

AWM4

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

Machine Guns

Item number: 24/19/20

Title: 14th Australian Machine Gun
Company

February 1918



AWM4-24/19/20

272

18,000-12/1 -8723

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.

~~DUPLICATE.~~

~~TRIPLICATE.~~

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

14th Machine Gun Coy.

FOR

February 1918

Signature of Officer compiling

O. Lockes Lt

Signature of Officer Commanding

J.P. Montague Capt.

272

14th
AUSTRALIAN
M. G. Coy.

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Vol. 24

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Date.....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Kemmel	1-2-18		<p>The 14th Australian Machine Gun Company are in line 0-16-a-05-80-0-23-a-20-63-0-11-a-05-45 with 13 guns the remaining 3 being in reserve at Rear Company Headquarters, Kemmel. Two of the guns in line do harassing fire in addition to S.O.S and direct fire. Two are used as anti-aircraft guns and the remainder are silent and will only fire on S.O.S. or in a general attack.</p> <p>The enemy artillery is extremely quiet and so far we have had no casualties.</p> <p>The weather is bitterly cold today.</p> <p>The N.L.C.s and men at Rear Company Headquarters have been engaged in cleaning rifles.</p> <p>Positions of guns in line shown on schedule (Appendix No 1)</p>	Appendix No 1
	2-2-18		<p>Enemy Machine Guns were active today and this evening paying particular attention to Verne Road.</p> <p>One hostile plane flew over our positions, but was too high to be fired at.</p> <p>The gun teams in reserve at Rear Company Headquarters are given 3 hours Gas Rifle and Squad drill each morning.</p>	
			<p>The enemy Machine Guns do a great deal of firing by day and night, but the fire is erratic and badly directed. The majority of the bursts landing well clear of roads and tracks. With guns properly laid this should not be the case.</p>	

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Kemmel	3-2-18		<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Continued</u></p> <p>Our guns fired 2,000 rounds on two picked targets and with better result, we feel sure, than the firing on our positions by German Machine Guns.</p>	JR
	4-2-18		<p>Enemy planes and artillery have been very inactive throughout the day. From dawn to dusk our own planes have been patrolling, both on our own and the enemy's side of the trenches.</p> <p>Advice having been received that the Germans were relieving, our Machine Guns kept up harassing fire on important enemy strong points and cross roads, from dusk and continuing throughout the night.</p> <p>We are having very fine weather which is a contrast to the bad weather we were having this time last year.</p>	JR
	5-2-18		<p>The enemy is using his Machine Guns in place of his light artillery for harassing purposes. Roads and tracks swept by periodical bursts of Machine Gun fire are very unhealthy to persons who have to use them.</p> <p>Two of our guns fired 1,500 rounds each during the early part of the night.</p> <p>The enemy artillery is still very quiet and so far we have had no casualties.</p>	JR

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Kemmel	6.2.18		<p><u>Continued</u></p> <p>An enemy aeroplane came over our line about 3 p.m. and although heavily engaged by Machine Gun and Rifle fire continued for about one and a half hours to fly up and down our front and support lines.</p> <p>We commenced firing at dusk on the usual targets 2,000 rounds being expended.</p>	o/R
	7.2.18		<p>With the exception of some 5.9's on Henry's Wood the enemy artillery has been quiet today.</p> <p>There is far too much movement around certain points today. Persons who have not to live at these places are the chief offenders. They are evidently not aware that the Boche lays on to places where he detects movement by day and traces it up at night with 4.7's and Machine Gun fire.</p>	o/R
	8.2.18		<p>Estaminet Corner came in for a rather severe handling by 5.9's this morning.</p> <p>We increased our fire on to the usual targets, during the night. 4,000 rounds being expended.</p>	o/R
	9.2.18		<p>The enemy Machine Guns are as usual very active from dusk till daylight. Nerve Road comes in for a good deal of their fire.</p> <p>Several of his planes came over our lines during the day, but they were too high for machine gun fire. Shelled the light railway line near Henry's Wood was with 4.2's this afternoon.</p>	o/R

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Kemmel	10.2.18		<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Continued</u></p> <p>During the raid by the 3rd Australian Division the enemy shelled, rather heavily, several points on our sector O.16. at and O.16. V coming in for special attention.</p> <p>During the whole of the operation the enemy used a great number of various color flares.</p> <p>We had no casualties.</p>	O/R
	11.2.18		<p>There is far too much movement in and around Rose Wood. This morning it was fairly heavily shelled with 4.2's.</p> <p>Enemy Machine Guns were not so active as usual. We fired on the usual targets.</p> <p>So far our gunners have not been troubled by hostile artillery fire. Great care is taken that no unnecessary movement takes place in the vicinity of our emplacements.</p>	O/R
	12.2.18		<p>Today the Ravine was frequently shelled. The enemy is probably trying to search out French Mortar batteries.</p> <p>It has been noticed that the Germans use their Machine Guns to mask the firing of their mine-sweepers. Our Machine Guns could be used to advantage for the same purpose.</p> <p>The enemy planes are still inactive. One plane flew high over our lines at 3.30 pm. Our own planes were busy as usual on both sides of our front line.</p> <p>Casualty. 1. O.R. went to hospital affected slightly with shell gas.</p>	

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Kemmel	12.2.18		<p><u>Continued</u></p> <p>About 35 of our men on gun teams were relieved tonight, their places being taken by reserve men from Bean Company Headquarters.</p>	
	13.2.18		<p>The men who were relieved last night were marched to Wulverghem where they had a bath and clean change.</p> <p>Both artilleries were rather quiet today. The weather was very unsuitable for observation.</p> <p>Immediately after dark our light-railway lines and duck board tracks in the vicinity of Weny's Farm, The Ravine and Rose Wood were subjected to a good deal of harassing Machine Gun fire.</p>	
	14.2.18		<p>The weather was again unsuitable for observation. No special activity was noticed in enemy artillery or Machine Gun fire.</p> <p>One enemy plane was driven down and landed in 4th Australian Division Area, another was driven off by anti-aircraft fire.</p>	
	15.2.18		<p>Our Machine Guns fired on the usual targets, 3,000 rounds being expended.</p> <p>Enemy's Artillery was inactive, but his Machine Guns continued to fire on our Roads and Tracks, using a swinging traverse instead of bursts.</p> <p>At 6.25 pm, 8.40 pm. and 11.10 pm. the Germans opened a light</p>	

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Kemmel	15.2.18		<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Continued</u></p> <p>Machine Gun barrage over "No man's land" and shelled our forward positions with Minenwerfer; the firing lasting five or six minutes.</p>	off
	16.2.18		<p>Enemy's Machine Guns fired on Verne Road and eastern slope of Rose Wood. Increased activity in his Artillery and Machine Gun fire being observed at 6.20 pm. and 9.10 pm.</p>	off
	17.2.18		<p>One enemy plane flew low over our line for about half an hour despite heavy fire by our 18 pounders and Machine Guns. During this time the enemy artillery was active, the plane apparently registering. A Minenwerfer bombardment took place at 6.45 pm. to which our trench mortars replied about 9.45 pm. Our Machine Guns opened enfilade fire on trench O. 18. 6. 5.3. to P. 13. a. o. 4, expending 3,000 rounds during the night.</p>	off
	18.2.18		<p>One enemy plane again patrolled our lines, flying low.</p>	off
	19.2.18		<p>Enemy machine guns fired on our tracks and at 7.30 pm opened up to cover Minenwerfer demonstration, Wall Farm coming in for particular attention.</p>	off
	20.2.18		<p>One enemy plane was driven down and landed in 4th Australian Division Area, another was driven off by anti-aircraft fire. Our machine guns fired 1,000 rounds on anti-aircraft fire. Our Machine Guns increased their fire, firing at 2.0.5. rate during a raid, 5,000 rounds being expended. Casualty. 1. O.R. Slight gun shot wound.</p>	off

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Kemmel	21.2.18		<p><u>Continued</u></p> <p>A heavy mist prevented good observation today. With the exception of 0.16. a being shelled with 4.2's the enemy artillery and machine guns were quieter than usual. Nerve Road and Rose Wood were harassed occasionally.</p>	<p>off</p>
	22.2.18		<p>The three guns of this company have been brought up from Rear Company headquarters and are now in reserve at Forward Headquarters making a total of 4 guns in reserve at 0.16. a. 05.30.</p> <p>The usual targets were engaged by our guns and 3,000 rounds fired.</p> <p>The enemy artillery and machine guns were not very active. He shelled in the direction of Starcken Corner and Wyttschaete with a high velocity gun firing a 5.9 shell.</p> <p>While our planes were crossing the German lines it was observed that he fired long streams of green lights, some straight up, others at an angle. One single red light was seen at same time on the right.</p>	<p>off</p>
	23.2.18		<p>In anticipation of an enemy relief, from dusk to midnight our guns fired on tracks at 0.24. central and 0.30. b. s. b. Enfilade fire was brought to bear on transport track running east from 0.24. d. 1.0. After midnight the usual targets were fired on. 9,000 rounds were fired during the night.</p> <p>The enemy artillery shelled Rose Dump, Light Railway and Bug Farm and his machine guns fired on tracks to forward positions and on Wablen Farm.</p>	<p>off</p>

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Table with columns: Place, Date, Hour, Summary of Events and Information, Remarks and references to Appendices. Contains handwritten entries for Kemmel from 24.2.18 to 29.2.18.

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Kemmel	27.2.18		<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Continued.</u></p> <p>was lightly shelled with 4.2's by the German artillery. Rose Wood was treated similarly with 5.9's.</p> <p>Enemy machine guns were active on our right sector during the night, roads and tracks leading to forward positions being kept under frequent bursts of fire.</p> <p>Between 4 am. and 5.30 am. a heavy bombardment by our artillery was directed on to the enemy positions on the left of our sector. As usual a great number of various coloured flares were sent up by the enemy, but his artillery retaliation was feeble.</p>	
	28.2.18		<p>Some enemy planes crossed our lines during the forenoon but were driven off by our aircraft.</p> <p>The enemy's artillery was fairly active in the neighbourhood of Denys Wood, Denys Farm and Rose Wood during the afternoon. A good deal of high explosive shrapnel was directed on these localities.</p> <p>Throughout the night there was practically no artillery fire.</p> <p>Enemy machine guns were far less active than usual.</p>	
			<p><u>Of Rock, Lt</u> Signature of Officer Compiling</p>	<p><u>J.P. Montague Capt</u> Signature of Officer Commanding</p>

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WAR DIARY

OF

14th B. A. G. Coy.

FOR

February 1918

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.

Subject.

1.	Gun Positions and Duties
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Of Rocks B
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P. C. Montague Capt
 Signature of Officer Commanding

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Positions	Map Reference	Duties
No 1	O. 22. d. 47. 37	Same Gun Direct Fire only
2	O. 23. c. 18. 38	
3	O. 23. a. 20. 63	S.O.S and Direct Fire
4	O. 21. b. 90. 85	S.O.S, Harassing + Direct
5	O. 16. c. 45. 40	S.O.S, Anti-Aircraft, Har + Direct
6	O. 16. d. 69. 42	S.O.S and Direct
7	O. 16. b. 02. 79	do
8	O. 10. d. 05. 07	do
9	O. 10. d. 95. 60	do
10	O. 11. a. 02. 01	do
11	O. 11. a. 10. 35	do
12	O. 11. a. 05. 45	do
13	O. 9. b. 30. 74	do
Not Numbered	O. 16. a. 05. 80	In Reserve
Coy H.Q.	O. 16. a. 05. 80	

- (a) There are 13 guns in forward area belonging to this Unit. One gun of the 13 being in Reserve at CHQ.
- (b) Guns 4 + 5 do Harassing Fire in addition to S.O.S. and direct fire.
- (c) Guns 5 + 13 are Anti-Aircraft guns by day.
- (d) All other Guns are silent and will not fire except on S.O.S or in general attack.

T. C. Montague Peft
 Signature of Officer Commanding