

AWM4

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

Machine Guns

Item number: 24/17/28

Title: 12th Australian Machine Gun
Company

June 1918



AWM4-24/17/28

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
DUPLICATE.
TRIPLICATE.

12TH AUSTRALIAN
MACHINE GUN
COMPANY.
No.
Date

213

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

12th Aust. Machine Gun Coy

FOR

JUNE 1918.

Signature of Officer compiling

Dayton Lt

Signature of Officer Commanding

Dayton Lt

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.

WAR DIARY
OR
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

12TH AUSTRALIAN
MACHINE GUN
COMPANY.
No.....
Date.....

Army Form C. 2118.

213

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	2nd			
	1		<p>Officer from 5th Aust. M. G. Bty. H. P. accompanied Lt. W. H. WOOD round dugouts & gun positions in the AUBIGNY LINE. Water carts came up from BUSSY to remain with unit. Lt. Col. H. W. MURRAY, VC, DSO, DCM called on his way to 13th Coy. Artillery active during the night. Bombing planes also very active.</p>	
	2		<p>Not fine day. Voluntary church parade under Lt. Col. FINIGAN held at BUSSY. Owing to distance from here only few attended. Troop participated in much swimming. DROUERS heavily drilled for an hour in the forenoon.</p>	
	3		<p>Lt. A. F. TAYLOR and Lt. G. MARTIN reconnoitred PIONEER SWITCH Trench System to find location of selected gun positions. All N. L. O's under Lt. E. M. CULLIMORE M.C. reconnoitred AUBIGNY Trench System. Horse race at transport won by 12th Coy. General training continued and cricket pitch constructed. Lt. E. M. CULLIMORE awarded "Military Cross" in Birthday Honours list.</p>	
	4		<p>A working party of 14 O.R. under Lt. WOOD & COBB worked on construction of gun positions in PIONEER SWITCH. Three positions being completed. Training continued. Cricket match played in the afternoon between company and A battery, 77th Bde Army Artillery, resulted in a win for the machine gunners by 102 runs.</p>	
	5		<p>A working party of 14 under Lt. WOOD completed remaining 4 gun positions in PIONEER SWITCH. Lt. CULLIMORE (M.C.) & Lt. G. MARTIN with N. L. O's visited the H. Q. of 4th 13th + 24th Coy. Company paid by Lt. PONTIN M.C. in the evening. Cricket match won by company against C Battery 77th Bde Army Artillery by 27 runs. Training continued.</p>	

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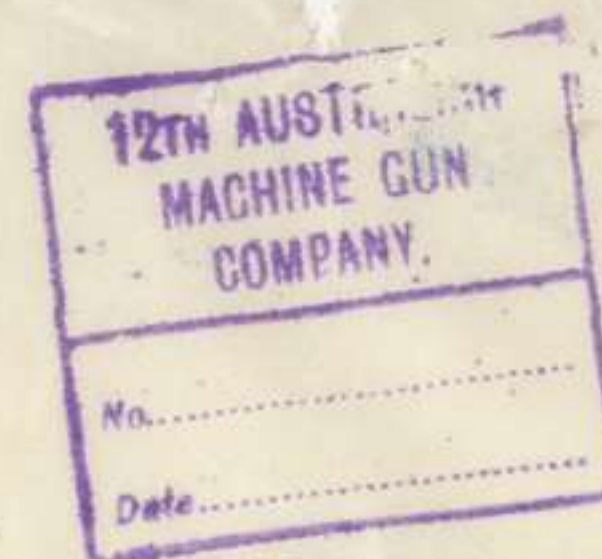
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	June 6		General training proceeded with Lt Woods and TREE went round all bay H.Q. in line. Capt MARTIN (M.C) and Lt COBB also went round on bikes. In the evening company played 77 th Bde Army Artillery Football (Soccer) Artillery won by 3 to 2. Weather very warm.	
	7		Lt WOOD went to Bde H.Q. at BUSSEY for cricketing material. Village of RUBIGNY heavily shelled at intervals by guns of heavy calibre. Our aircraft very active throughout the day. Lt Col. H.W. MURRAY, VC, DSO, DCM Capt DUCHATEL called during the day. Company again played Artillery cricket winning by 21 runs. Weather fine with light shower in the evening. Strength of company. 11 Officers 187 O.R. 50 Horses.	
	8		Fine warm day. General training continued. RUBIGNY again shelled at intervals. A few shells also put in vicinity of site occupied by company, one man being wounded. Front system heavily bombarded with gas during night.	
	9		Church parade at 11.0 A.M., service by Chaplain FINIGAN. Two machine guns erected for anti-aircraft near camp. Windy & very dusty during day, but light rain fell in the evening. Very heavy gun fire intermittently during the day on our right.	
	10		Light rain fell during the morning, which did away with the dust. Lt GREGSON (Signal Officer) paid visit. Very heavy bombardment by our artillery commenced at 5.0 P.M. (covering the advance of 2 nd Division on our right) and continued for some hours. Scratch football match (Rugby) held in the evening.	

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	June			
	11		Lt A.F. TAYLOR and E.M. CULLIMORE (M.C.) went to 24 th Coy H. Q in the morning. General training continued. Artillery fire very quiet during the day. A few gas & high explosive shells fell in vicinity of camp about midnight. Cricket match between company and 5 th Aust. Div. Artillery transport, unfinished owing to ball breaking and no other available. Weather fine. 14 O.R. reinforcements marched in.	P
	12		Lt TAYLOR went to 13 th Coy H. Q in the morning. Camp shelled in the evening with shrapnel & H. G. No casualties caused. Inter company cricket match played in the evening.	P
	13		Capt MARTIN, M.C. went to Btry H. Q in the morning and later to the nucleus. Artillery very quiet on the forward area. A few shells fell in the vicinity of the camp during the evening. General training continued.	P
	14		Orderly Rooms held by Col H.W. MURRAY, VC, DSO, DCM, at 11-0 am. Capt MARTIN, MG and Lt TAYLOR went to 13 th Coy H. Q in the evening to arrange for relief which takes place tomorrow.	P
	15		Camp shelled by H. G. at mid-day. No casualties. Company relieved the 13 th Aust. M. G. Coy on the left sector, relief being completed by 11.50 PM without casualty. Coy. H. Q established at D 22 c 95.20. Lt TAYLOR returned to nucleus.	P
	16		Church Parade held at 11.0 am service by Chaplain FINIGAN. BUSSY shelled by H. V guns during the afternoon. Quiet day forward.	P

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	June			
	17.		Lt TAYLOR went to visit O. Co at forward Coy H. Co in the morning. Situation very quiet. Our aircraft very active. BUSSY shelled from 10-0 am to mid-day. Strength of company 11 officers. 201 OR. 49 Horses.	
	18.		Capt MARTIN. M.C. evacuated sick. Company taken over by Lt TAYLOR. Lt PONTIN. M.C. acting as second in command. Lt GREGSON visited forward company H. Co. Artillery very quiet forward.	
	19.		Lt Col H.W. MORRAT. V.C. DSO. DCM. and Capt DUCHATEL came up and went over the M.G. positions in the village of SAILLY-LE-SEC. Our artillery very active during the night. enemy quiet. Weather fairly good with light rain. Details at nucleus paid in the afternoon.	
	20.		One officer and 3 O.R.s of the U.S.A forces attached for instruction. Officer remains at Coy H. Co. O.R.s to Lt WOOD's position in SAILLY-LE-SEC. Enemy artillery very active up to mid night. H. Co shelled at intervals with light guns.	
	21.		Lt PONTIN M.C. reported to Coy H. Co for duty. Lt PONTIN. M.C. and Capt IRWIN (U.S.A) went round the forward guns at night. During the day Lt Col H.W. MORRAT. V.C. DSO. DCM & Lt Col CHARTERIS Army No. 3. O. visited some of the gun positions. Situation generally quiet. 7 O.R. reinforcements marched in.	
	22.		Lt PONTIN M.C. went to Bde H. Co to see the Brigadier. Very quiet day on the front. Capt IRWIN (U.S.A) again went round forward gun positions at night. Rear guns carried out indirect fire. 1 OR. Wounded.	APPENDIX I Relief order.
	23.		Capt IRWIN (U.S.A) and Lt TAYLOR went round the gun positions in SAILLY-LE-SEC. B & D Section were relieved from the forward gun positions by personnel from the nucleus. 1 OR Wounded.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	June 24		Personnel attached from American Army left us today for their unit. Artillery very quiet all day, but showed more activity at night. Lt WOOD completed the tactical wiring of his gun positions in SAILLY-LE-SEC.	
	25		Enemy aircraft very active all day and crossed our lines several times flying at very low altitude. A few shells fell in vicinity of Coy H. Qrs doing no damage. Artillery generally quiet. 13 ORs marched in, all old details.	
	26		Very quiet day forward. O. to work round all gun positions. Much work has been done since the Coy took over. A few shells fell near guns in SAILLY-LE-SEC. Strength of company 11 officers 217 OR. 49 horses.	
	27		Lt PONTIN (M.C.) & CULLIMORE (M.C.) visited Coy H. Qrs also Sgt NICHOLLS. Transport Sgt. Brig Gen LEANE visited some of the gun positions in the forward system. Fine clear day. Extensive aerial activity by our own machines. Lt TREE & 24 OR went to work on new gun positions in VAIRE-SOOS-CORBIE.	
	28		Vicinity of Coy H. Qrs shelled intermittently during the day with H. & Blue Cross gas shells. Enemy artillery generally more active. Our positions near SAILLY-LE-SEC shelled. 1 OR killed. 1 OR Wounded. Our bombing planes very active at night. Lt CULLIMORE M.C. relieved Lt PRENDERGAST, gun crews remaining in line.	
	29		Fine day. O. to work to Bde H. Qrs in the afternoon. Artillery very quiet all day. Great aerial activity by our machines. Lt S. No. N. G. HAMLIN M.M. left for ENGLAND to training cadre GRANTHAM. Heavy bombardment on left dir. sector at 9.40 pm by Fritz. Lt PONTIN M.C. proceeded to Corps Gas School for a 6 days course.	
	30		Fine day. Artillery fairly lively. Aircraft very active. Voluntary Church Parade for personnel at nucleus in morning under Chaplain COLLINS. Concert at Bde H. Qrs in the evening 7-0 pm.	
			Strength of company. 11 Officers 211 O.R. 51 Horses.	

213

18,000-12/17-872

APPENDIX

12TH AUSI.
MACHINE GUN
COMPANY.

No.

Date.

6

WAR DIARY

OF

12th Aust. Machine Gun Coy

FOR

JUNE 191*8*

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.

Subject.

1

Relief Order

12th Australian Machine Gun Company.

Relief Order.

copy No 1

22-6-1918

Reference: Mkt 62nd SW. 1/29,000.

1. The personnel of "B" and "D" sections will be relieved on the nights of 23rd/24th June, by teams composed from the personnel of the nucleus.
2. The relieving troops of "B" section will consist of two parties, each of two gun teams.
3. Party under Lt W. L. O. MALLARD will relieve the left guns (Lt CULLIMORE (M.C)). Lt B. O'REILLY's teams will relieve the right guns (Lt A. R. TREE).
4. "D" section's relief will move from nucleus under sergeant N. C. O, who will remain responsible until taken over by Lt M. D. COBB, who will remain in charge of present guns.
5. The incoming party will move via canal, & remain in vicinity of Lt MARTIN's H.Q. 27d 25.50 until met by guides at 9-0 p.m. who will take them to their respective positions.
6. A guide from each group of "B" section, and one from "D" section will report to Lt MARTIN's H.Q. not later than 9-0 p.m.
7. Iron ration only will be carried by relieving party. Outgoing parties will be provided with tea at bay cook's house, and a hot meal on arrival at the nucleus. The relieving party may take their hot ration from cookhouse as they pass on way to position. No hot ration will be drawn by the teams at present in the line.
8. On completion of relief outgoing parties will proceed to nucleus at BUSSY.
9. Completion of relief to be notified to bay. H. Q.
10. Acknowledge.

Copy to

- 1-2-3 War Diary
- 4 office
- 5 Lt Cullimore M.C
- 6 Lt Cobb
7. oc nucleus.

Payton Liebert
O. L.

12TH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN COMPANY.	
No.
Date	22-6-1918

213

213/13

12th MOST. M. & Coy. ~~Balance~~ Balance SHEET
MARCH 1918

App "F" a

DATE	LIABILITIES	Yr.	to	AMT	ASSETS	Yr.	to	AMT
MAR 31	Balance	1710	00	31	Cash on hand	590	00	
					Stock on hand	1120	00	
		1710	00			1710	00	

MAR 31	Dividend to Coy Fund	180	00		Assets	1710	00	
	Permanent Fund	20	00					
	Balance	1510	00					
		1710	00			1710	00	

