

AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Machine Guns

Item number: 24/25/14

Title: 25th Australian Machine Gun
Company

October 1918



AWM4-24/25/14

6/20

274

R.20,000-5/18-11069.

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
~~DUPLICATE.~~
~~TRIPLICATE.~~

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

25th Aust. M Gun Coy

FOR

October 1918.

Signature of Officer compiling W. Arthur Barker Esq.

Signature of Officer Commanding W. Arthur Barker Esq.

WAR DIARY

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.~~

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sheet 62C. FRANCE	1-10-18	10000	<p>Sheet 24C. 4.1</p> <p>16 guns and crews still in line operations for the penetration of the Kemmerburg line. Our casualties since going in on the 29th ult., now total 3 of Ranks killed, 1 of Rank missing (believed wounded) Lieut L. Harbord and 26 of Ranks evacuated wounded; 1 man evacuated sick and Lieut A. Muller and 2 of Ranks slightly wounded, and remaining on duty. The enemy has put up a stubborn resistance, and both artillery and machine gun fire are heavy and accurate; two light field guns at times firing over open sights at our advancing troops. Three of Ranks proceeded on UK leave. Weather cloudy, but rain still continues to hold off.</p>	
As above	2-10-18		<p>Situation and disposition of the company remains the same. No further casualties have been reported, and the reorganisation rendered necessary by the faulty "mopping up" in the earlier phase of the battle was well in hand by midnight.</p>	<p>Arthur Barker Captain Ob. 25th Aust MG Co.</p>

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sheet 62C FRANCE	3.10.18	10000	<p>Early this morning our guns were relieved by the 2nd Aust MG Gun Bn (2nd Aust Division) and returned to trenches in Sheet WIENCOURT A.25 B.05 where they bivouaced till morning. During the occupation of these trenches intermittent shelling by the enemy took place, and the unit was unfortunate enough to suffer four more casualties. At 1 pm this personnel returned to Rear HQ, who were in shelters at L 20 D 10.40. Weather fine and clear.</p>	
Sheet 62B FRANCE	4.10.18	10000	<p>Company engaged in cleaning guns, noting shortages, packing lumber and usual camp duties, and apart from this there is nothing of interest to report.</p>	
As above.	5/10/18 6/10/18		<p>Situation and disposition of the company remains the same. A few long range shells, have fallen in adjacent villages, and at night enemy planes have been over on bombing expeditions.</p>	
			<p>Walter Barker Captain Co. 25th Aust MG Gun Coy.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sheet 625 FRANCE		50000	<u>Continued.</u>	
L 20 D. 10.40	5/10/18		6 O'Ranks proceeded on UK Leave, and two O'Ranks marched in as transferred from 5 th Aust Pioneer Battalion. Weather cloudy & cold.	
	6/10/18			
As above	7/10/18		This unit, together with the 8 th McGun Coy, and Battalion HQ, moved off at 2.30pm by march route for the PERONNE area, and were billeted in old huts at LE MESNIL by 6.30pm. During the latter part of the day the weather was dull and cloudy, with drizzling rain. Lieut Rooney and 2 O'Ranks rejoined from UK Leave. Company Strengths 10 Officers 141 O'Ranks	
As above	8/10/18		Coy moved off at 6pm for entraining point LA CHAPELETTE arriving there at 7.15 pm. The whole unit was entrained at 10pm, and left for new area at midnight. The route was via AMIENS, HILLY-SUR-SOMME, and LONGPRE to MARTINVILLE, where we detrained at 11 AM on the 9 th . After moving clear of the <u>village</u> , the <u>troops had dinner</u> , afterwards marching	
	9/10/18			
				<p>Arthur Barker Capt <u>C. 25th Aust McGun Coy.</u></p>

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sheet 62 ^B L20D 1040	FRANCE 9.10.18	1000	<u>Continued</u> to RAMBOURES, where they were soon settled in passable billets for the night. Weather dull and cloudy with occasional showers.	
Sheet FRANCE RAMBOURES	Deeppre 16016 10.10.18 11.10.18		Apart from allotting men to more comfortable billets there is nothing of interest to report. 11 Casuals rejoined from hospital, and 4 of Ranks from UK Leave. 2 of Ranks proceeded on UK Leave. Weather still continues dull & cloudy with intermittent showers of rain.	
As above	12.10.18		Owing to insufficient accommodation for the whole Battalion at RAMBOURES it was decided to billet this unit in the adjacent village of NESLETTE, some three kilos away, and this move was accomplished by 2.30pm. The new billets are very comfortable, - the village being situated close to a stream, and the men are delighted with their new quarters. 3 of Ranks proceeded on UK Leave; Weather still continues cloudy with rain.	
B Arthur Barker Capt. <u>Ob. 25th Aust. Inf. Coy</u>				

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sheet FRANCE Dieppe No 16 NESLETTE	13/10/18		Sunday. Apart from usual billet fatigues there is nothing of interest to report. 9 NCOs and 4 signallers marched out at 4 pm to Battalion No 12 Schools, and two of Ranks were evacuated sick. Weather still continues cloudy and dull.	
As above.	14/10/18		Company started a course of training as per syllabus issued by Battalion. Lieut Newton N. DCM rejoined from UK Leave, 1 NCO marched out to Australian Corps Gas School, 2 of Ranks proceeded on UK Leave, and one of Rank evacuated sick. Company strength 11 Officers, 128 of Ranks. Weather fine but cold.	
As above	15/10/18 16/10/18		Company employed during the morning as per Battalion syllabus of training. Nothing of further interest to report. One of Rank rejoined from hospital, and one from UK Leave, 2 of Ranks evacuated sick, one of Rank proceeded to Base Post Office, UK, for duty, & 5 of Ranks left on UK Leave. N. Arthur Parker Capt Ob. 25th Aust MG Coy	

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Street FRANCE. Dieppe No. 16. NESLETTE	17-10-18		Company still training in accordance with Battalion Syllabus. On the afternoon of the 18 th personnel were provided with a bath and clean change of underwear at the Divisional baths, which have been established in NESLETTE. Lieut Phillips rejoined from UK Leave, and Lieut de Ross and 4 P/Ranks from hospital. Two P/Ranks were evacuated sick.	
As above	19-10-18		The new C.O. Lieut Col. Mason ^{D.S.O.} inspected Coy billets and transport at 9 A.M. 3 P/Ranks rejoined from UK Leave, 1 from Gas School, and one from hospital. 4 P/Ranks proceeded on UK Leave, Lieut Blackwood C. left to take over duties at the M.G.S.D. Parkhouse.	
As above	20-10-18		Sunday. Apart from usual billet duties there is nothing of interest to report. Weather cloudy & dull with fine rain.	

Walter Barker Cash
Lt. 25th Aust. M.G.B.

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Sheet FRANCE NESLETTE	Luppeth. 2/10/18		<p>Boy training as per Battalion Syllabus</p> <p>In accordance with Divisional letter of 11/10/18, a committee was elected to arrange and supervise the recreational training of the Battalion troops during the winter months.</p> <p>The committee is composed of an officer from each Company with the Bn Cdr. (Lieut Heathcote) as president; Lieut Mintle being this Corps representative. It was decided to institute a programme of indoor and outdoor sports, during the Battalion's period of resting, and to hold a Battalion general sports meeting at an early date, the winning teams or men to be selected for competition in higher formations, and if successful these to finally enter for the Divisional Championship competitions. An Executive Committee was elected in connection with Bn General Sports meeting, with subcommittees to arrange Boxing tournaments and Football fixtures; Sgt Davies, L.A.S. & Ptes Turl, Batt. representing this unit respectively</p>	
			<p>H. Arthur Baker Capt f. Ob 25th Aust Mgb Coy</p>	

WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Street FRANCE. NESLATTE	Dieppe 21.10.18	100161	(Continued) Two Ranks rejoined from UK Leave, Sgt Shannon J.B., from Machine Gun School, Caen; Lieut Wintle & 2 IR marched out to Corps Gas School, C.M.S. Bowman D.I., to O.T. to England, and five Ranks proceeded on UK Leave. Company strength, 11 officers, 119 Ranks. Weather cloudy with rain.	
As above	22.10.18		Situation & disposition of Coy remains as chronicled yesterday. Troops still training as per Battalion syllabus. 3 Ranks proceeded on UK Leave; weather, cloudy, dull, and cold.	
As above	25.10.18		The C.O. held a battalion inspection on Parade ground Raumbures/Bestette Road at 10.15 AM. During the afternoon a soccer football match was arranged between teams of the 14 th MG Coy, and this unit, and a strenuous and highly interesting game took place, resulting in a draw, the scores being 1 point each. 3 Ranks rejoined from UK Leave, & 1 from hospital. 3 Ranks proceeded on UK Leave. H. Arthur Barker Capt p. O.C. 25 th Aust MG Coy	

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Sheet FRANCE	23/10/18		and one of Rank evacuated sick. Weather cloudy and foggy.	
NEWSLETTE	23/10/18			
As above	24/10/18		Company employed as per Battalion syllabus of training till 11 AM when they were paraded to Divisional baths for a bath and change of underwear. One of Rank rejoined from hospital and 2 of Ranks proceeded on U.K. Leave. Weather foggy with occasional showers.	
As above	25/10/18		The Battalion was inspected at 10.30 AM on the Battalion parade ground by the G.O.C. 5 th Aust Division, Major General Sir Talbot Hobbs C.M.G. V.D. The 8 th A.I. Bde Band was in attendance. During the afternoon a "tryout" soccer football match was played between A+B teams of the Battalion, for the purpose of selecting a representative team for future football fixtures. A good game resulted A team winning by 5 points to Nil. 2 of Ranks rejoined from U.K. Leave Captain Barker Capt Of 25 th Aust MG Coy	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sheet FRANCE NESLETTE	Duppé No 16. 26.10.18		Company employed as per Battalion Syllabus of training. This morning four officers left to attend a demonstration of British and German machine guns and trench mortars at the Australian Corps School, RUE. One of Rank rejoined from hospital, and three of Ranks proceeded on UK leave. Weather foggy & dull	
AS above	27.10.18		Sunday. Church parade held at RAMBORES village at 10.30 am this morning. During the afternoon an interesting soccer football match was played between teams of the 32 nd Infantry and 5 th Aust MG Battalion on the 8 th A.I. BOE Sports ground at LE TRANSLAY, victory finally resting with the MG Bn. by 2 points to nil. Lieut Mintle and 2 of Ranks rejoined from Aust Corps Gas School; Capt H.A. Barker from UK leave, and 1 of Rank from hospital sick. 4 of Ranks proceeded on UK leave. Weather clear and fine.	
			H Arthur Barker Capt C.O. 25 th Aust MG Company	

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Sheet FRANCE NESLETTE	Dierpe No. 16. 28/10/18		Company employed as per Battalion Syllabus of training. Captain H. A. Barker D. S. M., resumed command of the unit on rejoining from UK Leave. During the morning the troops were accommodated with a bath and a clean change of underwear at the Divisional Baths. The Divisional Cinema and Concert party is showing for three nights at RAMBOURES commencing tonight. Two casualties rejoined, and two reinforcements, marching in were taken on strength. 2 of Ranks proceeded on UK Leave Coy strength 13 Officers, 111 of Ranks. Weather fine and clear.	
As above	29/10/18		Situation and disposition of Coy remains as chronicled above. Four of Ranks proceeded on UK Leave, and four rejoined from usual 14 Days furlough to England. Weather clear and fine.	

H. Arthur Barker Capt
C. 25th Aust MG Coy

