

AWM4

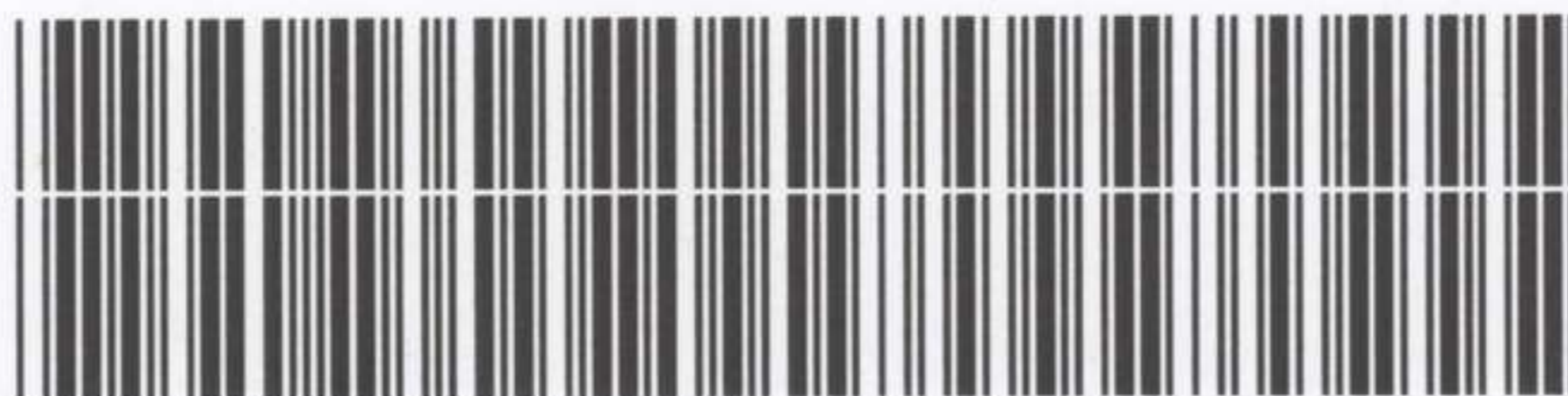
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War**

Machine Guns

Item number: 24/17/18

Title: 12th Australian Machine Gun
Company

August 1917



AWM4-24/17/18

Original

WAR DIARY

No. Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II.
Date and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages
will be prepared in manuscript.

OR
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
NEUF BERQUIN Sheet 36 A. L. 9. C. 95. 10.	1-8-17		Training proceeded with sentences on 389 Pte NORTH O. and 1654 Pte KEPLER T.G. of 3 and 5 years P.S. respectively commuted to 2 years I.H.L. in both cases, and both men committed to prison. 2nd Lieut J.A. PONTIN taken on strength of company and posted to "A" Section.	
	2-8-17		Company carried out a route march in marching order	
	3-8-17		Training proceeded with men's boots examined and repairs executed preparatory to a turn in the line.	
	4-8-17		Training proceeded with. Weather very bad, with heavy rains for some days; roads flooded in places.	
	5-8-17		Church parade at 9.30 am. with 45th Bn, 46th Bn and 12th A.L.T. M.Btty. on 45th Bn. parade ground. R.C. Church Parade at NEUF BERQUIN CHURCH under Lieut. GRIEVESON. 8 drivers and 8 horses detached for duty with 4th Aust Div. Pack Transport Troop.	
NEUF BERQUIN - KEMMEL AREA. N. 31. d. 8. 7.	6-8-17		Company moved to forward area and camped in tents at DONEGAL FARM (Sheet 28, 1/4 9000 N. 31. d. 8. 7.) near Mount KEMMEL. 2021 Sgt. A.E. MORRIS, 2175 Cpl. N.J. McLEAN and 2859 Cpl. H. ALNWICK proceeded to join staff of M.G. Training Depot ENGLAND.	Appendix I 12th AMB Coy Order No. 5.
	7-8-17		Final overhaul of guns preparatory to action. Capt CROUCH and Lieut FOX reconnoitred front. Lieut GRIEVESON proceeded on U.K. leave	
BULLY BEEF FARM (N. 29. C. 10. 90) and NE. of MESSINES.	8-8-17		Company moved forward to relieve 63rd and 247th M.G. Coys. in line. Halted at new company transport lines at N. 34. a. 00. 70, where packs and surplus baggage were dumped. Four sections and H.Q. moved at 7.30 pm. to BULLY BEEF FARM (N. 29. C. 10. 90) where new company H.Q. were established. Lieut. A. TAYLOR, Lieut. C.J. TONKIN and 2nd Lieut. E.M. CULLIMORE, each with four guns and four gun teams relieved the companies in the line, holding Left, Centre and Right of Bde Sector, in accordance with Appendix II. Relief was successfully carried out without casualties.	Appendix II 12th AMB Coy Order No. 6.
	9-8-17		475 Pte J.G. BRAIN killed in action by enemy shell fire, and buried at O. 27. d. 50. 30, 200 yards N. of DESPAGNE FARM. One enemy kite balloon brought down in flames.	
	10-8-17		Lieut. TRIMBLE returned from U.K. leave. 282 Pte C.S. EWART killed in action by enemy shell fire and buried at O. 27. C. 20. 80, NE. of MESSINES. One gun-barrel casing punctured by H.E. and temporarily repaired.	

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WAR DIARY

OR
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BULLY BEEF FARM and NE. of MESSINES	10-8-17 11-8-17 12-8-17		Major E.G. RADFORD, D.S.O. placed on Unserviceable ^{Suspended} List as from 30-6-1917. Helio signalling from COMINES CHURCH distinctly seen at 6.30 pm. Enemy shelling rather heavy, especially on GUN ROAD (from WARNETON direction). An anti-aircraft M.G. was installed at O. 27. C. 25. 78. Lamp-signalling from an enemy balloon observed at 9.0 pm. One of our M.Gs. in Left Group damaged by shell-fire and temporarily repaired.	Appendix III 12th AMG Coy Order No. 7.
	13-8-17		Relief of teams in Right and Centre sectors successfully carried out at night. Between 11.0 pm. to 12.30 am. WAMBEEK VALLEY swept by enemy machine gun fire. Men relieved from line on previous night batted at DRANDOUTRE.	Appendix IV 12th AMG Coy Order No. 8.
	14-8-17		On the arrival of an orange cluster, enemy artillery put down a barrage of short duration on our left. No. 7 gun-emplacement hit by 7.7 shell. Our artillery caused fires in HOUTHEN and fired dumps at TENBRIELEN and WARNETON. 8 enemy planes attacked our balloons unsuccessfully, but brought down one of our machines. Another of our planes was brought down near HOLLEBEKE. Enemy relief in progress in shell holes was observed in O. 24. B. Our machine guns stopped movement.	
	15-8-17		2nd Lieuts. TRIMBLE and PONTIN Relieved 2nd Lieut CULLIMORE and Lieut TOMKIN in command of Right and Centre sectors. Gun-groups.	
	16-8-17		In the early morning our artillery opened up a bombardment of enemy line. Enemy artillery put down a moderate barrage in reply. Two enemy dumps in front of COMINES were fired by our artillery. Lieut HOLROYDE and 4 gun-teams relieved Lieut TAYLOR and 4 gun-teams of left gun group. One of our kite-balloons broke loose during the morning and drifted into enemy lines.	
	17-8-17		Bombing raid by enemy planes over our back areas during night. Our heavies started a large fire on bearing 100° (M) from GUN FARM. Men relieved from line batted at DRANDOUTRE.	
	18-8-17		Bombing raids by planes of both sides during night. Enemy machines were located by searchlights and engaged by our anti-aircraft batteries. Our planes caused fires in COMINES and WARNETON.	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BOLLY BEEF FARM and NE. OF MESSINES	19-8-17		Two planes brought down about 6.0 am., one British, the other uncertain nationality, both behind enemy lines.	
	20-8-17		At 2.30 pm an enemy machine fell in our lines. Gun teams in Right and Centre gun-groups successfully relieved at night. A plane believed to be German fell behind enemy line. Enemy using a plane like D.E.W. Aviatik without crosses, but with alternate black and white rings round the fuselage.	
	21-8-17		Company relieved by 21st M.G. Coy. on night of 21st. Capt CROUCH at Coy H.Q. and 2nd Lieut. TRIMBLE and PONTIN with No. 1. of each gun remained with relieving company till night of 22nd. Relief carried out without casualties, and Company moved to HILLSIDE CAMP (T. 14. C. 6.5.) near NEUVE EGLISE, to huts and tents.	Appendix V 12th M.G. Coy Order No. 9.
NEUVE EGLISE (T. 14. C. 6.5)	22-8-17		Lieut. TAYLOR proceeded on V.K. leave.	
	23-8-17		Training resumed and guns and gear overhauled. Company bathed at PALMER BATHS near NEUVE EGLISE.	Appendix VI General Report on Operations.
	24-8-17		Anti-aircraft guard posted at Divisional H.Q. at RAVELSBERG; 2 guns with 2 corporals and 8 men. Anti-aircraft guard with one gun established at HILLSIDE CAMP.	
	25-8-17		Capt MARTIN, C.S.M. MASCHMEDT, Sgt EAST and Sgt GREGSON returned from M.G. School, CAMIERS. Major EG. RADFORD, D.S.O. rejoined from hospital and reported to Divisional H.Q. for duty as D. M. G. D.	
	26-8-17		Cricket match against 48th Bn. Won by 48th Bn after a good match.	
	27-8-17		Lieut. Gen. A. J. GODLEY, K.C.B. K.C.M.G., G.O.C. 2nd ANZAC inspected Units of Bde at their training. Company carried out Barrage Drill.	
LA MOTTE Sheet 36.A. K.9. a. 4. 1.	28-8-17		Capt. CROUCH and 2 other ranks proceeded to 2nd Army Rest Camp, AMBLETEUSE. Company marched to back area and occupied billets about K.9. a. 4. 1. near MERVILLE and LA MOTTE.	
HAZEBROUCK AREA Sheet 27 U. 18. d. 6. 6.	29-8-17		Lieut. E. P. C. UPTON reported for duty from M.G. Base Depot (returned from Hospital). Company moved to billets at U. 18. d. 6. 6., (Sheet 27) W. of HAZEBROUCK.	

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118 ²¹³

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.

or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices									
HAZEBROUCK AREA Sheet 27 V.18.d.6.6.	30-8-17 31-8-17		<p>3118 T/Lt PUGH C.S. and 3843 Sgt MORLING K. proceeded to M.G. School, CAMIERS</p> <p>Military Medal awarded to 4152 Sgt DOLAN A.E. Date of award 27-8-1917.</p> <p>2nd Lt H. TRIMBLE promoted to Lt as from 18-8-1917.</p> <p>Lt TONKIN proceeded on leave to V.K.</p> <p>Training resumed.</p> <p>Total strength of company 12 officers. 200 Other Ranks (Includes Hospital attached)</p> <p style="margin-left: 100px;">2. A.A.M.C. Detach</p> <p style="margin-left: 100px;">Detached Duty.</p> <table style="margin-left: 100px; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">O.P.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: right;">O.R.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">3-</td> <td style="text-align: right;">34.</td> </tr> </table> <p style="margin-left: 100px;">Increases -</p>	O.P.	-	O.R.			2		3-	34.	<p>Appendix VII Recommendation for Honours and Rewards</p>
O.P.	-	O.R.											
		2											
	3-	34.											
			<p style="font-size: 2em; font-family: cursive;">L. J. Morling Capt.</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive;">O.C.</p>										
			<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">12TH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN COMPANY.</p> <p style="margin: 0;">No.</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Date</p> </div>										

SECRET

12th A. M. G. Coy. Order N^o 56th August 1917

Ref Sheet 28 S.W. 1/20,000

1. The 12th M. G. Coy will move to KEMMEL area to-day the 6th inst by road.

Starting Point - parade ground - time 11.30 am
Route via OUTERSTEENE - BAILLEUL and DRANOUTRE.

Destination - Farm & tents at N 31 d 8.7. Transport will accompany the company.

Breakfast 7-30. Lunch 10-30 am.

2. Blankets will be rolled in bundles of ten (small roll) & placed on a motor lorry if available at 8-30 am. If no lorry is available blankets will be carried on top of gun limbers.

3. Dress - Full Marching Order, mess tins to be carried inside packs and water bottles to be filled. Boresmen will carry packs. Boots fighting order.

4. Lt. GRIEVESON & men due to proceed to UK on leave will remain behind to clean up camps & billets and obtain certificates from incoming troops. One man from duty section will proceed in lorry with blankets.

5. Signallers to roll up telephone wire at once.

6. Officers valises to be ready by 9 am.

7. Limbers to be packed ready to move off by

10 am & NCOs for

8. NCOs for UK to report to Orderly Room at 8.30 am

Overmanch

Supt.

O/C 12th M. G. Coy. 6.50 am

213
Secret

APPENDIX II

COPY NO 16

12th AUST. MACHINE GUN COMPANY. ORDER NO VI

Ref. TRENCH MAP 28 S.W. 2 1/10. 000

8th August 1917

1. The 12th A.M.G. Coy will relieve the 63rd and 247th M.G. Coys on the night of 8/9th August.
2. The Company will move from present camp at 2 P.M. 8/8/17 to new transport lines at N34 a 00.70, full marching order and 2 sandbags per man.
3. 2/Lt. COLLIMORE. D. Section will relieve 4 guns as follows:-

No 1	Despaigne Farm	Map Ref: O 33. b 55. 85
No 2.		O 27 d 40. 20
No 3.		O 27 d 35. 25
No 4		O 27 d. 35. 35.

Lieut TONKIN. B Section will relieve 4 guns:-

No 5	O 27 b 20. 25.
No 6	O 27 b 20. 35.
No 7.	O 27 b 10. 50.
No 8.	O 27 b 05. 65.

Lieut TAYLOR. C. Section will relieve 4 guns:-

No 9.	O 21 c 95. 45
No 10.	O 21 c 95. 60
No 11.	O 22 a 00. 10
No 12.	O 22 a 10. 10.

A Section under 2/Lt. PONTIN, remainder of B. C and D Sections and all cooks will remain in reserve at Coy H Qrs at N29 c 10. 90. Guns will meet Company at Coy H. Qrs and direct to positions.

4. On arrival at new camp packs, greatcoats + officer valises will be dumped.
5. Gun crews consisting of 1 N.C.O + 4 men will move from Coy. H. Qrs at 8. P.M. in fighting order, 1 blanket - ground sheet + 2 sandbags per man will be carried.
6. Rations for B + D Sections will be taken in hinders at dusk to forward dumps BOSCHES GRAVE.
Water is available at GUN FARM for these 2 Sections.
Rations and water for C. Section will be taken in hinders at dusk to O 21 c 4. 8.
7. as soon as guns are in position one runner per section will report back to Coy. H. Qrs

Appendix No. I

8. Acknowledge

Copy to:-

- 1 - office
 - 2 - 12th A.I. Bde - by runner at
 - 3 - A Sec
 - 4 - B
 - 5 - C
 - 6 - D
 - 7 -
 - 8 -
 - 9 -
- } by orderly at
- } Wat Diary

Lawrence O. G.
Capt

12TH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN COMPANY.	
No.
Date.	8-8-1917

[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. Some legible fragments include:]

... 12th A.I. Bde ...

... by runner at ...

... Wat Diary ...

... 8-8-1917 ...

Administrative Instructions.

Issued with Company Order VI.

Rations.

Rations will be sent up each night to Lieut. CULLIMORE'S dugout, in sand-bags marked "LEFT" (Mr. TAYLOR), "CENTRE" (Mr. TONKIN), and "RIGHT" (Mr. CULLIMORE).

Water.

Fresh water can be drawn from GUN FARM. Surplus empty petrol tins will be returned in ration timber or by runner to Company H.Q.

Reports

A Situation Report will be forwarded to Company H.Q. immediately on completion of relief.

Situation Reports will be sent to Lieut. CULLIMORE'S Dugout at 6.0 a.m. and 6.0 p.m., thence by runner to Company H.Q., to arrive by 7.0 a.m. and 7.0 p.m.

A Daily Intelligence Report, covering period from 6.0 a.m. to 6.0 a.m. will be forwarded as above to reach Company H.Q. by 7.0 a.m.

Soc

One clean pair of socs per man is being ~~sent~~ issued to men before moving forward from Company H.Q. Dirty socs in lieu must be returned the following night.

Nominal Rolls

Nominal Rolls of sections in Line will be rendered to Orderly Room before moving forward today.

Trench Stores

Duplicate of receipt for Trench Stores taken over on relief will be forwarded to Company H.Q.

R.A.Ps.

R.A.Ps. are situated at

- O. 26. d. 20. 80
- O. 26. C. 10. 15-
- O. 27. C. 70. 20
- O. 27. a. 50. 50

Bn. H.Q.

Battalion H.Qrs. are as follows:-

- 47th Bn. O. 27. a. 20. 40.
- 48th Bn. O. 27. C. 90. 10.

Dugout

Lieut. CULLIMORE'S Dugout is at O. 27. C. 30. 90.

S.A.A.

Dumps of S.A.A. are as follows:-

- 30 boxes (bulk) at O. 21. C. 70. 90.
- 30 " " " " O. 21. C. 80. 90.
- 15 " " " " O. 27. b. 20. 45.
- 21 " " " " O. 27. C. 35. 90.
- 14 " " " " O. 27. b. 85. 60.
- 50 " " " " O. 27. b. 10. 50.
- 150 " " " " O. 21. central.
- 20 " " " " O. 26. b. 99. 21.
- 30 " " " " Derry House.
- 120 " " " " distributed at O. 27. d. 90. 35, O. 28. b. 00. 80.

O. 28. b. 00. 56, O. 28. a. 15. 60. and trench running N. about O. 27. d. 60. 40.

12TH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN COMPANY.

No. 8-8-17 Date

Howe ranch Capt

W

12th A.M.G. Company Order No 7.

Ref: Sheet 28 SW 2 1/10,000

11th August 1917

1. The boundaries of the Divisional Fronts are shown on the tracing attached, the SOUTHERN boundary points being U 5 to 80.55 and the NORTHERN boundary points O 23 to 2.4. The dividing line between Brigades in the front area will be the BLAUWE POORT BEEK.
2. The defensive system consists of posts in front, now being connected up as a front line; a support line; a reserve line; and a ridge defence line (the last being a boths line)
3. Method of Defence. The front is being held in depth. No troops will fall back. Those in Reserve line will move forward to re-inforce as the situation demands. Counterattacks will be launched immediately should any portion of the front be captured.
Machine Gun Defence. The following rules have been observed in siting the guns in the present table emplacements. They can give
 - (1.) Material support and cross fire for close defence.
 - (2.) They will be ready at all times to put down a SOS barrage in front of the sector. Owing to the wide front, the small number of guns, and the tactical situation this barrage will cover from a point SE of BEEK FARM (O 29 to 79.75) to O 23 to 8.9. (the centre of the cone of this barrage will fall on this line, the inner limits of the cone being 100 yards closer to O.F.L.)
 - (3.) In the event of a SOS signal being sent up from either Brigade Front, the guns will open fire on this SOS line (NB the SOS signal at present is a grenade bursting into two (2) whites followed in their descent by two (2) Reds.
4. Indirect fire will be carried out each night on chosen targets which will be supplied Section Officers, and special targets for fire by day will be given at times when movement or camping is noticed.
5. SOS barrage lines are attached hereto and Section Officers will see that guns are ready to open fire at all times on SOS signal being sent up.
6. Guns will be manned by night and a look out for each group kept by day.

7. Acknowledged.

copy No 1 Officer

- | | |
|-----|-----------------|
| 2+3 | War Draw |
| 4 | right Section |
| 5 | centre |
| 6 | left Commanders |
| 7 | D.M.G.O |
| 8 | Res Coy. |
| 9 | Bgdt. |

O.6

12 th AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN COMPANY.	
No.
Date.	11-8-1917

12th A.M.G. Company Order No. 8.

13th August, 1917.

Ref. 28. S.W. 2 1/10,000.

Plan of Action in case of attack.

1. The present distribution of the Brigade is as follows:-

Brigade H.Q. N29.C.4.4. (REGENT DUGOUTS)
 Right Bn. in Line H.Q. O.27.C.85.10 (CABIN HILL)
 Right Subsector O.29.C.5.1. to O.29.A.4.2.
 Left Subsector O.29.A.4.2. to O.23.C.65.10.
 Two Companies in Support.
 Left Bn. in Line H.Q. O.27.A.28.45 (DERRY HOUSE)
 Line O.23.C.65.10. to O.23.B.14
 Two Companies in Line and two Companies in Support.
 Right Support Bn. H.Q. O.26.D.27. (LUMM FARM)
 Left Support Bn. H.Q. O.20.D.22. (TORREKEN FARM)
 M.G. Coy. H.Q. with 4 guns at N.29.C.9.1. (BULLY BEEF FARM)

Guns at:-

- (1) O.33.B.50.15
- (2) O.27.D.50.20
- (3) O.27.D.55.30
- (4) O.27.D.35.55
- (5) O.27.B.30.25
- (6) O.27.B.25.30
- (7) O.27.B.10.53
- (8) O.27.B.05.60
- (9) O.21.C.95.45
- (10) O.21.C.95.60
- (11) O.22.A.00.10
- (12) O.22.A.10.10

12th A.L.T.M. Bty. H.Q. O.27.A.25.45 (DERRY HOUSE)
 12th M.G. Coy. A.A. M. Guns O.27.C.25.75.
 N.29.C.50.60.
 N.34.A.0.7.
 12th M.G. Transport Lines N.34.A.10.70.

2. The front line system is held lightly. In the event of an attack, great or small, efforts will be made to limit the expansion or advance of the attacking force and to hold the enemy in a pocket. With this idea existing C.T.s. will be manned on the flanks of the breach. The Front Line will be held at all costs the first policy of the Units of the Front Line System being to hold up the enemy.
3. All Units will stand to arms half an hour before dawn until objects can be seen 200 yards distant, half an hour before dusk, and when an attack is imminent.
4. In the event of an attack the Battalion at TORREKEN HOUSE (Left Support Bn) will at once occupy the RESERVE LINE.
 The Battalion at LUMM FARM (Right Support Bn) will remain at its present location in Brigade Reserve, and be ready to move on receipt of orders from Brigade H.Q. to either sector.

P.T.O.

Appendix No. 4

5. Duties of Machine Guns. These are outlined in para. 3, Company Order No. 7. On the S.O.S. signal being given guns will open fire on S.O.S. line. Should the enemy penetrate our line and overwhelm the troops in the Front Line System, then the machine gun system for close defence will operate. With this in operation Section Commanders will always bear in mind mutual support for the other guns. The siting of these gives cross fire, therefore targets not appearing within present individual arcs of fire will not be fired on. Guns may be moved forward a little if necessary, provided they are kept in their present arcs of fire. Should guns be called for by Battalion Commanders in the Front Line the request will be sent on to Company H.Q., and guns supplied from Company guns in Reserve at Company H.Q., or from the Reserve Company of the Division."

6. Acknowledge.

Kweroch
 Capt 07C12M66/07

- | | |
|-------------|---------------------------|
| Copy No. 1. | Office |
| 2. | } War Diary |
| 3. | } Right Section Commander |
| 4. | } Centre " " |
| 5. | } Left " " |
| 6. | |
| 7. | DMFO. |
| 8. | Reserve Company. |
| 9. | Brigade. |

P.T.O.

Secret

12th A.M.G. Company Order No. 9.

21st August 1917.

Ref. Trench Map.

28. S.W. 1/20,000.

1. The 12th Australian Infantry Brigade will be relieved by 21st Infantry Brigade on the nights 21/22nd and 22/23rd instant.
2. The 12th Aust. Machine Gun Company will be relieved by 21st Machine Gun Company on night 21/22nd and on relief the Company will move to HILLSIDE CAMP, T. 14. C. 6. 5.
3. All maps, Trench Stores, Bulk S.A.A. and Petrol Tins will be handed over and receipts obtained in duplicate; also all belt boxes as follows: -

Left Camp	60
Centre "	57
Right "	58

 and a separate receipt obtained.
4. The relieving Company will disembark near Company H.Q. about 10.0 pm and gun teams with limbers will then move forward. About one hour subsequently to this our own limbers will go forward, one to Left Sector and one for the other two - Centre and Right. The destination of 2nd limber will be ULSTER DUMP.
5. Lieuts. TRIMBLE and PONTIN and No. 1 of each gun will, on completion of relief, remain behind until the night of 22/23rd for the purpose of giving all possible information to the relieving company. Officers and men on relief will report to Coy H.Q.
6. Aeroplane guards will be relieved at 10.0 pm.
7. Transport under Lieut Foxe and the Company, less teams in line, under Lieut Tonkin will move to HILLSIDE CAMP at T. 14. C. 6. 5. at 2.0 pm.
8. Company H.Q. will close at ~~T. 14. C. 6. 5~~ BULLY BEEF FARM at 9.0 pm. on 22nd and will open at T. 14. C. 6. 5. at 11.0 pm.

Howarth
W.M.

General Report on Operations.

12th Aust. M. G. Company.

From 8-8-1917 to 23-8-1917.

Ref. Sheet 28. S.W. 2. 1/10,000.

1. The 12th Aust. M. G. Company assisted the 12th Aust. Infantry Brigade in the operations on the sector East of the WYTSCHAETE-MESSINES RIDGE held by the 4th Australian Division, the Southern boundary of the Front being the point U. 5. b. 90. 55. and the Northern boundary the point O. 23. b. 2. 4. The 4th Aust. Infantry Brigade held that portion of this Front South of BLAUNE POORTBEEK. The 13th Australian Infantry Brigade remained in Reserve.
2. The 12th Aust. M. G. Company relieved the 111th and 247th M. G. Companies which had 20 guns in the Brigade sector. The relief was successfully carried out on the night of 8/9th of August.
3. 14 guns were placed in the line at the following positions: -

No. 1 Gun	O. 33. b. 50. 85.
" 2 "	(DESPAGNE FM.)
" 3 "	O. 27. d. 50. 20.
" 4 "	O. 27. d. 55. 30.
" 5 "	O. 27. d. 35. 55.
" 6 "	O. 27. b. 30. 25.
" 7 "	O. 27. b. 25. 30.
" 8 "	O. 27. b. 10. 53.
" 9 "	O. 27. b. 05. 60.
" 10 "	O. 21. c. 95. 45.
" 11 "	O. 21. c. 95. 60.
" 12 "	O. 22. a. 00. 10.

Two guns in Reserve at
O. 33. b. 50. 85

Two guns were used for anti-aircraft fire at: -
(DESPAGNE FM.)
N. 29. c. 50. 60.
N. 34. a. 00. 70.

Two of the guns in the line were used also by day for anti-aircraft work.

4. As the work of the Brigade on this occasion was to better consolidate and improve the sector the guns were distributed to hold the line in depth, and arranged in three groups - Right, Centre and Left. They were so arranged for close defence giving mutual support, and they were ready at all times to place a S.O.S. barrage in front of the sector.

- 213.
5. Weather. When the Company took over, it did so during torrential rains. It rained for a few days prior to taking over and for a day or two after. Then the weather fined up, and for the rest of the period it was fine and sunny.
6. With the exception of a small raid by the enemy, no attack took place, and no attack was made by the Brigade. The S.O.S. line was therefore never fired on by the machine guns.
7. Active indirect fire was carried out by all guns, both by day and night. Fire by day was mainly directed on hedges and works for the purpose of keeping down enemy snipers, and reports by battalions in the line said this fire was effective. By night tracks and roads shown by aeroplane photos, leading to farms (converted into forts), communication trenches, roads and cross-roads, and movement by day disclosed by telescope, were fired on. A list of targets is attached.
8. Aircraft. Enemy aircraft were very active during the period, and they were daily engaged by our machine guns. On all these occasions they were driven back by our fire. One was reported to have been driven down.
9. The total expenditure of ammunition was as follows: -
- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Indirect Fire | 165,480 rounds |
| Anti-aircraft
fire | 10,000 " |
| Total | 175,480 " |
10. The following casualties were incurred during the period: -
- 2 Other Ranks killed by enemy shell-fire.
- 2

3/213

11. Works. The following work was carried out :-

Existing gun-emplacements completed at

O. 22. a. 00. 10.

O. 22. a. 10. 10.

General improvements were made to all existing gun-emplacements, dugouts and shelters.

New gun-emplacements were built at

O. 27. d. 30. 60.

O. 27. d. 50. 30.

O. 27. b. 20. 25.

O. 27. t. 05. 65.

O. 21. c. 95. 60.

O. 27. d. 40. 20.

O. 33. e. 55. 85.

O. 21. d. 80. 90. } In old German

O. 21. d. 92. 72. } concrete shelters.

O. 21. b. 95. 10.

O. 22. c. 00. 00.

A sand-bag and iron structure was erected at company H.Q. at N. 29. c. 10. 90, BULLY BEEF FARM.

Howe
Capt

List of MACHINE GUN Targets.

12th Aust M G Coy.

- Road from O23 b 80.00 to O30 d 00.50
- do O23 b 80.00 to O24 c 60.30.
- O19 d 10.20.
- O24 a 40.22. Gill Farm
- O24 a 95.19. Pillegrims Farm
- O24 c 55.40. Lake Farm.
- O24 c 25.70. Bab Farm
- O24 c 20.57.
- Road from O24 c 79.02 to O24 c 30.42.
- O24 a 62.90
- O24 c 50.37.
- Road from O24 c 80.04 to O24 d 50.45.
- Road Junction O24 c 79.02
- Road from O24 c 30.70 to O30 b 15.15.
- Omelette Branch O24 c 10.50. to O30 a 90.50
- Hedges in O24 c
- O24 a 70.10.
- O23 d 55.90 Bab Farm.
- O23 d 80.72. Lake Farm.
- O30 b 15.12.
- O30 b 20.22. end to NORTH. dug. out.
- O30 b 00.55 Road Junction.
- O30 d 60.70. Dug. out sta
- O30 c 50.50.
- Hedges in O30 a. O30 c. O29 b.
- do O36 b 38.35.
- O36 b 20.50
- Road from O30 a 25.12 to O30 a 90.50.

Hutchinson
Capt

O. G.

D

1911-3-22

Lessons - Adopted, Observed and Profused.

12th AUST M.G. Coy

AUGUST 1917

1. The advanced methods in M.G. Barrage and Indirect fire work, have been adopted and used with great advantage.
Prisoners statements show that our harassing fire has caused considerable inconvenience, and numerous casualties to the enemy.
This further shows that when correctly employed the M.G. is one of the most powerful weapons we possess for offensive purposes and that every effort should be made to exercise its offensive powers.
2. When this Unit took over in the WYTSCHAETE area, enemy snipers were rife. The Guns were used against these people, the results being excellent.
3. Machine Guns must not be kept chained to one position. They should be kept mobile, and used according to requirements of the situation.
4. The distribution of M.G.s in depth is most important. They should be distributed in accordance with the lay of the ground, and the situation of the Infantry they are supporting.
5. Recent Operations show the absolute necessity of:-
 - A) Clinometers for each Gun
 - B) Standardised traversing & elevating stops being adopted.
 - C) More co-operation between M.G.s and both Artillery & Infantry.
 - D) The issue of protractors and graphs which would help considerably in making calculations.
6. Summing up recent operations, demonstrations and experiments, undoubtedly show that the VICKERS MACHINE GUN is of great value in offensive operations, and that they should be used both as mobile & barrage guns.
Also that every effort should be made to facilitate the work of the gun, by the early production of the latest discoveries etc in M.G. Works.

J. Martin Capt.

O.C.

Report on Work Done by D Section
from 17th August to 21st August.

D Section of 12th Aus M & Coy
under me relieved C Section
under M^r Taylor on the left
of Bde Sector on the night of
17th inst.

Relief was carried out
successfully & was completed by
~~9 pm~~ 9 pm.

During period D Section was
in 24 750 rounds were fired
in indirect fire at following
targets.

~~LAKE FARM. PILLEGRAH,~~
FARM. PILL FARM. targets at
O 24 H 70. 80. O 30 A 100. 60
O 24 C 80. 05.

These 4 guns were in a position
if necessary to put down a
barrage on the left & right
sectors of Bde. front.

Owing to barrage being
wanted for right sector it
was necessary to build new
positions for 2 of the guns
these ~~positions~~. Map locations

APPENDIX

(2)

have been sent in B.H.O.

These positions are not very good as regards shelter but in case of left gun shrapnel proof cover was put over position.

Orders to being relieved on night of 21/22 August there was not time to put overhead cover over " " gun position.

Relief by 21st Coy. G Coy was successfully carried out by 11.30 pm on 21st Aug 1917.

Receipts for trench stores - bulk S.H.A. have been handed in to orderly room.

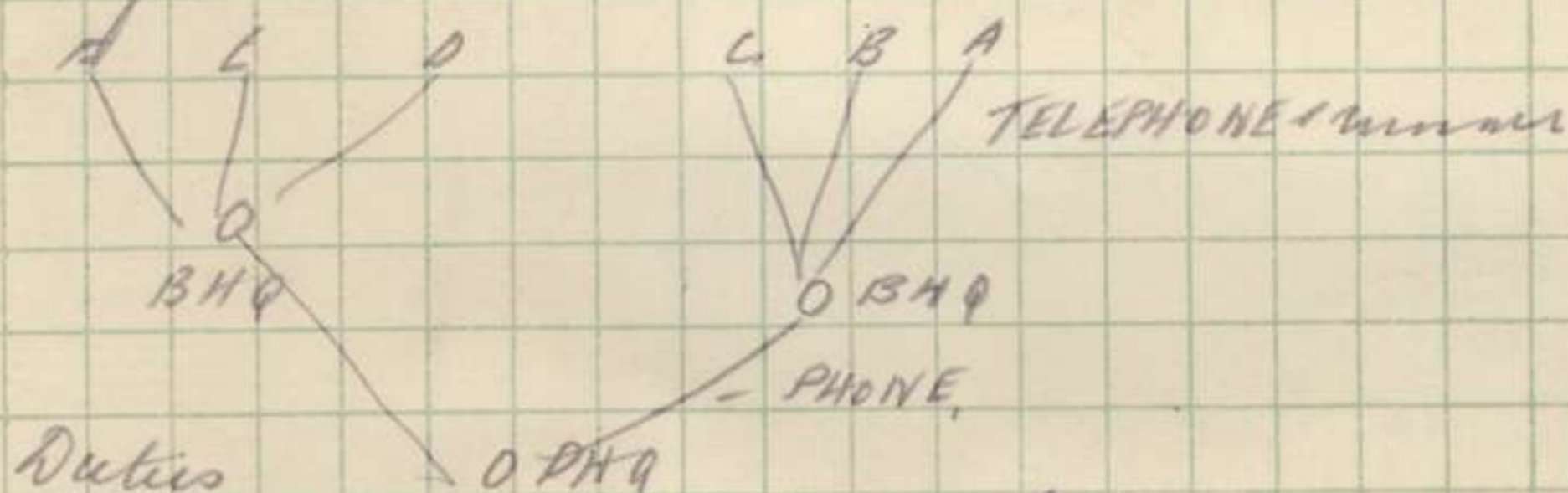
Barrage Work.

Corrected Range

$$= R \left\{ 1 + \frac{60 \cdot T}{1000} + \frac{(B - 30) \times 15}{1000} \right.$$

+ $\frac{1}{2}$ speed of wind (MPH) x time flight in seconds.

Barrage guns should be organised into groups & batteries. Group not more than 24 guns normally, it consists between 16 & 24, commanded by G.C. who is either C.C. or DMGO. Group divided into batteries of 4, 6 or 8 normally 8 guns, batteries lettered from right in line forward move these become A 2, B 2 etc. & so on.



Duties

Group Commander Organisation has group into batteries all arrangements to U.S.A.A. situation materials for emplacement formation of dumps & communications base of operation orders which deal with location & tasks each battery. Task is in form of a table showing times target, rate of fire & height of barrage.

Orders must be issued in ample time to allow B.C. time to make calculations & send them to C.C. to be checked. Having a fighting mat showing zero line of each battery & left carrying out orders of DMGO.

Battery Commanders Duties

Laying out positions of his battery
 working baggage chart to pack gun commander
 providing himself with a fighting map
 seeing that every commander in his battery
 including himself is provided with a number
 study

Gun Commanders duties.

That fire of gun is carried out as ordered by B. Chalk.
 a correct location is placed & maintained on gun
 watch for signals from battery commander
 In case of a barrage not on chart being ordered
 that correct fire order is passed down & the gun
 correctly laid before repeating No-gun ready.