

AWM4

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

Machine Guns

Item number: 24/17/21

Title: 12th Australian Machine Gun
Company

November 1917



AWM4-24/17/21

COMPANY.

Confidential - Original

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices								
DELETTES	1917 Nov.	1st	Training proceeded with. U. K. leave increased to 14 days.									
		2nd	Route march. 15 O.R. Reinforcements (mostly old details) arrived from Base.									
		3rd	2nd Lieut. PONTIN returned from wounded. C.S.M. McDONALD returned from M.G. Branch, Small Arms School, CAMIERS. Medals and Ribbons presented by Lieut.-Gen. W. BIRDWOOD, Corps Commander, on parade at BEAUMETZ-LEZ-AIRE. The following were this Company's recipients :-									
			<table border="0"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 20px;"><u>Military Medal</u></td> <td>No.2206 Dvr. ARBERY W. W.</td> </tr> </table>	<u>Military Medal</u>	No.2206 Dvr. ARBERY W. W.							
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		4th	Lieut. TAYLOR and 2nd Lieut. CULLIMORE appointed Court of Enquiry on fate of following personnel posted "Missing" at BULLECOURT on 11-4-1917, and not since reported "Prisoners of War." 3833 T/Sgt. MITCHELL J. J. 4274 Cpl. FRASER R. 280A Pte DAHLER W.									
		5th	Finding of Court "Killed in Action." Church Parade with 47th Battalion in morning. Major RADFORD (4th Divisional Machine Gun Officer) and 1 O.R. (batman) transferred to 24th Aust. M. G. Coy. No.561 Pte. J.M. LAUDER proceeded to 4th Div. Linesman's School at GREUPPE for a 6 day course.									
		6th	No. 1701 Cpl. ARMSTRONG A. and No. 4302 Cpl. MILLER R. proceeded to 4th Div. Gas School at BEAUMETZ-LES-AIRE for 4 day course. No.5026 Cpl. ABDULLAH A. proceeded to CAMIERS to 49th Course at M.G. Branch, Small Arms School.									
		7th	Route March in morning. Football Match (Australian Rules) V. 12th Bde. H.Q. Won easily by Bde. Company paid.									

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~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

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	1917			
	Nov.			
CAMPAGNE- les-HESDIN	16th		Moved by road to CAMPAGNE-les-HESDIN, where Company accommodated in billets 12th Bde. H. Q. situated at LEBIEZ.	
LE PETIT CHEMIN	17th		Moved by road to LE PETIT CHEMIN, near ARGOULES, in Dept. of LA SOMME, and occupied billets. Bde. H. Q. at DOURIEZ.	
FROYELLES	18th		Company marched to FROYELLES, near CRECY, and billeted.	
FROYELLES	19th		Bde. H.Q. at LIGECOURT. Whole Brigade resting for one day to allow troops to recuperate. All ranks greatly interested in ancient battlefield memorials and historical locality, especially in the ancient cross of the Blind King of BOHEMIA.	
NEUILLY- l'HOPITAL	20th		2 Other Ranks rejoined from hospital. Further stage of move completed by march to NEUILLY-l'HOPITAL; main billet the chateau of Mme. de BELLEVILLE.	
VALINES	21st		Bde. H.Q. at BUIGNY-St. MACLOU. Marched to VALINES, crossing LA SOMME R. below ABBEVILLE. This was the longest stage of the move, and was broken by a stop for a meal at mid-day.	
ALLENAY	22nd		Bde H.Q. at NIBAS. Final stage of march completed and Company billeted in village of ALLENAY, near AULT, and not far from the sea. Billets rather crowded but otherwise fairly good, and capable of improvement to make them very comfortable.	
	23rd		Bde. H.Q. at TULLY. Company settling down in billets and provision being made for maximum of comfort.	
	24th		Billets being improved and conveniences built. Parade and training grounds fixed on. No. 400 L/Cpl. TROTMAN N.F.H. proceeded to England to join Officer Cadet Battalion at CAMBRIDGE.	
	25th		Church parades for all denominations.	
	26th		2 Other Ranks proceeded to TULLY to join Bde. Signal School. Training resumed (mornings only). Afternoons devoted to organized sports under 2nd Lieut. KING. 2 Other Ranks sick to hospital struck off strength. 6 Other Ranks reinforcements (all old details) rejoined from M.G. Base.	

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ALLENAY	1917 Nov. 27th		Route March in morning. Capt. CROUCH proceeded on short leave to PARIS. 8 Other Ranks attached for instruction from 48th Battalion.																										
	28th		Training proceeded with. 2 Other Ranks attached for instruction from 45th Btn. 2nd Lieut. PONTIN returned from leave.																										
	29th		Training proceeded with. 8 Other Ranks from 46th Btn. and 8 Other Ranks from 47th Btn. attached for instruction.																										
	30th		Company Canteen opened for business, making a very successful start. 3 Other Ranks (old details) arrived from Base. Major RADFORD (4th D. M. G. O.) visited Company. 6 Other Ranks attached from 45th Btn. for instruction. 4 Other Ranks (old details) rejoined from Base. Strength of Company at end of month :-																										
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			<p style="text-align: right;"><i>J. Martin</i> O. C., 12th Aust. Machine Gun Coy.</p>																										

12TH AUSTRALIAN
MACHINE GUN
COMPANY.
Date.....

Recommendations for

H O N O U R S and R E W A R D S.

607 Pte. James SCOTT.

During operations near ZONNEBEKE on 12th October, 1917.

He displayed remarkable bravery and perseverance, continually carrying important messages from Support Line to Company Headquarters, being subjected to very heavy enemy artillery fire and by so doing kept up communications. In addition he rendered valuable services helping to get wounded away.

Award - BAR TO MILITARY MEDAL.

3118 Sgt. Clifford Stuart PUGH.

During operations on 13th October, 1917, near ZONNEBEKE.

During the afternoon the battery was subjected to intense enemy artillery fire, and his gun emplacement was repeatedly blown in. On every occasion he immediately reconstructed the emplacement, and thus enabled an unbroken barrage to be maintained.

His coolness and contempt of danger set a wonderful example to his men.

Award - MILITARY MEDAL.

430 L/Cpl. Thomas Charles Egbert UPTON.

During operations near ZONNEBEKE on evening of 12th October, 1917.

The S.O.S. M.G. Battery to which he belonged was carrying out an S.O.S. barrage, and ran short of S.A.A. He showed great enterprise in obtaining further supplies, and great courage and devotion to duty in getting it to the battery through an intense enemy barrage, thereby ensuring the S.O.S. barrage being maintained.

Award - MILITARY MEDAL.

431 Pte. William David SMITH.

During operations near ZONNEBEKE on 12th October, 1917.

He was with mobile guns, and showed great bravery by helping to keep a gun in action and allowing infantry to retire. He rendered valuable services, helping to keep down casualties. He was the second last man to retire. He showed wonderful pluck and coolness.

Award - MILITARY MEDAL.

2
12TH AUSTRALIAN
MACHINE GUN
COMPANY.
Date.....

Recommendations for

H O N O U R S and R E W A R D S.

4063 L/Cpl. Thomas Michael MCTYE.

During operations near ZONNEBEKE on 12th October, 1917.

He had his gun in a covering position forward with ~~xxxx~~ assaulting troops. In the retirement he remained at his gun, allowing the infantry to retire to new line. He caused heavy casualties to the enemy and held him up. He remained himself till he had fired all his ammunition and then, being unable to get his gun back, he stripped it and totally destroyed the remaining part.

By his brave act he must have kept down many casualties.

Award - DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT MEDAL.
