

AWM4

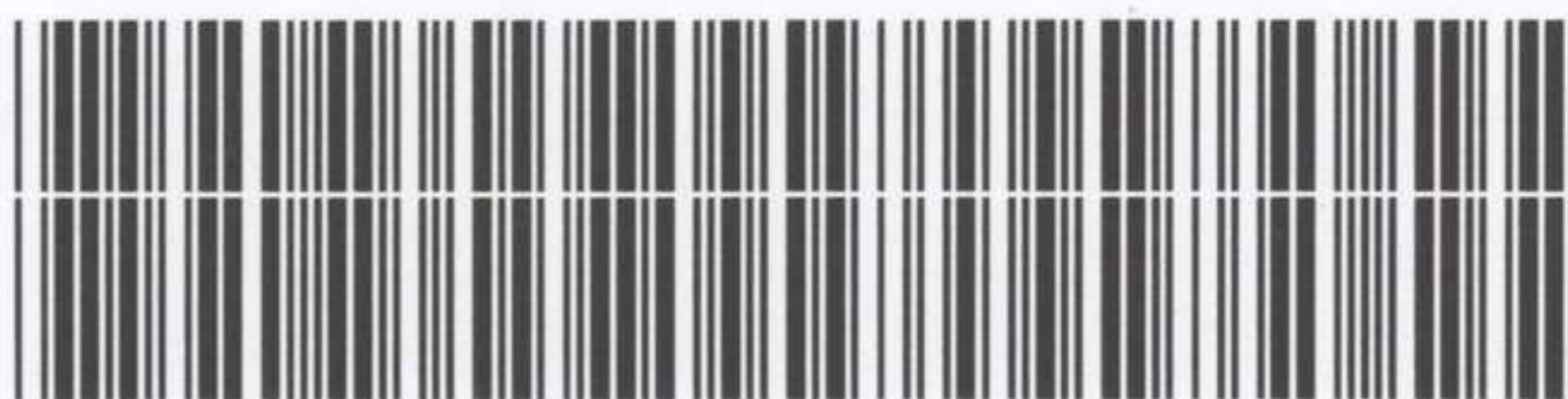
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War**

Machine Guns

Item number: 24/10/30

Title: 5th Australian Machine Gun
Company

February 1919



AWM4-24/10/30

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.

~~ENCLOSURE.~~

~~TRANSMITTED.~~

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

"A" Company, 2nd A.M.G. Bn.

FOR

February 1919

2 ND AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTN.	
No.
Date

Signature of Officer compiling

Henry French. LIEUT.

Signature of Officer Commanding

W. Bell Capt

WAR DIARY

5th A.M.G. Coy.

Army Form C. 2118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Par. II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

101

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
YVES GOMEZEE	1/3/19		Carried out Syllabus and Educational Programme.	
	2	1:30	Company pay, Draft for Australia medically examined.	
	2/2/19	09:30	Draft for Australia paraded, and marched out, Lieut Lyons and twenty five (25) O.R. from this company.	
			In accordance with Bn R.O. No 462/1B, 5 th and 22 nd Coys amalgamated, forming the present "A" Company, with a strength of (15) fifteen officers and (297) two hundred and ninety seven O.R., with Captain R. C. Webb in Command.	
	3/2/19	09:30	Duty Company. Company parade, to read G.R.O. re "Souvenirs" (G.R.O. 6123) 1:30. Heavy snow on the ground began to thaw very fast, causing a great deal of mud, and making any marching or transport work very unpleasant.	
	4/2/19		Carried out Syllabus, and Educational Programme, and also cleared and packed all loose company ammunition.	
		11:00.	First order, regarding move, arrived (10/28) All Coy Commanders to see to cleaning up billets.	

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Henry P. French. Lieut.

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

1st "A" Coy.

Army Form C. 2118.

101

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
YVES GOMEZEE	4/3/19	1500	Received Bn. Order 11/25, regarding disposal of Ammunition. All ammo. to be cleared, oiled, and packed.	
		1800	Received Bn. Order. 14/25. All companies to detail (8) eight limbers, to pack all gun gear on the morning of the 5 th . One officer, One N.C.O., and Ten men each, to accompany transports, as a loading party.	
	5/2/19	0700	Eight limbers, under Lieut Coleman, reported to Bn. Q.M. and reloaded gun gear, vide Bn. Q. O. 14/25	
		1000	Inspection of Billets, and billeting area, by section officers, under Coy. O. O.	
		1130	Eight limbers, under Lieut. Buncher, reported to Bn. Q. M. Store, and reloaded second portion of "A" Coy gun gear, vide Bn. O. 14/25, of 4 th unit.	
		1500	Received Bn. Order, contain warning of move to new area of Montignis-lez-Lille, on the 6 th inst.	
			Henry P. French, Lieut.	

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

'A' Coy.
2nd A.I.F. Bn.

101

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VIES GONZEE	5/2/19	1800	Received Bn. O. N°56. Containing orders for move to Montignis-le-Tilleul.	
	6/2/19	0845	Coy moved off from Square, en route for Walcourt.	
		0945	Bn. Entrained at Walcourt, and moved out at 10.10. arriving at Bommezee at 13.45.	
		0930	Transport, under Capt. R.A.P. Hamilton, passed starting point. A coy, followed by B. followed by 32 linkers of gungear from Square. Blankets carried by transport.	
		1800	Transport arrived at Montignis-le-Tilleul at 1800	
MONTIGNIS LE TILLEUL	7/2/19	0930	Company paraded for inspection, cleaning of kit, readjusted transport kit, and found stabling for transport.	
	8/2/19	0800	Transport left to return to Gros-Gonze, to bring remainder of stores, and ammunition left behind.	
		0930	Coy Paraded in drill order, for inspection.	
9/2/19			Duty Company. Henry O. French, Lieut.	

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WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

A. Coy.

2nd A. M.G. Bn.

Army Form C. 2118.

01

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MONTIGNIES LE TIWEL	10/2/19	0930	Company Parade, to read orders. Carried out Educational Programme.	
	11/3/19		Duty Company. Company Photographed, by Official Photographer.	
	12/3/19		Carried out Syllabus, and Educational Programme.	
	13/3/19		Duty Company.	
	14/3/19		Carried out Educational Programme.	
	15/3/19		Duty Coy. Football match between "Possibles" & "Probables" to pick a group team to play Division. Pay Day.	
	16/3/19		Sunday. Owing to it being unnecessary to do a great many fatigues on that day, there were no men available for Church Parade. Second Div. Race Meeting at Ihuin was well attended, mostly by officers, but rain spoilt the course, and the form of the horses had no influence on results. Outsiders were winning, and altogether the day was a good one for the "Bookies", but	
			Henry P. French Lt.	

WAR DIARY

A Coy.
2nd M.G. Bn.

Army Form O. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MONTIGNIES	16/2/19		a very bad one for the "Backers". The M.G. Bn. Mare "Belle", was not started.	
	17/2/19	1100	Attended lecture, by Major Gen. A.A. MONTGOMMERY, at Hall in Rue Cadore Pirmis, on "Waterloo". The hall was the Cinema Palace of the 5 th A.I. BDE., at Marcinelle, and the lecture was very well attended, the Divisional Commanders, and several Brigade Commanders being present.	
	18/2/19	0930	Mustering Parade, to call for volunteers for the "Cadre". There were 86 OR required. There were no volunteers, so the requisite number were detailed from the later date men at the end of the Repatriation Precedence Roll.	
	19/2/19		Duty Company. Also Bathing Parade, at mare in Rue de Bonnaree. The baths are excellent, and men received a clean issue of clothing.	
			Henry P. French. Liut.	

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WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

A Coy.
2nd A.M.G. Bn.

Army Form C. 2118.

101

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MONTIGNIES	20/2/19	0900	<p>Coy Parade, to clean up billets and billeting area.</p> <p>In preparation for a sale shortly, Company mules are to be examined, and (41) forty one, from "A" Coy, with (5) five horses, are to be picked out for sale, to be sent to Marchienne-aux-ponts.</p> <p>Today each animal selected will have a patch 8 inches square clipped or off hind quarter, to receive the "Z" Brand after being sold.</p>	
	21/2/19		<p>All mules and horses to be sold were sent to Charleroi, and accommodated in stables, and the men in billets, to await the sale on Monday.</p>	
	22/2/19		<p>Col. Ralston, with nine (9) officers, and thirty (30) men, attended a lecture by Mr. W. Hughes, at the Square, Marcinelle.</p> <p>Bn. Rugby Team played the Tunneling Company, on our ground. A win for the Gunners by 6-0.</p> <p>Henry P. French, Lieut.</p>	

WAR DIARY

"A" Coy.

Army Form C. 2118.

101

2nd M.G. Bn.

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OR
~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MONTIGNIES	23.2.19	1500	<p>Duty Company. No Church Parade.</p> <p>During afternoon, the 5th A.I. BODE. Association Team, played All Belgium, on our ground.</p> <p>The Belgians have never been beaten, and put up a very good game, winning, amid great applause from both parties adherents, for their fine clean play, by 3.2.</p>	
	24 th	1500	<p>Sale of Mules & Horses in Charleroi. Bidding was not too brisk, and consequently prices low.</p> <p>5th A.I. BODE. Rugby Team, met 2nd Post. Div. Group Rugby Team, in an extremely spirited and exciting encounter, on our ground. The Artillery "kicked off" and followed up well. Ball was returned, and then the play became hard & fast.</p> <p>The artillery defended well, and fought a fine up hill game all the way, but were out classed.</p>	<p>Henry P. French, Licut.</p>

WAR DIARY

A Coy.

Army Form C. 2118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Par. II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

2nd M. G. Bn.

101

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Montfaucon.	24/4/19		By our brilliant attack, and sweep off the field by our weight and skill. In spite of all their efforts, they failed to score, and the match was a win for 5 th A.I. Bn. by 22. Nil.	
	25 th		Duty Company. Educational Programme.	
	26 th		Carried out Educational Programme. C.O. left Unit for Paris on leave.	
	27 th		Duty Company. Educational Programme.	
	28 th		Early in the morning, we were subjected to an unseasonable & fairly heavy fall of snow, which about 8 P.M. was followed by rain, reducing the Roads & Tracks to horrible quagmires. Rain continued throughout the day.	
Henry P. French. Liut.				

WAR DIARY

OF

A' Company. 2nd Amb. G. Bn.

FOR

February. 1919.

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1.	Orders regarding gun gear & ammunition
2.	2 nd Machine Gun Bn. Order No. 56.
3.	Transport Officers Report.
4.	Photos of 2 nd Amb. G. Bn.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION

Headquarters,
4th. February, 1919.
10/2B.

1100



Os.C. Coys.
Bn. Q.M.

1. An Inspection Parade (by Coys) will be held at 0930 to-morrow. The equipment etc. of all men to be checked.
2. Os.C. Coys. will detail fatigue parties to clear up all billets that are, or have been, occupied by this unit since arrival in the village.
 - (a) All spare equipment and clothing will be collected and handed in to Q.M. Store.
 - (b) The equipment of the men on leave will be handed in to Coy. Q.M. Store.
3. All ammunition (except ammunition on the man) will be placed in boxes or bags and dumped in Coy. Q.M. Stores (or 1 suitable billet). Care is to be taken that no ammunition is left lying about in section billets.

It is to be clearly understood that above is a muster parade and that no man will be exempt.
There will be no Education Parade to-morrow.

[Handwritten Signature]
.....Lieut.
Adj^t 2nd. A.M.G. Battalion.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION

500

Headquarters,
4th. February, 1919.
11/2B.

Os.C. Coys.
Bn. Q.M.

Ammunition.

All ammunition will be collected, cleaned (& oiled if possible) and placed in boxes or bags in Coy. Q.M. Store or convenient billet. This work will be commenced to-day.

Each box or bag will be closed up and a ticket tied on outside showing number of rounds in same and signature of N.C.O. who checked count.

List of bundles of ammunition to be forwarded to En. H.Q. on completion. Also location of dumps.

There is a limited supply of cases at En. Officer's Mess and canteen that may be obtained on application to Officer i/c.

.....Lieut.
Adjt. 2nd. A.M.G. Battalion.

Both companies to
be done. 5th & 22nd Coy

SECOND AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION.

1800

Headquarters,
4th. February, 1919.
14/2B.

Os. C. Coys.

Os. C. Coys. will detail transport as under to report to Bn. Q.M. for the purpose of reloading gun gear on the 5th. inst. at the following times:-

<i>T.O. to note.</i>	✓ 5th. Coy. Transport.	8	limbers.	0700.	<i>Lt. Coleman</i>
	6th. " "	8	" "	0900.	
	7th. " "	8	" "	1030.	
	✓ 22nd. " "	8	" "	1130.	<i>Lt. Purcher</i>

✓ 1 Officer, 1 N.C.O. and 10 men will accompany each detail of limbers to act as loading party. On completion of loading the limbers will be parked in square at Bn. H.Q.

*C.S.M. to detail
N.C.O. & men*

W. J. O'Brien Lieut.
for Adj. 2nd. A.M.G. Battalion.

1500

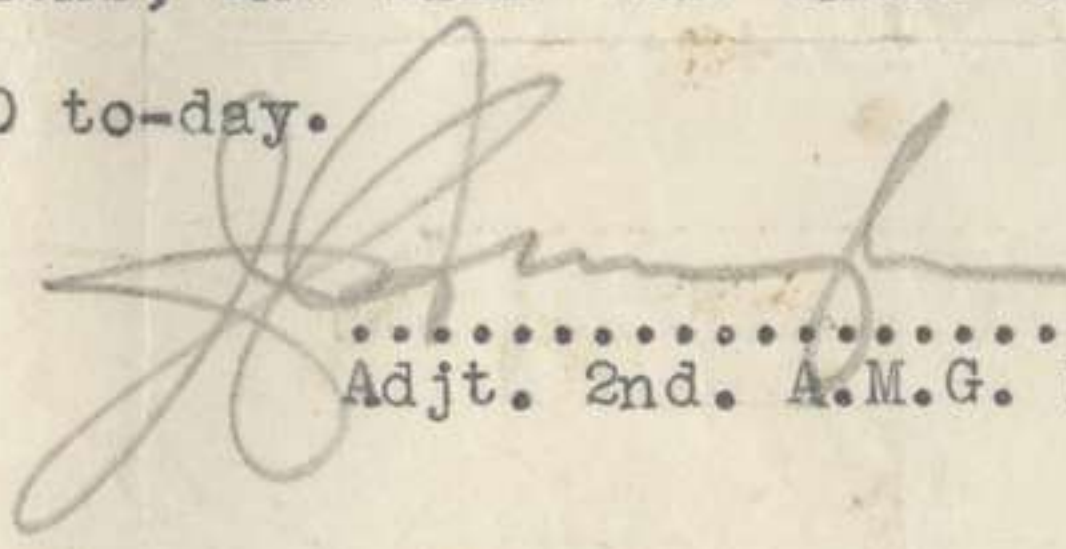
GUN
SECOND AUSTRALIAN MACHINE/BATTALION

Copy No.....

Headquarters,
5th. February, 1919

WARNING ORDER.

1. The Battalion will move to MONTIGNIES-le-TILLEUL to-morrow, 6th. February, entraining at WALCOURT at 0945. Transport will move by road. Further instructions later.
2. Ammunition. All Coy. Ammunition Dumps will be moved to-day to No. 140 Billet (at present occupied by B. Coy.). Ammunition to be stacked in Coy. heaps on ground floors.
3. Os. C., A and B. Coys. will each supply an ammunition guard of 1 N.C.O. and 4 O.Rs. The guard will be rationed up to and including 6th. inst, plus 24 hours rations, and will come under orders of Town Major (Capt. Thomas).
Guard to mount at 1500 to-day.


.....Lieut.
Adj. 2nd. A.M.G. Battalion.

Distribution

1. O.C., A. Coy.
2. " B. "
3. Town Major.
4. File.
- 5/7. War Diary.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION ORDER No. 56.

Copy No.....

Headquarters,
5th. February, 1919.

2

1800

1. The Battalion will move from present area to MONTIGNIES-le-TILLEUL on 6.2.19.
Personnel will entrain at WALCOURT at 0945 on 6.2.19.
Bn. Q.M. will arrange all details re Transport to-day.
Transport will move by road and will be under command of Bn. Second-in-Command (Capt. R.A.P. Hamilton M.C.) Route - most direct.
Lieuts. Hickman and Byatt will take charge of the 32 limbers at present parked in Square and will move with same to new area.
2. Transport will pass Starting Point at 0830 in following order - "A" Coy., "B" Coy. *32 limbers from square.*
Transport Starting Point, where YVES-GOMEZEE Road crosses main CHARLEROI Road.
3. Blankets (3 per man) will be carried by Coy. Transport.
4. Mid-day meal will be carried by all ranks. /
5. Bicycles. O.C. "A" Coy. will detail 12 O.Rs., and O.C. "B" Coy. 13 O.Rs. to report to Lieut. Bowkley at Bn. Q.M. Store at 0730 to-morrow. This party will take over 25 bicycles and ride same to new area. (This party to have good boots).
6. *Sm* The Guard on limbers in Square (1 N.C.O. & 6 O.Rs). will be relieved by an equal number from "A" Coy. at 0600 on 6th. instant. The new guard to have good boots. New Guard will move with Transport to MONTIGNIES area and act as brakesmen.
7. The Town Major (Capt. H.H. Thomas) will remain behind until S.A.A. is moved, and will take charge of S.A.A. Guard and may, if necessary, use portion of same as fatigue party.
8. *Sm* Os.C. Coys. will forward to Bn. H.Q. by 0700 to-morrow, a certificate to the effect that all billets and transport lines have been left in a clean and sanitary condition and latrines filled in, and that all claims up to date have been adjusted.
9. Latrine Seats. All latrine seats will be taken to the new area. Os.C. Coys. will arrange to dump same in Square by 1500 to-day.
10. ACKNOWLEDGE.

Hamilton
.....Lieut.
Adj. 2nd. A.M.G. Battalion.

- Distribution.
- Copy No. 1. "A" Coy.
 - 2. "B" Coy.
 - 3. Sig. Officer.
 - 4. Quartermaster.
 - 5. Town Major.
 - 6. File.
 - 7.)
 - 8.) War Diary.
 - 9.)

All Blankets to be rolled in Bundles of 20 and labelled. Blankets to be on top of wagon at 5th Coy Q.M. Store at 7 am. Breakfast at 7.15 am. Parade at 8 am. full marching order. P. B. H. P.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION.

Headquarters, "A" Coy.
Feb. 28th. 1919.

Transport Officer's Report.

On the 2nd. of February, the 5th. A.M.G. Company and the 22nd. A.M.G. Company's Transports were amalgamated.

On the 6th. Feby. the Battalion moved from YVES-GOMEZEE to MONTIGNIES le TILLEUL at 0800 and arrived at the latter village at about 1600. Owing to a heavy fall of snow, progress was very slow as the roads were very slippery. All animals were frost cogs.

On arrival here all animals were placed in covered sheds and stables. The general health of the animals is very good.

On the 24th. inst. several "Z" Class horses and mules were sold by Auction at FONTAINE MARCHIENNE.

All available men have been engaged in cleaning harness and limbers preparatory to handing same over to D.A.D.O.S.

L. Bryant
-----Lieut.
Transport Officer "A" Coy.

101



Portion of 2nd Auk. G. B.
resting just outside

MONTIGNY, LE. TILLEUL on
6. 2. '19.

Photo taken by
Capt. R. B. Webb. 'N. C.
'O/c. 'A' Company.
2nd Auk. G. B.

2nd Auk. G. B. No. 6. Draft for Australia

Photo taken at Ypres. Comerye
on 2. 2. '19 by

Capt. R. B. Webb. 'N. C.'
'O/c. 'A' Company.
2nd Auk. G. B.