over at each Gun position:-

1 Tripod, 16 Belt-boxes filled, 4 spare belts filled, 1 pick and shovel, and all the bulk Ammunition now in position.
Reserve Rations and reserve water will be handed over at Section H.Qs.

4. Guides will be arranged by Section Officers and will meet incoming teams as follows:-

"B" Guns at Coy., H.Qs.	5.30 p.m.
"R" " " VAIRE "	5.45 p.m.
"S" " " VAIRE "	5.45 p.m.
"P" " " VAIRE "	8.30 p.m.

5. Limbers will be arranged as follows by O.C. Nucleus:-

1 Limber at Coy. H.Qs. at 4.30 p.m.
1 " " VAIRE " " 9 p.m.
1 " " VAIRE " " 10 p.m.

6. All articles not enumerated above, will be brought away from gun positions, excepting one Trench shelter at "B" Section, to be handed over.
7. On completion of relief, "R" guns, "S" guns and "P" guns will move back to VAIRE H.Qs. by gun teams, and after loading their gear, will be collected by Section Officers and marched back to Nucleus.
"B" guns will be taken direct by O.C. "B" guns.
8. Immediately each Section relief is completed, a runner will be despatched to H.Qs. with duplicate Handing-over Certificates.
9. On completion of relief, the Coy., will stage one night at BUSBY and proceed to ALLOWVILLE Camp vacated by 11th Aust. M.G. Coy.
10. O.C. Nucleus will detail 1 Officer, 1 M.C.O., and 6 men to report to ALLOWVILLE Camp by 8 p.m. 12th inst. They will take over the Camp as soon as it is vacated by 11th Aust. M.G. Coy., check tents, shelters, etc., and give Handing-over Certificate to outgoing Coy.
11. All shelters at present occupied by the Nucleus will be handed over to representative of the 3rd Aust. M. G. Btn. by Lieut. SHERIDAN, who will, if necessary, remain behind until such duty is completed.
12. Lieut. SHERIDAN will make arrangements to enable the Coy. to march out from present location BUSBY at 10.30 a.m. 13th inst.

J. B. Smith
.....Major.
O.C. 24th Aust. M. G. Coy.

Distribution:-

Copy No. 1 to O.C.

2	"	"P" guns.
3	"	"S" "
4	"	"R" "
5	"	"B" "
6	"	4th A.M.G. Btn. (12)

7 to O.C. Nucleus.

8	"	23rd A.M.G. Coy. (for information)
9	"	C.S.M.
10	"	
11	"	War Diary.

SECRET.

215

24th AUST. MACHINE GUN COY.

Ref. Sheet 62D S.E.
1/20,000.

ORDER No. 6.

30:7:1918.

Copy No.

APPENDIX

1. The 4th AUST. DIVISION will relieve the 37th FRENCH DIVISION in the Line on nights 31st July - 1st Aug., and 1st - 2nd Aug.
2.
 - a. The 4th Machine Gun Coy., will take over the dispositions in the left Brigade Sector on the night 31st July-1st Aug., and the 13th Machine Gun Coy., will take over the right Sector dispositions on the night 1st-2nd Aug. The 12th Machine Gun Coy., will be in Divisional reserve at BOVES and grouped with the Reserve Brigade (12th Aust. Inf. Bde.).
 - b. The 24th Machine Gun Coy., will be disposed in the Support Area with an Eastern Boundary of the TASMANIA SWITCH and GENTELLES line extending North to U 2 c 5.9 and South to T 24 d 8.5.
 - c. Dispositions of Sections will be notified later.
3.
 - a. Administrative arrangements are:-
 - a. The Coy. will march out from its present location at 4 p.m. 31st inst., and will proceed by Route March to TRONVILLE WOOD, bivouacing for the night, and will move into the Line on morning of 1st inst.
 - b. The Coy., will move out by Sections, including Transport, in the following order:-

H.Q.	Sect.
"B"	"
"C"	"
"D"	"
"A"	"
 - c. During the move on the first day, men's blankets will be carried on the Limbers, under Section arrangements. They must, however, be uniform, and under the Limber covers.
 - d. Bn. H.Q. will be at BOVES, T 7 c 4.2 (appro.) and Transport Lines of all Coys. will be at T 13 c 0.0, under Battalion Transport Officer.
 - e. Surplus kits and packs will be dumped at ALLONVILLE.
 - f. All Tents and Trench-shelters, i.e., 4 tents and 18 Trench-shelters, will be struck on 31st inst. by 3 p.m. and stacked alongside the present location of Q.M.Store.
 - g. The Midday meal, on the 31st inst., will be served at 1.30 p.m. and the night meal immediately on reaching the bivouac area.
 - h. Lieut. SINCLAIR will make all arrangements for Advance party and Lieut. RITCHARD for Rear party, the latter to obtain Handing over Certificates for Tents, Shelters and cleanliness of Camp, etc.
4. Coy., H.Q. will close at ALLONVILLE WOOD at 4 p.m. on 31st inst., and open at 6 p.m. at TRONVILLE WOOD 31:7:18, and will close at TRONVILLE WOOD at 10 a.m. 1st Aug., re-opening at 10:30 a.m. at T 12 a 4.6.



- 2 -

5. ACKNOWLEDGE.

J. B. Hunter
Major.
 O.C. 24th Aust. M. G. Coy.

Distribution:-

Copy No. 1 - A. Sect.
 2 - B "
 3 - C "
 4 - D "
 5 - Bn. H.Q.
 6 - }
 7 } War Diary.
 8 }
 9 - 4th M.G.Coy. (For information.)
 10 - 13th Coy. "
 11 - Transport Sergeant.



App. H

RATIONS REPORT.

24th AUST. MACHINE GUN COY.

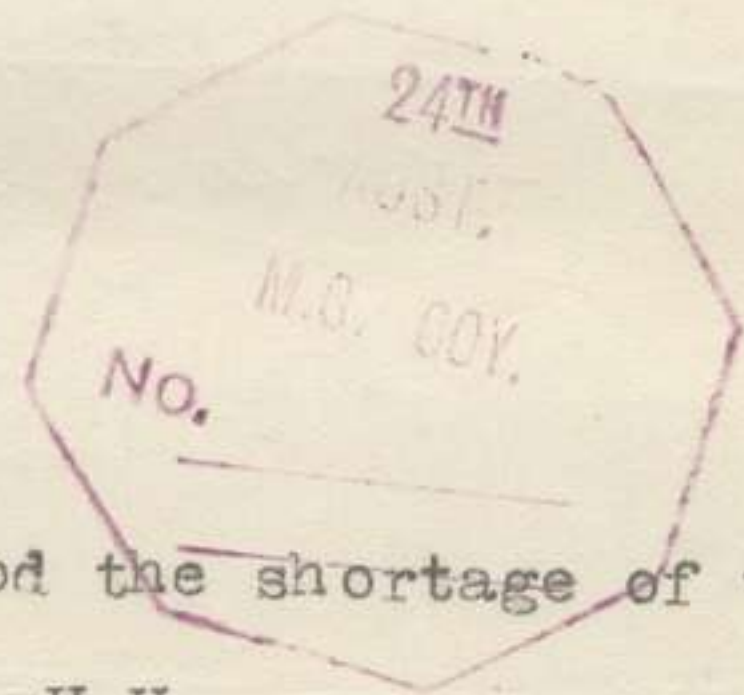
July, 1918.

Rations for this month were good, with the exception of vegetables for the first 18 days, this shortage being made up by an issue of preserved fruit. Bread averaged 75%, Biscuits 25%, Fresh Meat 60%, Preserved Meat 40%, Bacon 60%, Meat & Vegetable Ration 40%. Tea, Sugar, Milk, Jam, Butter, Cheese etc., good.

The Cooker was kept at the Nucleus, sections in the Line doing their own cooking. Raw meat and vegetables were sent up each day.

Comforts were sent up as under:-

- | | | |
|-------|-------|--|
| 1st. | July. | Coffee & Milk, Toffee, Cigarettes & Tobacco. |
| 2nd. | " | " " " " " " |
| 3rd. | " | " " " " " " |
| 4th. | " | Canned Fruit, Writing material. |
| 5th. | " | Coffee & Milk, Playing Cards. |
| 6th. | " | Cocoa, Chocolates, Rolled Oats. |
| 7th. | " | Rolled Oats, Tobacco & Cigarettes. |
| 8th. | " | Cocoa & Milk. |
| 9th. | " | " " " |
| 10th. | " | " " " Playing Cards. |
| 11th. | " | " " " |
| 26th. | " | Sox & Games. |



Potatoes were salvaged at VAIRE, making good the shortage of vegetables in the first eighteen days.

The cooking was done by :- Pte. Champion H.H.
" Monument R.S.
" Wyatt C.H.

Diet Sheets attached.

H. ParkerC.Q.M.S.

D I E T S H E E T.24th. AUST. MACHINE GUN COMPANY.14th., July 1918.

	<u>BREAKFAST.</u>	<u>DINNER.</u>	<u>TEA.</u>
SUNDAY.	Fried Bacon, Tea.	Boiled Meat Potatoes, Tea.	Date Biscuit Pudding Tea.
Monday.	Minced Meat Tea.	Sea Pie Tea.	Cold Corned Beef, Pickles, Soup & Dumplings, Tea.
			Jam Roll, Tea.
TUESDAY.	Fried Bacon, Tea.	Fresh Meat Stew, Dumplings, Tea.	
WEDNESDAY.	Rissoles, Tea.	Boiled Meat, Potatoes, Tea.	Biscuit Pudding, Tea.
THURSDAY.	Fried Bacon, Tea.	Sea Pie, Tea.	Boiled Rice, Tea.
FRIDAY.	Minced Meat, Tea.	Boiled Meat, Potatoes, Tea.	Soup & Dumplings, Tea.
SATURDAY.	Cold Boiled Bacon, Tea.	Fresh Meat Stew, Tea.	Biscuit Pudding, Tea.

...*J. Parker*... C.Q.M.S.

~~YICHT 114~~ H

D I S S E R T.

24th. A. MACHINE GUN COMPANY.

21st. July, 191

	BREAKFAST.	DINNER.	TEA.
SUNDAY.	Curried Meat & Vegetable Stew, Tea.	Boiled Beef, Potatoes, Onion Sauce, Tea.	Soup & Dumplings, Tea.
MONDAY.	Fried Bacon, Tea.	Fresh Meat Stew, Tea.	Fruit Biscuit Pud'g. Jam Sauce, Tea.
TUESDAY.	Oatmeal, Rissoles, Tea.	Boiled Beef, Potatoes, Tea.	Boiled Rice, Jam, Tea.
WEDNESDAY.	Fried Bacon, Tea.	Curried Fresh Meat Stew, Tea.	Soup & Dumplings, Tea.
THURSDAY.	Meat & Vegetable Stew, Tea.	Sea Pie, Tea.	Biscuit Pudding, Tea.
FRIDAY.	Cold Boiled Ham, Tea.	Boiled Meat & Vegetables, Tea.	Soup & Dumplings, Tea.
SATURDAY.	Fried Bacon, Tea.	Fresh Meat Stew, Tea.	Boiled Rice, Tea.

.....C.Q.M.S.

APPENDIX I

McC. L. H. McCay

App I

Extract from Div. Routine Order.

INFECTIOUS
DISEASE.

2098. In order to minimise infection of Influenza, O.C.'s. Units will take steps to ensure that throats of all personnel under their command are gargled daily with solution of Pot. Permanganate.

One of tablets supplied, dissolved in one gallon of water will make sufficient solution to gargle throats of 20 men.

30 Tab.

M.G. COY.

No.

R.M.O. 4th

Australian Machine Gun Battalion.

Capt.

14-6-18

215

APPENDIX. *J* 20

M.G.1/38

App. J

4TH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION.

Headquarters,

17th June, 1918.

O.C.

*24*th M.M.G. Coy.

Arrangements are being made to send small blue coloured balloons across the German lines.

Would you please issue instructions that balloons of this description are not to be fired at.



C. Douchatel

Capt.

Adj. 4th Australian Machine Gun Battalion.

2/5

SECRET
M.C.1/42.

4TH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION.

Headquarters,

22nd June, 1918.

Bsc.

24th Aust. M.G. Coy.

TANK SIGNALS.

1. From midnight 21/22nd June all tanks will be supplied with the following flags:-
 - (a) Green and White.
 - (b) Red and Yellow.
- 2 They will be used for signalling from Tanks to Infantry as under:-
 - (a) Green and White flag waved out of the top of the front cab indicates:-
"Come on".
 - (b) Red and Yellow flag from the same place indicates:-
"I am broken down, go on".
- 3 The flags will be fastened on to sticks about 4 feet long.



C. D. Nicholls

Capt.

Adj. 4th Australian Machine Gun Battalion.

SECRET.

APPENDIX
M.G.1/43

215

4TH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION.

Headquarters,

24th June, 1918.

O.C.

24th Aust. M.G. Coy.

PROJECTION OF GAS.

1. The 8th Aust. Inf. Bde. are arranging to project gas on enemy trenches in P.25.b. and d., from projectors installed in O.30.b. 47.25.

2. If conditions are favourable drums will be projected at midnight 24th/25th June, 1918.

All troops will be withdrawn from front line system in P.25.a. and c. (North of the VILLERS-BRETTONEUX-WARFUSEE Road).

M.G. COY. The O.C. of "H" Special Coy. R.E. will be responsible for-

- (a) Defining the area from which troops should be withdrawn.
(b) Defining areas in which box respirators should be "on".
(c) Deciding whether or not the gas should be projected at ZERO arranged.

4. The O.C., 8th Aust. Inf. Bde., will warn neighbouring Units of the actual ZERO day and hour, and will cause the details of "A" Brigade to be informed when it is safe to return to front line posts.

5. All ranks in the forward area should be on the alert in the event of any change of wind blowing slight quantities of gas on to our trenches during the succeeding hours.

Arthur Bowler for Capt.

Adj. 4th Australian Machine Gun Battalion.

Headquarters,

19th June, 1918.

O.C.

24th Aust. M.G. Coy.

1. Following is a precis of information regarding enemys Preparation for Attack and our Counter Preparation Measures.

a. With reference to the instructions for effecting "Counter Preparation" Phase 2 in the event of enemy bombardment, it may occur that portion of the Corps Front will be selected for destructive bombardment while the remainder of the front is subjected to a much less intense degree of artillery fire. In order to ensure the co-ordination of artillery counter preparation on the whole of the Corps front it is essential that prompt and accurate information of the commencement and of the continuation of a severe enemy bombardment should be reported to Corps Headquarters.

Recent experiments by the enemy in the vicinity of ALBERT demonstrated the possibility of considerable development of his capacity to produce smoke screens. In the event of smoke screens of any considerable extent being used close to the front in any Divisional Sector, Divisional Commanders are authorised to open up counter preparation Phase 2, fire on zone 'A' for field and zone 'B' for heavy artillery.

It will be for Divisional Commanders to decide according to information received whether this preparation should be preceded by fire on S.Q.S. lines for a few minutes. Any action taken of this nature will be reported without delay to Corps Headquarters.

2. The chief requirement is accurate and early information in order to enable higher formations to decide on action. When reporting, care should be taken to distinguish between destructive bombardments and those of less intense degree.

Previous instructions as to opening of all natures of Infantry fire in case a Smoke Barrage is developed by the enemy hold good.

C. J. D. Smith Capt.

Adj. 4th Australian Machine Gun Battalion.

24TH

AUST.

M.G. COY.

NO.

4TH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION.

Headquarters,

28th June, 1918.

Wardlaw
215 pp 11/11
Officer Commanding,

25th Aust. M.G. Coy.

TANK FLAGS.



This embodies 4th Aust. Div. letter No. G.32/2046/2 dated 19th June, 1918

- 1.(1) All British Tanks will fly a Tri-colour flag when returning to our lines after being in action. By this means it is hoped that there will be no danger of our troops mistaking our tanks for hostile ones.

The flag will be carried inside the Tank in action, and it will be hoisted through one of the apertures on the top, at the front of the tank.

This procedure will come into force at once.

(ii) The flag will only ordinarily be flown when a tank is coming out of action but may be hoisted at any time, at the discretion of a tank Commander, should he think that our troops have mistaken his tank for a hostile tank, and are firing at it in consequence.

(iii) The flag is 30 inches x 26 inches and is fixed to a pole about 4 feet long, with red next to the pole, the colours being flown vertically.

- 2.(1) In addition to the Tri-colour flag, tanks will carry the following flags :-

(a) Green and White.

(b) Red and Yellow.

(ii) These flags will be fastened onto sticks about 4 feet long, and carried inside the Tank.

The flag will have the colours running diagonally, and the size of the flags are 30" x 27".

(iii) They will be used for the following signals from Tanks to Infantry.

(a) A green and white flag normally waved out of the top of the front cab of the Tank to indicate to the Infantry "come on".

(b) A red and yellow flag waved from the same place to indicate to the Infantry "I am broken down go on".

(iv) These signals will come into operation as from midnight the 21st/22nd June.

3. All black and yellow flags now carried in tanks will be withdrawn on the new signals coming into operation.

Wardlaw
29/6
9/CA
B
C
D
Secy
215 pp 11/11
Adj. 4th Australian Machine Gun Battalion.
H. W. Cronch Capt.

Adj. 4th Australian Machine Gun Battalion.

TTOH 2019

1000

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY!

APPENDIX

FOURTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION - INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO. 303.

From 6 a.m. 3rd to 6 a.m. 4th July, 1918.

215

NOT TO BE TAKEN INTO THE FRONT LINE.1. OUR OPERATIONS.

(a) Infantry. In conjunction with the 6th and 11th Aust. Inf. Bdes. on the right and left respectively an attack was launched by the 4th A.I. Bde. at 3.10 a.m. this morning on a front between the main WARFUSEE - VILLERS BRETONNEUX road and the River SOMME. Tank Battalions co-operated in the attack. Our infantry assembled on forming up lines without interference from enemy fire, which after the attack was launched fell mainly between our front and support lines along the whole front of attack and did not cause serious casualties. The attack progressed well and the ground round HAMEL, HAMEL WOOD and VAIRE WOOD was vigorously searched and cleared of enemy resisting points with the assistance of tanks. At 3.40 a.m. our tanks were reported advancing north of HAMEL. The right brigade was able to report all objectives gained and consolidation in progress by 5.5 a.m.

The centre brigade had cleared up VAIRE WOOD and HAMEL WOOD and had consolidation in progress by 5.25 a.m. On the front of the left brigade, objectives on the right near HAMEL were gained by 5.5 a.m. and the left battalion was on its objective by 5 a.m. The enemy's resistance to our infantry attack was not vigorous, his first line being overwhelmed by the rapidity of our infantry attack following the barrage. The infantry in enemy's second line appear to have been demoralised, many fleeing at once to the rear so that the resistance at this point was also weak. After the infantry had settled down on their final objective Tanks advanced forward of this line for about 5000 yards and patrolled the ground dealing with enemy posts and machine gun crews in that area. From latest reports our line now runs as follows:- P.25. C.95.95. along former enemy trench to P.26.a.60.85., P.26.d.45.80, P.21.a.5.4., P.10.d.65.05., P.10.d.95.75., P.11.a.35.00., P.11.a.03.72., P.10.b.8.7. following old enemy trench to P.4.a.9.0. to old line at J.34. d.95.05.

(b) Artillery:- Quiet during the day, shelling consisting largely of registration shoots, during the night shoots were carried out on enemy post and M.G. positions. The barrage for the attack was very well placed and effective, and consisted of H.E., Shrapnel, and Smoke. Barrage continued until 5.30 a.m.

(c) Trench Mortars:- Three inch Stokes mortars expended 40 rounds on enemy positions in J.50.d., J.36.b. and K.25.c. Six inch Newtons fired 150 rounds on selected targets during the period.

(d) Machine Guns:- The usual programme of indirect fire was carried out until zero, when H.G. barrage opened in conjunction with Artillery barrage. Ammunition expended 51,000 rounds.

(e) Patrols:- Special protective patrols operated on the Divisional front continuously between 10 p.m. and 2.30 a.m. Reconnaissance patrols were also out but very little enemy movement was seen. Liaison patrols went out as usual and maintained touch with Flank Divisions.

(f) Aircraft:- Our planes were active during the period and succeeded H.A. from crossing our lines. Bombs were dropped on enemy areas during the night.

(g) Prisoners:- The total number of prisoners captured has not yet been ascertained, but the following have so far passed through the Divisional Cage:-

33 Officers (including one Battalion Commander and his Adjutant).
1061 other ranks.

P.T.O.

(h) Material:- Up to time of writing the following captures have been reported:-

90 Machine Guns.
12 Light Trench Mortars.
2 Heavy Trench Mortars.
1 77 M.M. Gun.

Further material is still coming in.

3. IDENTIFICATIONS.

108th Division.

137th I.R. (South of VAIRE WOOD).

13th Division.

13th I.R.)
15th I.R.) VAIRE WOOD AND HAMEL.
55th I.R.)

13th M.W. Coy.
7th Pioneer Battalion.
525th Sanitars

43rd Reserve Division

202nd R.I.R. (North of HAMEL).
243rd M.W. Coy.
27th Pioneer Bn.

Artillery

58th Field Arty. Regt. (VAIRE WOOD)
43rd Res. Field Arty. Regt. (NORTH of HAMEL)
59th " " " " "
11th Foot Arty. Regt. (VAIRE WOOD)

3. ENEMY ORDER OF BATTLE AND DISPOSITIONS.

(a) Order of Battle N. to S. 202nd R.I.R. 55th I.R. 13th I.R.
15th I.R. 137th I.R.

(b) Reliefs. The 13th Division had replaced the 77th Res. Division in the VAIRE WOOD sector. The relief was commenced on the night 30th June/1st July. The 55th I.R. relieved the 332nd I.R. on night 1/2 and 2/3 July. (P.S.) and Doc.).

An inter battalion relief in the 202nd R.I.R was expected on night 5/6th July (P.S.)

(c) Strength. The average company strength throughout the 13th Division before our attack is said to have been between 60 and 70. (P.S.)

4. HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY. Quiet during the day with light scattered shelling except in J.30.c. which was heavily shelled. The enemy's reply to our barrage was very weak, and did not commence until 15 minutes after zero hour.

5. ENEMY'S ATTITUDE. Alert.

/G.....

6. ENEMY DEFENCES.

Machine Guns. Quiet before our attack. At the commencement of our barrage a heavy M.G. Barrage was directed against SAILLY-le-SEC.
Trench Mortars. Inactive.

7. HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY. Enemy planes were observed patrolling their own lines during the day, but owing to the continual activity of our battle formations they did not attempt to cross our lines.

8. MOVEMENT.

(a) Men Enemy parties were observed at suspected O.P. at K.31.a.4.6., at house at Q.23.c.6.9., and in ARQUAINE WOOD. At 6.15 a.m. a party of 15 moved across from P.12.b. to low ground in P.17.c. At 7 a.m. 11 men with dogs came from P.24.b. to P.17.c. 9.30 a.m. a party of 50 turned off main road in Q.30.c. and disappeared from view in Q.24.c. From 5 to 11 a.m. considerable individual movement was observed in areas P.17.d., P.18., P.10.b. and d., and P.12.a. During the evening roads between PROYART and R.19. and R.25. were consistently used by men and transports.

(b) Transports. Main road through Q.30. and R.25. consistently used by transport. At 9.55 a.m. 15 horse transports left dump in R.26. coming W. along main road disappearing in Q.50.c.

(c) Trains. At 7.5 a.m. train travelled through area W.6.d. towards PROYART. At 4 p.m. a train was seen travelling towards WIENCOURT. Two trains were shunting around dump in R.26. during the day.

9. MISCELLANEOUS.

(a) Signals:- On commencement of our barrage enemy fired flares which burst into two reds, and others into a single green. During our attack about 20 message rockets were fired towards ACCROCHE WOOD.

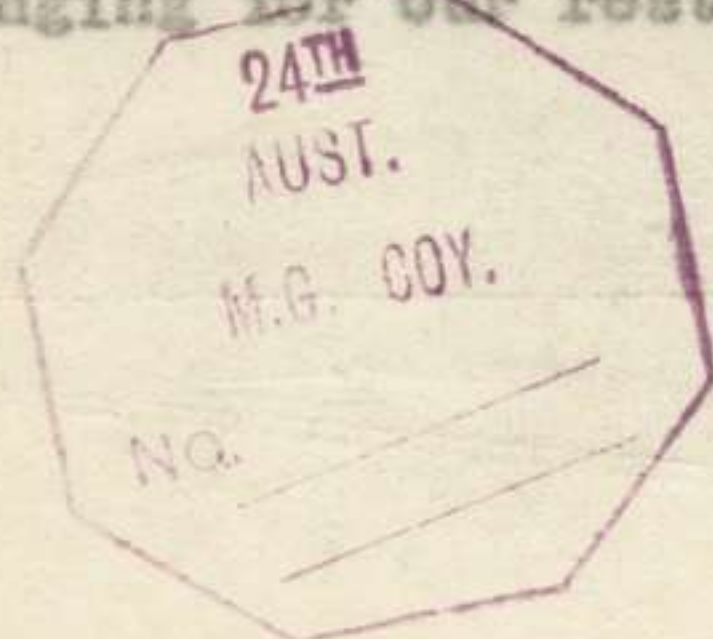
(b) Casualties. The casualties suffered by the enemy during our barrage and attack are said to have been extremely heavy. (P.S.) Heavy losses have been experienced by enemy supply and artillery columns from our artillery fire. (P.S.)

(c) Gas. 265th R.I.R. is said to have suffered heavy casualties from our gas projectors, practically a whole battalion becoming casualties on one occasion. Quite recently the 137th I.R. also suffered severely from our gas projectors. Their respirators are stated to have been ineffective against the gas used by us. (P.S.)

(d) Moral. The moral of the 108th Division does not appear to be good. Prisoners complain of the long period the division has been kept in the line. Heavy casualties, estimated at 40 to 50 per Company, are said to have been suffered during the tour in line of this division.

A document found in a bottle floating down the SOMME Canal also points to the lowered moral of the enemy. It reads:- "To our Dear Tommies. Many Greetings from Michel & Coy. Are you not fed up with this useless

rot? We are longing for our rest. Let us go - we will do the same. Michel & Coy."



Sgd. R. BATE Lieut

for Lieut-Colonel,
G.S., 4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

SECRET.

281
APPENDIX No. 9 P

4TH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION ORDER NO. 15.

215

Headquarters,

5th July, 1918.

Reference Map, 1/20,000,
and Special Map.

1. The relief of 11th A.M.G. Coy. (3rd A.M.G. Bn.) and re-adjustment of Defensive Organisation of 4th A.M.G. Bn. consequent on HAMEL OFFENSIVE will be carried out on night 6th/7th July, 1918.
2. The attached map shows M.G. Coy. boundaries and localities of Machine Guns which will come into force on night 6th/7th July.
3. Details of re-adjustment and relief will be arranged by M.G. Coy. Commanders concerned.
4. Tracing showing dispositions to be forwarded by 10 a.m. 7th July.
5. Area stores, S.A.A. Dumps, etc. and information re sector will be handed over and duplicate receipt sent to this Office by 7 p.m. 7th July.
6. A C K N O W L E D G E.



C. Duchatel Capt for Lieut-Col.

C.O. 4th Australian Machine Gun Battalion.

Issued through Signals at 6 p.m.

Extra Copies to:-

11th A.I. Bde.
11th A.M.G. Coy.
3rd A.M.G. Bn.

Handwritten

1:20,000

VAIRE WOOD.

Parts of 62° NE. & 62° S.E.

215

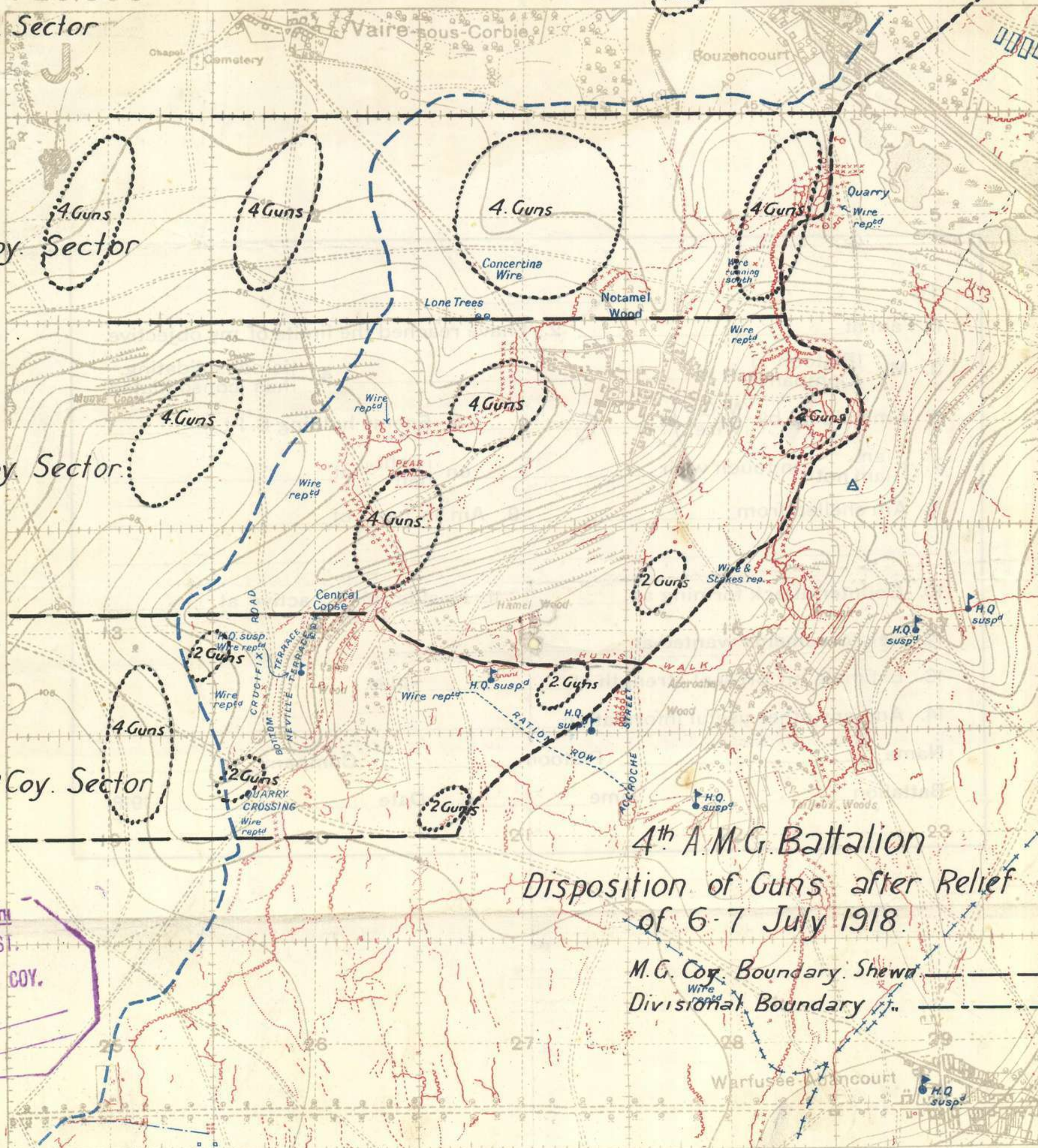
12th Coy. Sector

24th Coy. Sector

13th Coy. Sector

4th Coy. Sector

24th
AUST.
M.G. COY.
No.



4th A.M.G. Battalion
Disposition of Guns after Relief
of 6-7 July 1918.

M.G. Coy. Boundary Shown
Divisional Boundary

Approximate British Front Line 22-6-18

TRENCHES CORRECTED FROM INFORMATION
RECEIVED UP TO 24-6-18.

29

To _____

1. I am at _____ 2. I have reached the limits of my objective.

3. My {Platoon
Company} is at _____ 4. {is consolidating.
has consolidated.

5. Am held up by {M.G.
Wire} at _____ 6. Enemy holding S. Pt. _____

7. I {am
am not} in touch with _____ on {right
left} at _____

8. Am shelled from _____ 9. Am in need of _____

10. Counter-attack forming at _____ 11. Hostile {Baty.
M.G.
T.M.} active at _____

12. Reinforcements wanted at _____

13. Estimate my present strength at _____ rifles.

14. Add any other useful information _____

Name _____ Platoon _____ Company _____

Battalion _____ Time _____ m. Date _____ 1918.

APPENDIX

For Official Use Only.

FOURTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION - INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO. 304.From 6 a.m. 4th July to 6 a.m. 5th July, 1918.NOT to be taken into the front line.1. OUR OPERATIONS.

(a) Artillery:- After the operation in the early morning our Artillery engaged all movement during the morning and afternoon and S.O.S lines were fired on and reported satisfactory.

At 10 p.m. a special Gas shoot was carried out by all 4.5" Hows. Batteries in the Divisional sector, Valleys in P.14.c. and B.24.b. received special concentration. At 10 p.m. all 18 pdrs. batteries put down heavy harassing barrage fire on enemy forward areas and at 10.21 p.m., in response to S.O.S., all groups fired for 20 minutes. Fire ceased at about 11 p.m. Harassing fire was then maintained on the enemy front system and approaches, P.28.a., P.22.g., P.17.b., and c., Q.1.C., K.31. a. and d. and the road in Q.7.a. receiving special attention.

b. Trench Mortars:- 3" T.M's. fired 35 rounds on enemy positions in ACCROCHE WOOD. Heavy T.M's. fired 62 rounds on the following targets- J.26.a.6.5., J.36.d.25., J.36.central, J.36.a.7.0. and J.36.C.5.5. T.M's also assisted in S.O.S. barrage at 10.21 p.m.

(c) Machine Guns:- Our forward gunners expended 22,000 rounds S.A.A. and 5,000 rounds of German ammunition (enemy guns were put into use by our Machine Gunners) on targets under direct observation. Rear guns fired on S.O.S. lines in connection with the signal at 10.21. SAILLY-LAURETTE, Tracks in K.31., and tracks in J.36.b. and C. were fired on. Rounds expended - 75,000.

(d) Snipers:- Our snipers were active through the period harassing enemy forward movement. Many hits were reported.

(e) Patrols:- Contact was maintained between the brigades and with flank divisions by liaison patrols during the night. Reconnaissance patrols were active throughout the night. Practically no enemy movement was observed. At daybreak an enemy post was found at P.21.a.9.3. and three enemy brought in.

(f) Aircraft:- Our planes were very active during the day flying low over enemy lines. At night large formations bombed the enemy's front systems and rear areas. ACCROCHE WOOD received particular attention.

(g) Infantry Minor Operations:- At 2 p.m. a party of 1 Officer and 8 men rushed an enemy S.P. at P.16.b.8.4. and captured 5 prisoners, 1 heavy M.G., and three light M.G's.

At daybreak the Brigade South of the SOMME, by a minor operation regained a S.P. in which the enemy had obtained a footing yesterday evening and captured about 40 prisoners, 10 M.G's., and 1 Anti-Tank Rifle. Many enemy were killed.

(h) Prisoners:- The number of prisoners reported to the present in connection with yesterday's operation on the divisional front is:-

Unwounded	-	35	Officers.	..	1,152	O.R's.
Wounded.	-	3	Officers.	..	74	"
					<u>Total:</u>	38 Off. 1,226 O.Rs.

M.G. COY.

NO.

P.T.O.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS:-

202 R.I.R., 1st and 2nd Battalions.
13th T.R. 1st Battalion.
55 I.R. 1st Battalion.

3. ENEMY ORDER OF BATTLE AND DISPOSITIONS:- No change has yet been ascertained. Enemy N.C.O. captured this morning states the 43rd Res. Div. is already being relieved, the 3rd Batt'n. 202 R.I.R. having been relieved last night. The 1st and 2nd Batt'ns. if not already relieved will be relieved to night (5th inst), the relief of the 201st and 203rd R.I.R. possibly taking place at the same time.

4. HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY:- Enemy artillery was active during the day. At 10 p.m. a barrage was put down on our front line S. of the SOMME. Very little damage was done. HAMEL WOOD, NAIRE WOOD, and the Valley in P.19.b. and P.13.b. received special attention. A 21 cm. H.V. gun was very active against FOUILLOY and COBIE.

5. ENEMY'S ATTITUDE. Alert. Infantry retaliation so far weak.

6. ENEMY DEFENCES:-

(a) Machine Guns:- Enemy machine guns were not active, except during our operation early in the morning. During the night M.G.'s began to show activity from the Western edge of TAILLOUX WOOD. The usual activity from J.36.a. was apparently suppressed by our barrage.
(b) Trench Mortars:- No activity on front S. of the SOMME. On left Bde. front one of our posts was harassed by a trench mortar firing from J.36.a.

7. HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY:- Hostile planes were very busy over our lines between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Low flying planes fired into our trenches with machine guns. E.A. were very active bombing our territory, principally rear areas, during the night.

8. MOVEMENT:-

Men:- At 4.40 a.m. a party of 22 were seen running towards our line in P.10.b. from P.11.a. followed afterwards by a party of 18. At 6.10 a.m. two parties about 50 strong were seen in R.19.b. coming towards MORCOURT. 8.10 a.m. 20 men were seen using the main road to and from the lines in Q.25.c. and d. 8.45 a.m. A party of 20 men were seen moving about the cross roads Q.9.d. Small parties of men were continually using the Road R.19.a. to and from MORCOURT. 1.10 p.m. a long line of troops were seen travelling West through Areas R.19.a. and b. 4 p.m. scattered movement was observed in areas Q.20.c and Q.25.a. 8 p.m. a party of 50 men were seen coming towards WARFUSEE to the main road at Q.26.d. 200 enemy were seen at dusk entering ACCROCHE WOOD.
Transport:- Considerable movement developed during the afternoon towards MORCOURT on the roads in R.19.a. and Q.24.b. A continuous stream of 6 horse ~~teams~~ teams with limbers and what appeared to be guns was observed during the afternoon from the main road at Q.26.c.7.3. to P.50.b. Several were put out of action by our artillery fire at 3.45 p.m. Trains. Between 8 and 11 a.m. and again at 3.50 p.m. trains were observed about the dump in R.26. At 6.10 p.m. small trains were seen on the light line in Q.34.b.

9. ENEMY ARMS AND EQUIPMENT.

An enemy anti-tank rifle has been captured.

10. MISCELLANEOUS.

(a) Artillery:- A heavy enemy battery is reported to be firing from Q.29.d.2.9.
(b) Explosions:- At 6.30 p.m. a large enemy dump in Q.27.c. was reported burning.
(c) During the night the enemy felled 5 trees in the vicinity of P.5.d.9.9.

APPENDIX

Visibility. Improving from 4.20 a.m. Smoke made observation on rear area difficult.

(sgd) E. BATE, Lieut. for

215

Lieut-Colonel,
G.S., 4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

CORRECTION:- In INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. 303, para. 1 Our Operations, sub-para. (a) Infantry, - for P.4.a.9.0. read P.4.b.9.0.

PART 11.

Information from other Sources.

The French report that a prisoner captured on 29th June, has received a letter dated 25th June from his brother in 77 Res. Division. (at that time in VAIRE WOOD Sector). The letter states he is opposite AMIENS and that there is much talk about the coming offensive on the British front. His division will take part in the sector which they were then occupying.

BOMBING RAIDS.

The following bombs were dropped :-

(a) By day :-	La FLAQUE dump	...	...	26	112 lb.
	Various targets	...	...	40	25 lb.
(b) By night :-	Selected targets E. of)	...	9	112 lb.	
	VILLERS BRETONNEUX.	)	350	25 lb.	

RAILWAYS AND DUMPS.

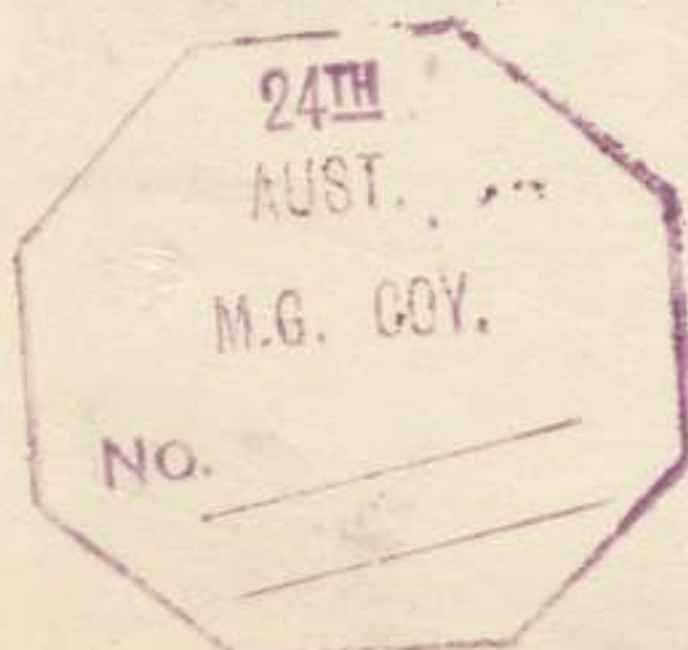
French photographs of 30th June show an active supply dump and important work on sidings at HOMBLEUX station. In addition to the sidings South of the HAM - NESTLE road, which are shown on a French photograph of 17th May, there are new sidings north of the road in 66.d, J.31.a.b., J.25.C.D. and a second loop has been made to the HAM-NESLE railway in J.25.a. There is rolling stock of 4 trains in and near the station. Few previous photographs are available.

An escaped French prisoner states that HATTENCOURT station is used for the transit of ammunition, which is put on horse and motor transport there. FRESNOY and GURCHY stations are being used for supplies and R.E. material.

The 13th Div. is a division of good quality. During 1915, the WESTPHALIANS distinguished themselves by excellent work on defences and fought tenaciously on all occasions. At VERDUN and on the SOMME, too, this division acquitted itself well. Both in 1916 and 1917, however desertions were not infrequent, these being mostly on the part of the Poles and Alsations, who are found in fairly large numbers in the division. The division received a smashing blow on the AILETTE in October, 1917, and the draughts required to bring it up to strength again have not yet been put to the test. It is therefore not possible to estimate the value of the division at the present moment.

The 13th Division is commanded by Lieut-General von BORRIES.

P.T.O.



The 13th Div. has come into line for the fourth time since March 21st, 1918. It was relieved in the CASTEL sector on the 15th May, and was identified in the MOREUIL area on June 26th by prisoners' statements. It has thus had six week's rest and may be considered as moderately fresh.

ENEMY INTENTIONS.

From the preliminary examinations of prisoners, no information has been obtained of any enemy intentions to attack on this front; no prisoners examined have seen any preparations for the attack. The 13th Div. is expecting to hold the sector for about 6 days, it would have only been in the line 10 days in all, and presumably have been acting as a "stop gap" until the arrival of a fresh division. The expected relief of the 108th Div. about the same time would have brought 2 fresh divisions in the line opposite VILLERS-BRETTONNEUX, about July 10th. Hence, it is conceivable that, about that date, attacks by the enemy might have been expected. It will be important to carefully follow movements of the divisions in this area.

DISCIPLINE IN THE GERMAN ARMY.

The following extract from an order of the 3rd Res. Div, dated 18th May, 1918, at which time the division was in line south-west of MONTDIDIER, shows the want of discipline prevailing in the back areas of the 18th German Army :-

"Recently, supply trains on normal and narrow gauge lines have again been attacked by armed soldiers and pillaged. Threatened by arms, those in charge of the trains, being unarmed and in small numbers, have been unable to offer resistance to these excesses.

This conduct on the part of German soldiers constitutes a defiance of discipline, and must be repressed with the utmost rigour.

Consequently, by orders from Army H.Q., those in charge of supply trains will carry arms (if necessary, light machine guns) and will be provided with ammunition. These men will be in the position of a police guard, with the rights and duties of the latter.

They will not hesitate to use their arms in case of an attempt to pillage.

Pillagers will be arrested and returned to their units, where they will be brought before a court-martial.

If those in charge of the train fail in their duties they will themselves be handed over to the military tribunals.

(signed) RUSCRE.

24th Coy App R
4TH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION ORDER NO. 11. ENDIX R

Issued under 4th Aust. Div. Order No. 128.

215
Ref. Maps LA-NEUVILLE 1/20,000
and M.G. Task Map attached.

HEADQUARTERS,
1st July, 1918.

1. The 4th Aust. Division will attack and capture the Spur running from the main VILLERS BRETONNEUX Plateau at P.25 Central, about 1,000 yards East of VAIRE and HAMEL Woods, East of HAMEL to the present front line at the South-east end of BOUZENCOURT. The 6th Aust. Inf. Bde. on the right will co-operate.
2. Machine Gun resources are :-
- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| 4th Aust. M.G. Battalion | - 64 guns. |
| 5 Sections, 3rd Aust. M.G. Bn. | - 20 " |
| 3 Sections, 5th " " " | - 12 " |
| 4 Sections, 2nd " " " | - 16 " |
- a. FORWARD GUNS.
4th A.M.G. Coy. (12 guns), 3rd A.M.G. Bn. (12 guns), and 2nd A.M.G. Bn. (4 guns) are allotted to 4th, 11th, and 6th A.I. Bdes. respectively, for the support of infantry during the advance and consolidation of the captured ground.
- b. REAR GUNS.
13th, 24th, and 12th A.M.G. Coys. will remain disposed for defence of the present defensive organisation, and will supplement the artillery barrage (M.G. Task Map attached).
- c. BARRAGE GUNS.
The following Machine Guns will supplement the artillery barrage by bringing neutralising fire to bear on selected points, and by Protective Barrage during consolidation and afterwards when required.

UNIT	REMARKS.
2nd A.M.G. Bn. 12 guns.	Working in co-operation with 6th A.I. Bde.
4th A.M.G. Bn. 4th Coy. - 4 guns. 13th " - 8 guns. 24th " - 4 guns. 12th " - 8 guns.)	Reserve Guns for 4th A.I. Bde. Remaining in present defensive organisation.
3rd A.M.G. Bn. 11th Coy. - 8 guns.	Will be withdrawn on night A/B.
5th A.M.G. Bn. 8th Coy. - 12 guns.	Will be withdrawn on night A/B.

- d. Tasks of Barrage Guns are shown on attached M.G. Task Map. ~~Times of fire will be notified later.~~
3. Barrage Guns will be in position by 12 midnight on Y/Z night.
- 4.a. Ammunition dumps have been formed at:-

O.18.a.5.0.	-	100,000 rounds.
P.2.b.5.0.	-	50,000 rounds.
J.34.a.7.2.	-	100,000 rounds.



- b. In addition, 8,000 rounds in bulk has been placed at each gun position.
- c. Aeroplanes will dump 24,000 rounds S.A.A. at forward M.G. positions. These dumps will be made, 2 in support line east of HAMEL and VAIRE WOODS (4th A.M.G. Coy.) and 1 south of HAMEL (11th A.M.G. Coy.) Aeroplane signal, to be taken forward by M.G. Coys. concerned, will be a white calico V with arms 6' x 9", to be shown where dump is required.
5. Watches for Barrage Guns will be synchronised under arrangements of 4th A.M.G. Bn.
6. S.O.S. Signal will be notified.
7. Zero hour will be notified later.
8. A C K N O W L E D G E.



Cronwell Capt. for Lieut-Col.

C.O. 4th Australian Machine Gun Battalion.

Issued through signals at p.m.

Extra Copies to :-

5th Aust. M.G. Bn.	(2)
3rd Aust. M.G. Bn.	(2)
2nd Aust. M.G. Bn.	(1)
11th Aust. Inf. Bde.	(1)

R 36

215

4TH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION.

Addendum to Order No. 11.

Headquarters,
3rd July, 1918.

1. SYNCHRONIZATION OF WATCHES.

Watches of Barrage Machine Guns will be synchronised as under :-

At 4 p.m., ^{on 3/7/18} an Officer will visit ¹² 12th, 13th, and 24th Companies and Commanders of Barrage Guns of 3rd and 5th Machine Gun Battalions.

An Officer from each unit will be detailed to meet an Officer from 4th A.M.G. Battalion H.Q. at:-

13th and 24th Coys. 0.6.a.8.6. 9.15 p.m.

12th A.M.G. Coy.)
3rd A.M.G. Bn.) J.28.c.1.2 9 p.m.
5th A.M.G. Bn.)

2. a. BARRAGE GUNS.

Will open at Zero + 3.

b. DESULTORY FIRE

Will be opened by

4 guns of 13th A.M.G. Coy.

2 guns of 24th A.M.G. Coy.

from Zero - 1 to Zero, to cover pause in Artillery Fire.

c. S.O.S. LINE.

Will be fired on during consolidation (Slow Rate).
From Zero + 93 to Zero + 123 and thereafter as required by
S.O.S. Signal

4. S.O.S. SIGNAL.

Will be a rifle grenade bursting into three green lights one over another.

5. ACKNOWLEDGE.



C. O. 4th Aust. M.G. Bn.

Lieut-Col.

C.O. 4th Australian Machine Gun Battalion.

Distribution of Copies.

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. 4th Aust. Division. | 7. 5th A.M.G. Bn. |
| 2. 4th A.M.G. Coy. | 8.) |
| 3. 12th A.M.G. Coy. | 9.) War Diary. |
| 4. 13th A.M.G. Coy. | 10.) |
| 5. 24th A.M.G. Coy. | 11. File |
| 6. 3rd A.M.G. Bn. | |

215 FOURTH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION ORDER NO. 14.

Reference Map, 62D. 1/40,000.

Headquarters,
10th July 1918.

1. a. The 4th Aust. Division (less artillery) will be relieved by the 3rd Aust. Division (less artillery) in "B" Divisional Sector on nights 11/12 and 12/13 July.
- b. The 4th Aust. M.G. Battalion will be relieved by the 3rd Aust. M.G. Battalion in accordance with table hereunder:-

Date.	Unit.	Relieved by.	On relief move to.
11/12	12th Coy.	9th Coy.	G.18.a.5.4.
12/13	4th "	10th "	H.17.c.6.3.
"	13th "	Part 23rd Coy.	G.34.c.central
"	24th "	"	G.18.a.5.0. 11 1/2 Co. Camp

11th A.M.G. Coy. as Divisional reserve will take over AUBIGNY Camp.

The following guns will not be relieved. They will be withdrawn simultaneously with the relief of the other guns:-

24th Coy.	13th Coy.	4th Coy.
2 in P.3.d.	2 in P.9.b.	4 in O.18.b.
3 " P.1.a.	2 " P.14.b.	4 " O.24.b.

2. All trench stores, maps, photographs, programmes of harassing fire etc. relating to the sector will be handed over and receipts obtained.
3. Administrative instructions are issued separately.
4. Battalion H.Q. will close at 10 a.m. and open same time at G.18.a.1.5.
5. A C K N O W L E D G E.

H. W. Crouch Capt.

Adj. 4th Australian Machine Gun Battalion.

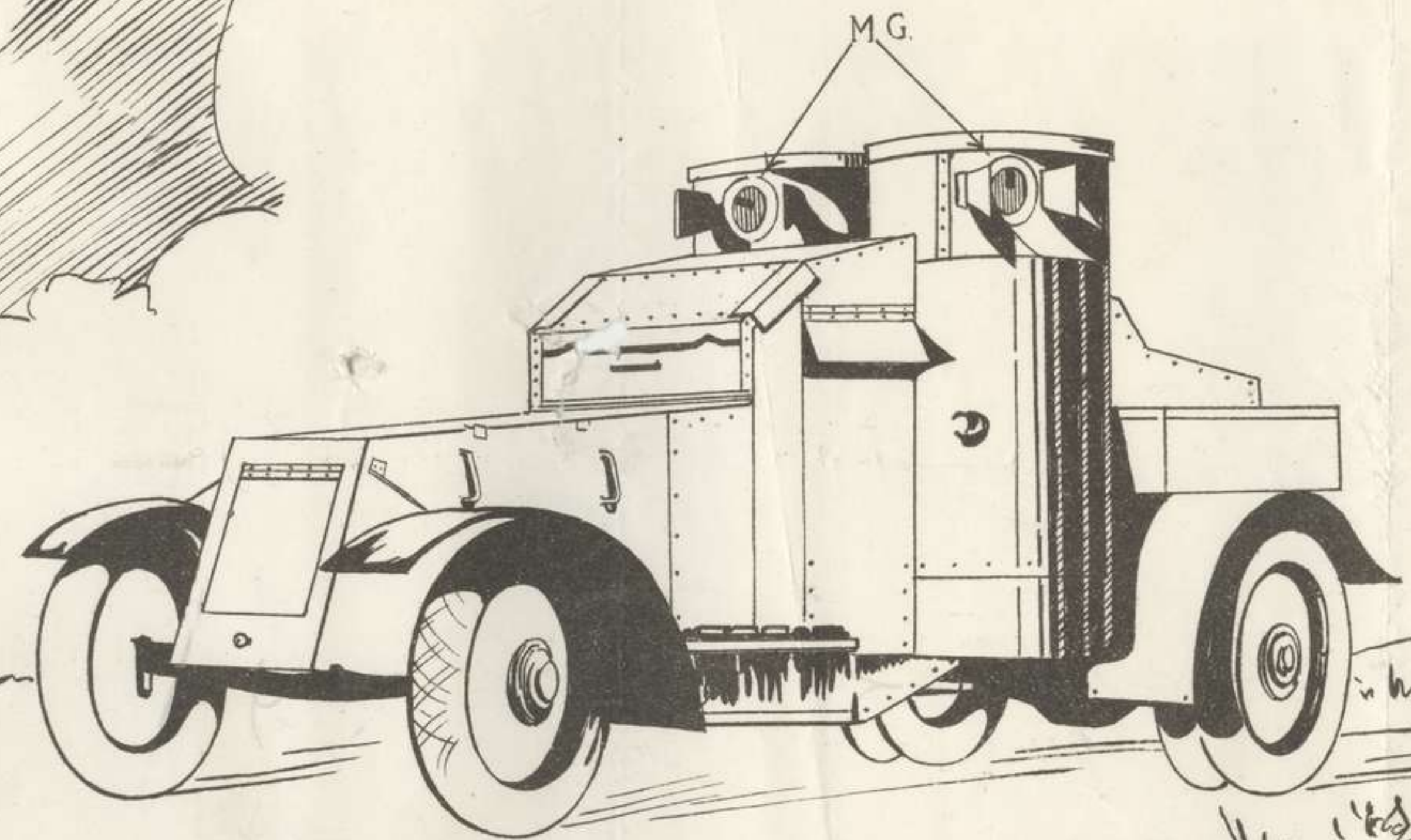
Issued through signals at 7.30 a.m.

Extra copy to
3rd Aust. M.G. Battalion.

24th Coy

App T

NO.
M.G. COY.
AUSTL.
24TH



215
Please show ball.
you see if then return
me if
3/6

Type of Car in use by
17th Armoured Car Bn.
Tank Corps
May. 1918

Armament - 2 Hotchkiss Machine Guns



FIELD SURVEY CO R.E. (3722) 26-5-18

APPENDIX

38
11

2 Sec

RECEIVED
15th Dec 1941
15th Dec 1941
15th Dec 1941



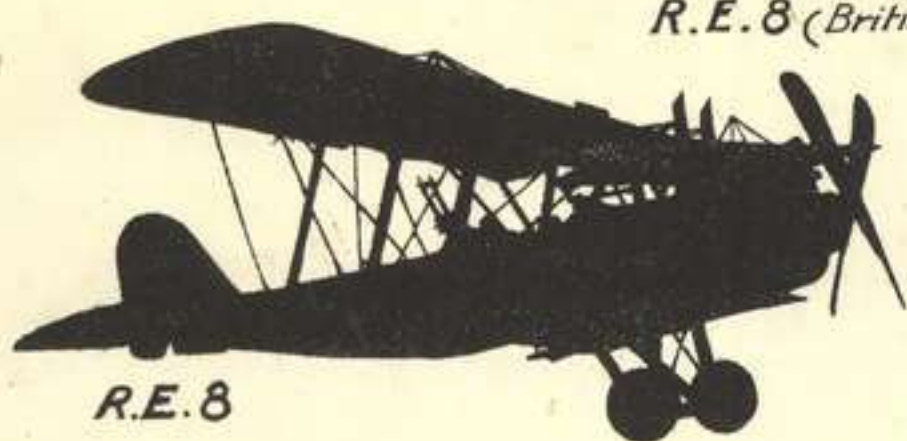
R.E.8 (British)



BRISTOL FIGHTER
(British)



ARMSTRONG WHITWORTH. (A.W.)
(British)



R.E.8



BRISTOL FIGHTER



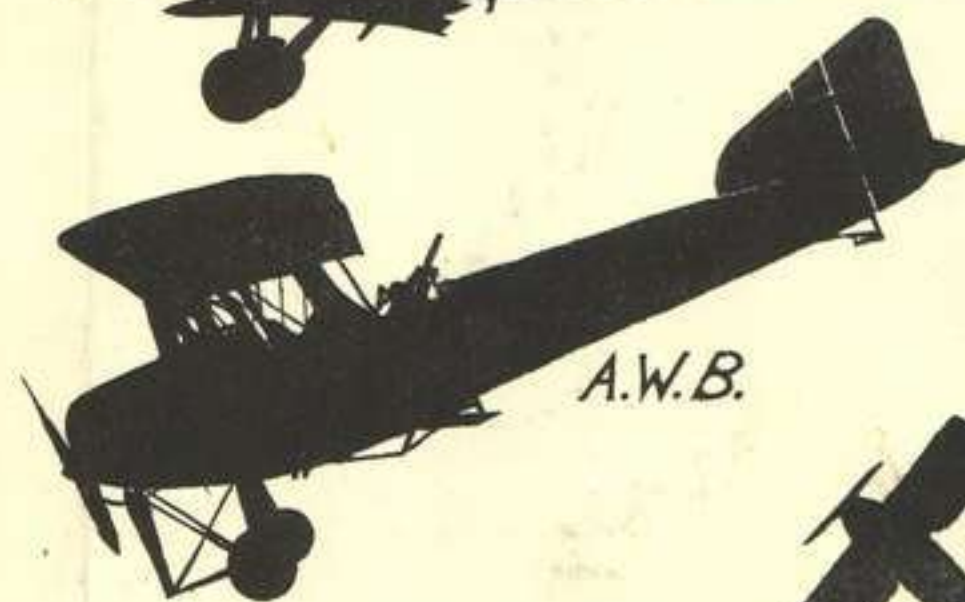
A.W.



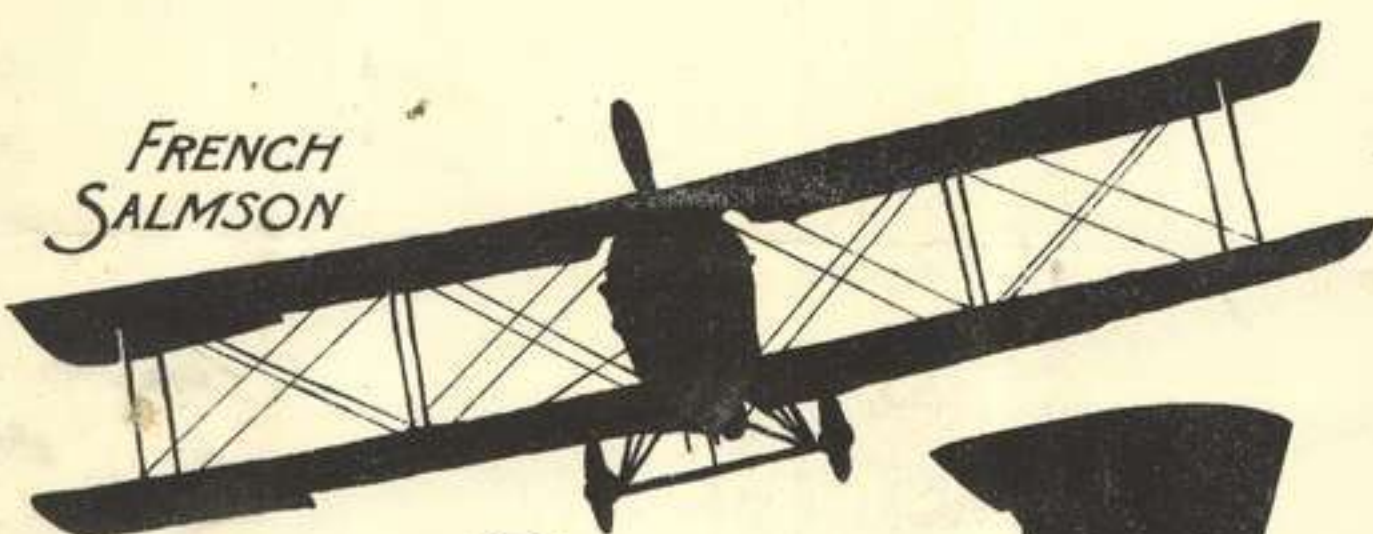
R.E.8



BRISTOL FIGHTER



A.W.B.



FRENCH
SALMSON



SOPWITH 'CAMEL'
(British)



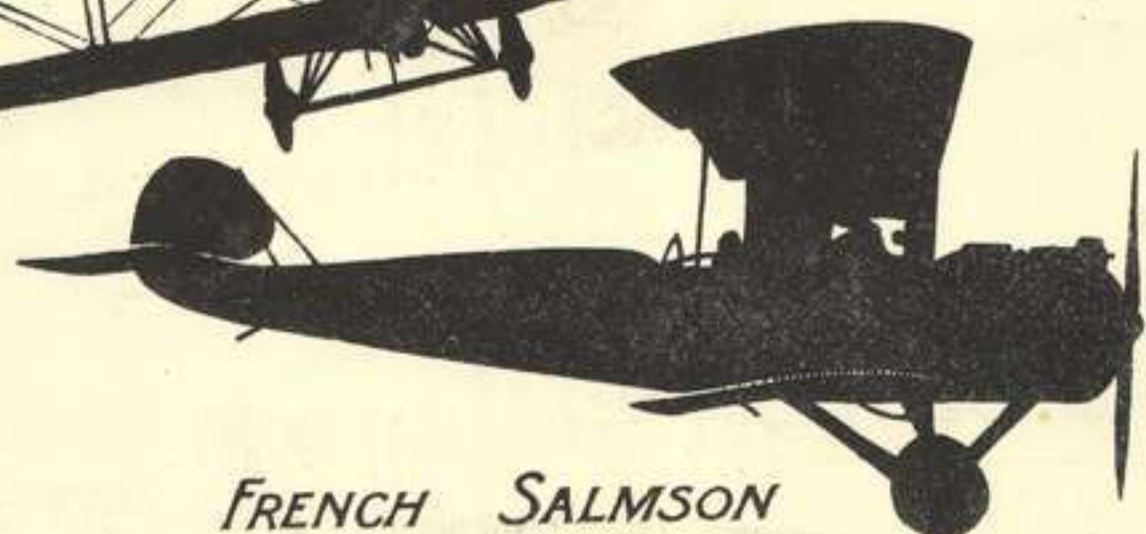
SOPWITH 'CAMEL'



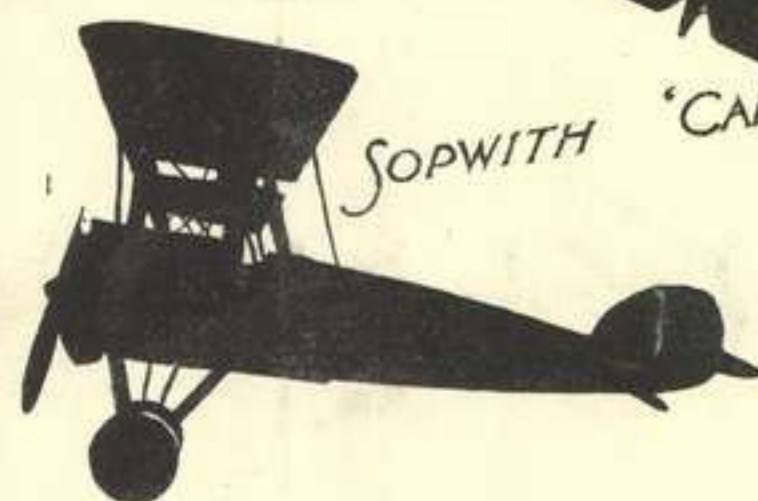
NIUPORT
SCOUT
(British)



S.P.A.D.
(British)



FRENCH SALMSON



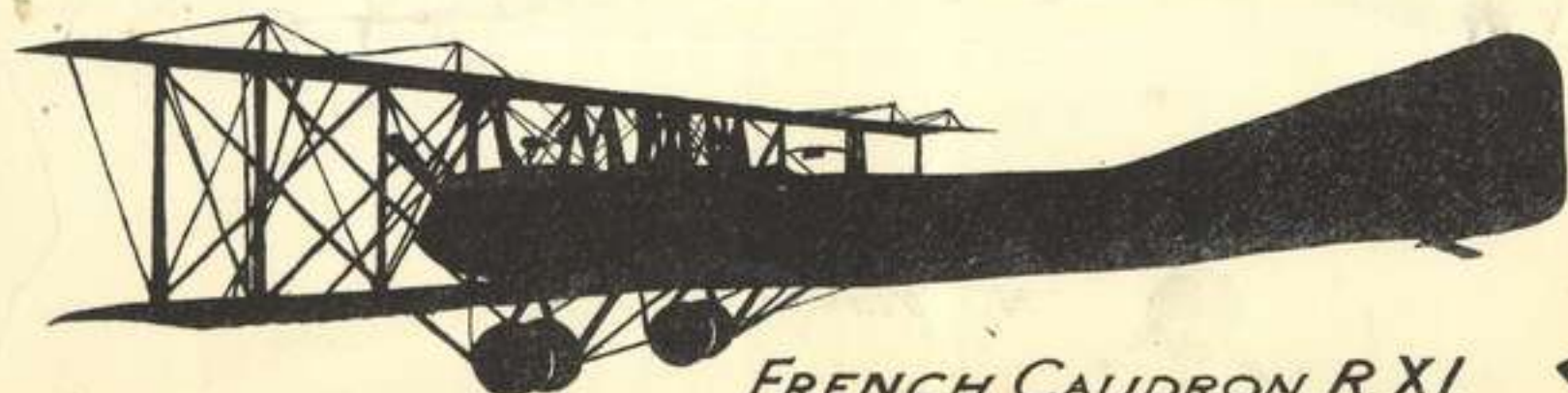
SOPWITH 'CAMEL'



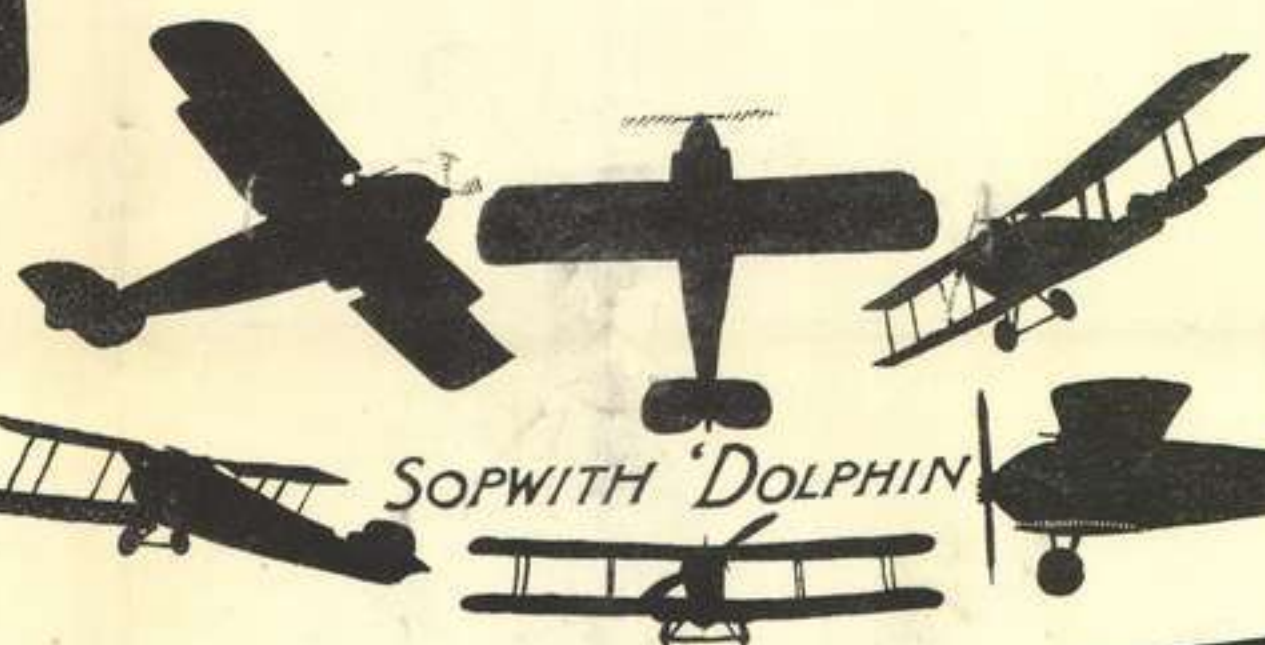
S.E.5.
(British)



S.E.5.



FRENCH CAUDRON R.XI.
Twin-engined Three-seater
Tractor Biplane



SOPWITH 'DOLPHIN'



BELGIAN BREGUET (260 h.p. Flat)
Two-seater Tractor Biplane



FRENCH CAUDRON



BELGIAN BREGUET

SILHOUETTES of
ALLIED AEROPLANES.

CORPS TOPO. SECTION 215

First Defence Department 39

APPENDIX

✓

215



APPENDIX W

Map X

24TH
AUST.
M.G. COY.
HQ.

MG. COY. H.Q. & RESERVE
AT C.B.A. 70.20.

DISPOSITION OF MACHINE GUNS

AS AT 9.30 a.m. 4.6.1918.

PART OF SHEETS 65 D. NE. & SE. SCALE 1:50000

COPY. 1/1525

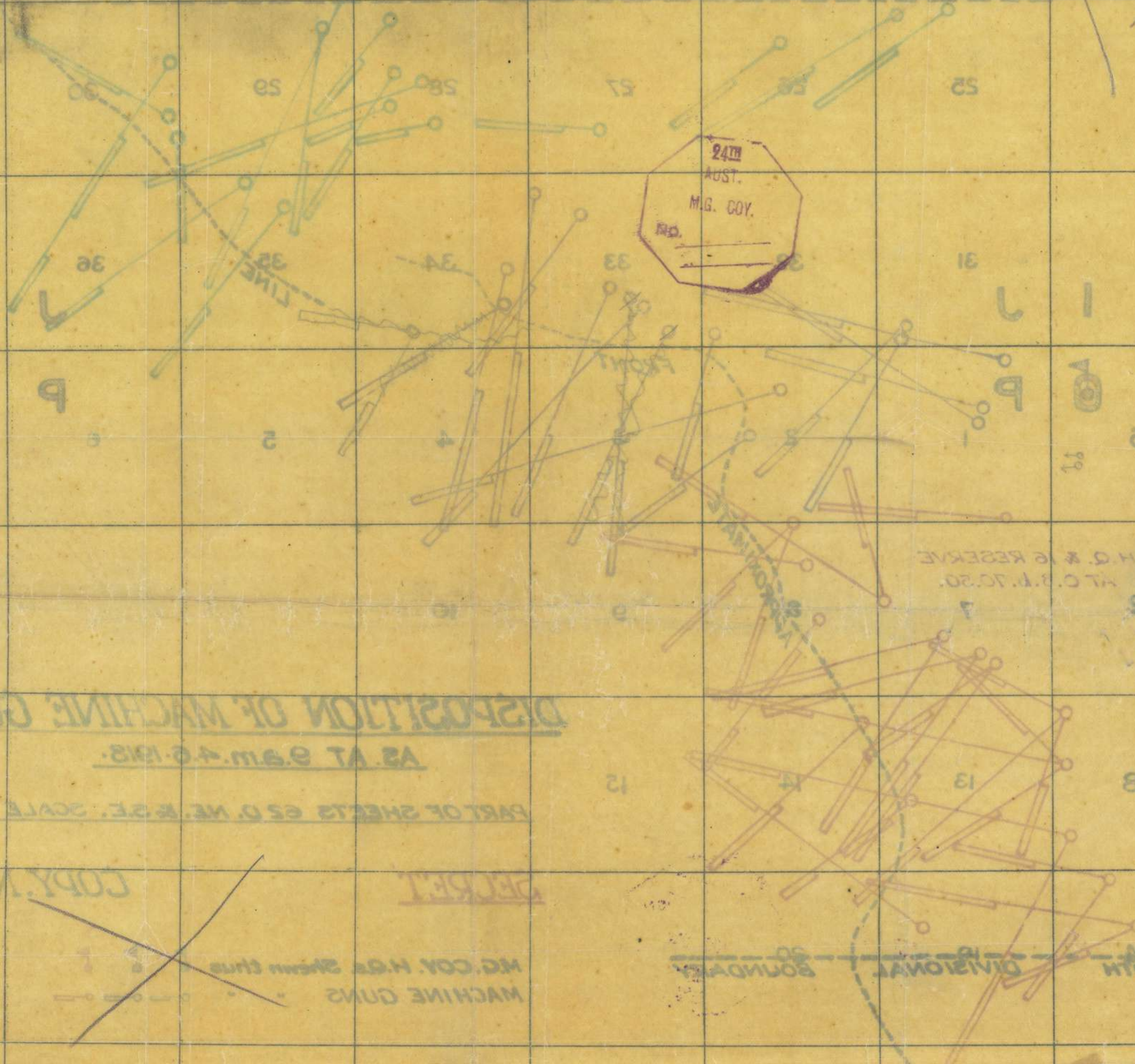
SECRET

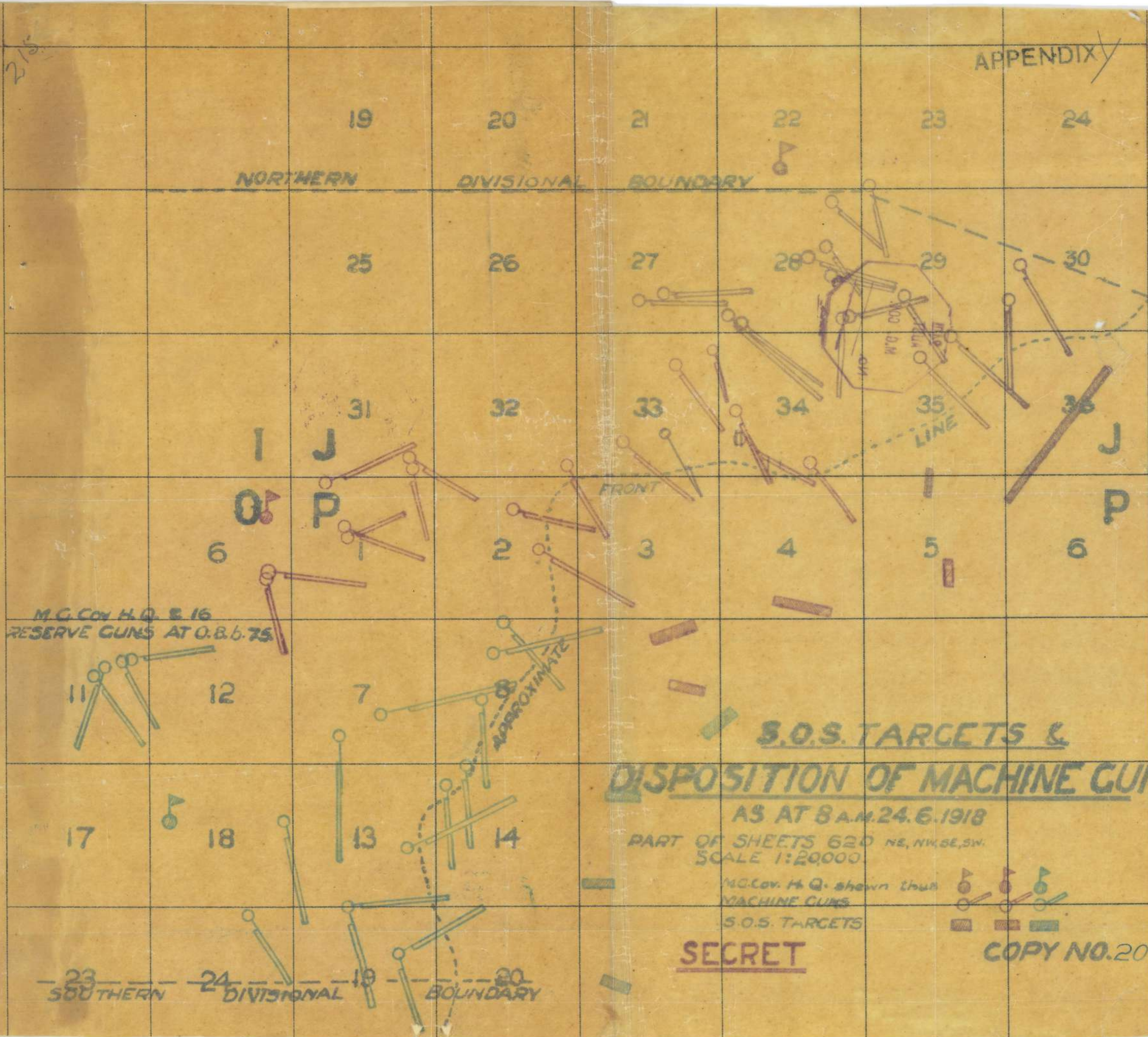
MG. COY. H.Q. shown thus
MACHINE GUNS

SOUTH DIVISIONAL BOUNDARY

BOUNDARY

NORTH





NOTE:—(1). These traces are intended to facilitate the communication of information as to the position of targets, which have been located on a squared map. (2). The squares on this trace are 500 yards in length on the 1/10,000 scale, 1,000 yards in length on the 1/20,000 scale, and 2,000 yards in length on the 1/40,000 scale. (3). The squares on the trace are fitted to the squares of the map showing the targets, which are then drawn on the trace. Sufficient letters and numbers must also be added to enable the recipient to place the trace in the correct position on his own map. A little detail may also be traced, but this is not essential. The name and scale of the map to which the trace refers must be always given. The trace can be used for the 1/10,000, 1/20,000, or 1/40,000 scale.

Tracing taken from Sheet 41 of the 1: map of

(2) The distances on the maps are used to the address of the web showing the results which are then shown on the maps. Subsequent on the 1/100,000 scale.

(3) The distances on the maps are 200 yards in length on the 1/100,000 scale; 1,000 yards in length on the 1/50,000 scale; and 5,000 yards in length on the 1/25,000 scale.

(4) These maps are intended to illustrate the administration of information as to the location of results which are then shown on the maps.

XI
DIN
397A

2011-10-15

5

10

24th
AUST.
M.G. COM.
NO.

62

Q

2 ST33PAT 20.8

8161.3.45.A.8 TA 2A

00009:1 31A05

STATE: D.A. NO. 334
COUNTY: D.A. NO. 334
COUNTY: D.A. NO. 334

05.01.1903

2347

42

13 A 16 18 13 B 18 13 C 16

NORTH DIVISIONAL BOUNDARY.

30 25 30 28

6 1 4

12th A.I. Bde H.Q.
4th M.G. Bn H.Q.
12th M.G. Coy.
24th M.G. Coy.

13th Bde H.Q.
13th M.G. Coy.
13th Bn H.Q.
14th Bn H.Q.
15th Bn H.Q.
16th Bn H.Q.
17th Bn H.Q.
18th Bn H.Q.
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90th Bn H.Q.
91st Bn H.Q.
92nd Bn H.Q.
93rd Bn H.Q.
94th Bn H.Q.
95th Bn H.Q.
96th Bn H.Q.
97th Bn H.Q.
98th Bn H.Q.
99th Bn H.Q.
100th Bn H.Q.

DISPOSITION MAP
AS AT 8 a.m. 15.7.1918.
REFERENCE SHEET 62.D.
SCALE 1:40,000.

M N

36 31 36 31

REFERENCE SHEET 62.D.
SCALE 1:40,000.

Identification Trace for use with Artillery Maps

