

AWM4

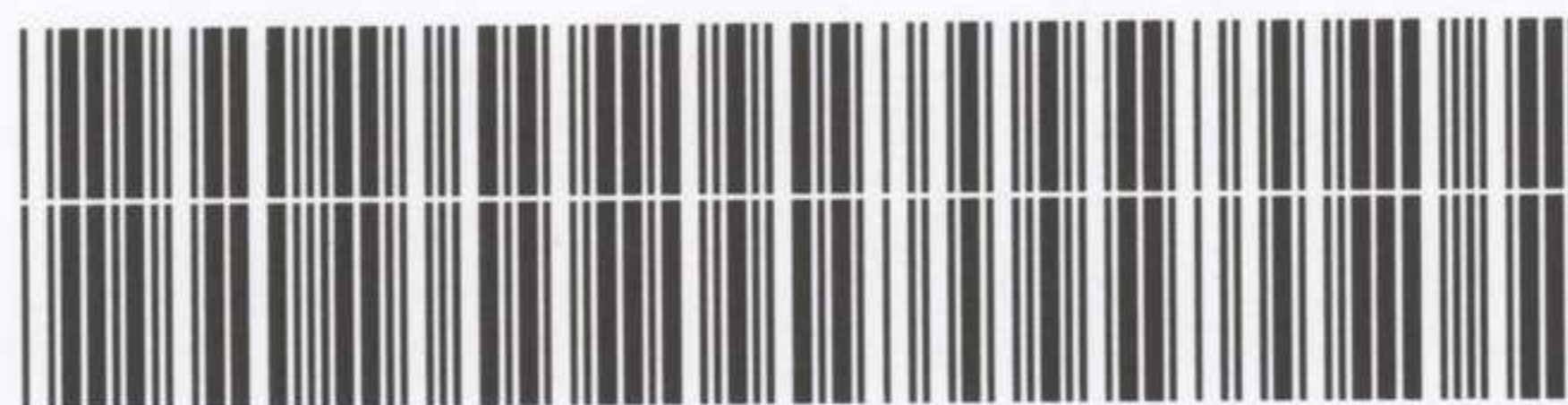
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War**

Machine Guns

Item number: 24/17/13

Title: 12th Australian Machine Gun
Company

March 1917



AWM4-24/17/13

WAR DIARY for March 1917

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.

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12th Aus. M.G. Coy.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	March			
	1		Company route marched to HENENCOURT WOOD arriving 4 pm - Billed in Canadian (type) huts -	
	2.		Guns and stores cleaned up.	
	3.		Close order Company Drill by O.C.	
	4		Church Parade in YMCA hut, HENENCOURT.	
	5.		Training and refitting commenced - Heavy snow fell, limiting instructions, and lectures in huts -	
	6.		Training and refitting - Transport limbers washed.	
	7.		Company carried out a route march, taking transport and taking all baggage -	
	8.		Instruction in huts - Company paid -	
	9		Brigade route march and inspection by Army Commander -	
	10.		Brigade carried out a sham attack in conjunction with Artillery - one gun was placed at disposal of each Battalion Commander, six guns covered roads in rear with indirect fire and six in reserve -	
	11.		Church Parade -	
	12.		Training continued - All guns now overhauled by artificer - Range practice carried out by A Section - Company inspected by M.O. for scabies, reported O.K.	
	13		Range practice carried out by B section, remainder open order work -	

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	<u>March</u>			
	14.		Issue of new pay books completed - All blankets decontaminated - Training continued -	
	15.		Weather still wet and boisterous. Training confined to huts -	
	16.		Training continued - Weather fine	
	17.		Brigade Attack and Advanced Guard Action - C section (Lt Tonkin) representing enemy occupied BRESLE WOOD - D sec (Lt Hildroyde) reporting to OC VANGUARD and A and B sections (Lts Fox and Lpton) reporting to OCs 48 th and 46 th Battalions respectively to form part of MAIN GUARD - Decided to dislodge enemy from BRESLE WOOD who were checking the advance - Weather fine and sunny - Pte Culla accidentally wounded by Trench Mortar at firing practice -	
	18.		Church Parade -	
	19.		C section on Range. Remainder training in open warfare and gun drill - Divisional Exercise carried out by skeleton brigades consisting of officers and signallers -	
	20.		Usual training carried out.	
	21.		N ^o 235 Pte Culla J.S. died at 3 rd Aus. CCS. EDGEHILL as a result of Trench Mortar demonstration accident on 18/3/17. Usual training carried out -	
	22.		Company paid - Capt Sawyer evacuated to CCS, dyspepsia and gastric carcinoma. 5 men from 45 th - 46 th + 48 th Battalions each, attached to Company -	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	March			
	23		Company moved with Brigade by route march to FRICOURT, SHELTERWOOD CAMP (NISSEN HUTS) arrived 4 pm wagon lines one mile distant from Company	
	24		Guns + stores cleaned up and instruction carried out, the newly attached men forming a special class. Captain Sawen promoted Major as from 1/3/17	
	25		Church Parade with 46 th Battalion	
	26		Guns + gear cleaned up, instruction carried out - Company barked at BECOURT BATHS.	
	27		Timbers brought up to huts and packed ready for move next day -	
	28		Company route marched by duck boards via CONTALMAISON to LE SARS - Transport moved separately via LA BOISELLE and ALBERT, BAPAUME ROAD - Men were billeted in deep old HUN dugouts and galleries - Transport parked with difficulty in a side street of LE SARS badly cut up by shell fire - Traffic very heavy on main BAPAUME ROAD owing to rail connection with BAPAUME not being in proper order - Supplies delivered to Company by 20 th Company A.S.C from WARLENCOURT dump fed by DECHUVILLE LINE	
	29		Company engaged in erection of Q.M. stores, cook house etc from old iron and material lying about in abundance - Weather wet and stormy and some snow -	
	30		Weather showery, camp + hose lines further improved -	

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	<u>March</u>			
	31		<p>Some men formed a fatigue party to carry back S.A.A. to DECAUVILLE railway on main ALBERT BAPAUME ROAD. 25 CROUCH and HOLROYDE reconnoitred our front line consisting of Posts with a Vickers gun - 14 in all. Our divisional front is held by one brigade viz the 13th Brigade with 13th Coy M.G.'s - Our line runs front about C14 central 1200' S of LONGRATTE due EAST including LAGNICOURT and EAST to C24 D88 with 5th Divn on our right - NOREUIL will be attacked and taken on morning of 2nd.</p>	
			<p><i>1st Crouch Co</i> OC</p>	
			<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>12TH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN COMPANY.</p> <hr/> <p>No. Date: 14/17</p> </div>	