

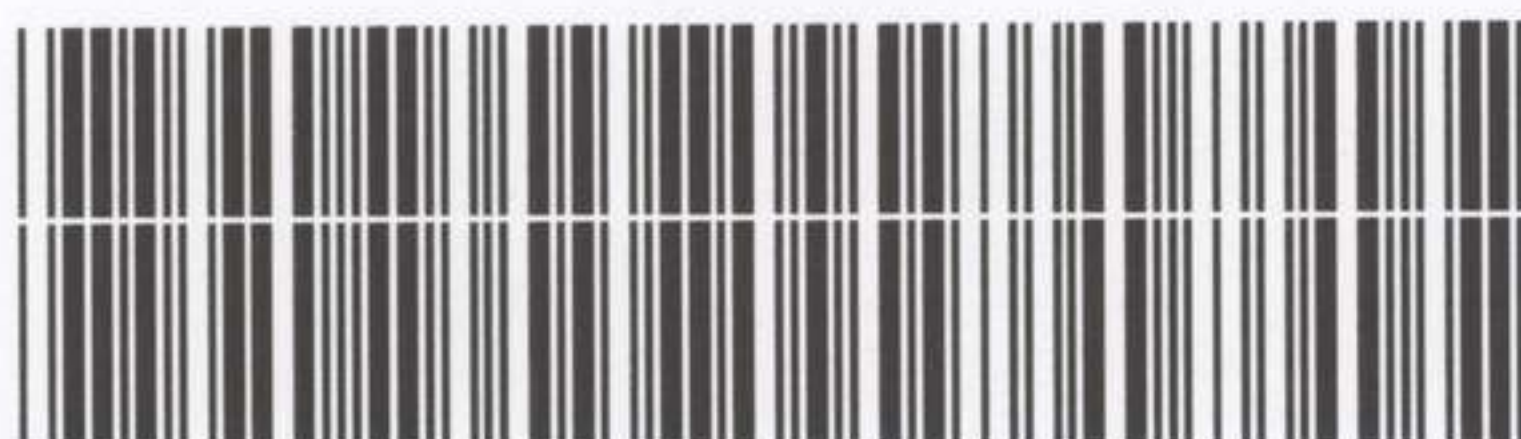
**AWM4**  
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,**  
**1914-18 War**

Machine Guns

**Item number:** 24/6/6

**Title:** 1st Australian Machine Gun Company

August 1916



AWM4-24/6/6



Wed. 2 Aug. 1916 Made out <sup>52</sup>  
 programme of work embracing a  
 period of one week. Morning  
 carried out a route march  
 of ten miles. Afternoon sent  
 the men. A great deal of office  
 work is being dealt with.

Thursday 3 Aug 1916 Morning carried  
 out practice of coming into action  
~~with~~ regard being had to con-  
 cealment from view with best  
 position for firing on target.

Afternoon - Indirect fire explained  
 & demonstrated. Received a new 7 1/2 KERS GUN

Friday 4 August 1916 Route march  
 with limbers to Bois de CAHAPLES  
 where a small tactical scheme  
 was carried out. In afternoon  
 fired 4000 rounds S.A.A., every  
 man who was not a regular Number  
 1, 2, or 3. fired. Men beginning to  
 look normal again. Very hot  
 weather. Carried out revolver practice

Saturday 5 August 1916 Route march  
 during which indication & recognition  
 of targets was carried out.

Afternoon overhead covering fire  
 shown & demonstrated. Received  
 orders to move in a day or two



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Sunday 6 August 1916 Church  
 parade of 30. Brigade directed  
 all men who did not take part  
 in fighting at POZIERES shoes  
 carry on today with instruction,  
 this was duly carried out.

Monday 7 Aug 1916. Men were  
 fitted out today with new shirts  
 tunics breeches & socks. Also  
 new boots. General brush up  
 in mechanism care of gun  
 stoppages etc. Three men (one Cpl  
 1 L/Cpl & 1 Pte) were apprehended  
 on 2nd August in AMIENS -  
 a town prohibited to all troops.

Cpl. H. A. DRUCE was remanded for  
 a 7 GCM. L/Cpl. LOVELL V. was  
 deprived of lance stripe & awarded  
 14 days FPN<sup>o</sup> 2. and Pte TELFORD  
 R. A. was awarded 14 days FPN<sup>o</sup> 2.

Table of Moves issued with D.O  
 No 44 dated 7 August received.  
 First Brigade Group will march  
 out on 9th inst.

Officers of M. G. Companies are now  
 no longer seconded from their  
 Bns but are part of the Machine  
 Gun Corps.



8 Aug 1916. Men all issued with <sup>54</sup>  
 two pairs of socks each. The Brigade  
 Bombing officer gave the Company a  
 lecture on the different varieties of  
 bombs, our own & enemy. At 11-30 AM  
 all officers except the orderly officer  
 attended a lecture on "use of smoke  
 in the attack" by the Gas Expert  
 attached to the Reserve Army.

Afternoon held kit inspection & every  
 man was issued with a pair of short  
 underpants and a singlet

9 August 1916 Marched out at 0915  
 arrived at LA TICOGNE at 1230  
 after a hot & dusty march. We  
 passed the 2<sup>nd</sup> Div artillery & the  
 5th Inf. Bde. The long steep hill  
 outside CANAPLES was found difficult  
 for the transport to negotiate. We  
 are occupying the same billets as  
 we occupied before in marching to  
 PERNOIS via BONNEVILLE

10 August 1916 Marched out at 0900  
 arrived HERRISSART at 1200. Billeted  
 in the town. Rained during the march

11 August 1916 All officers attended  
 demonstration of smoke bombs & smoke  
 candles in the morning, afternoon a  
 demonstration of obtaining communication  
 with contact aeroplanes was held. Men issued.



12 August 1916 Carried on training today. Unpacked & repacked timber. Examined belts & guns. Sergeants BAYER L. & SYKES H. were today promoted to commissioned rank. A. I. F orders No 75. Rained

13 August 1916 Church parade for all denominations. General BIRDWOOD was present and made a speech to the men, he also presented recently awarded honours. Field General Court Martial on Corporal D RUCE held.

14 August 1916 Marched out of HERISSART at 1430. Marched to Bois de VADENCOURT, men in huts. Roads very slippery, transport experienced difficulty in negotiating slippery roads up to Bois.

15 August 1916 Marched out at 0900 arriving at bronze position on hill near ALBERT. Went to LOZIERES in afternoon & arranged to relieve 12th A. M. G. Co. at early hour tomorrow morning.

16 August 1916 One section ('B') under Lt. L. G. SEWELL relieved posts in close support of front line by 0600. Remaining positions relieved by 0800. Company Hdqrs. are for time being at BAILIFF WOOD in a large German dug-out.



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17 August 1916 The front line & supports were heavily shelled during the night. Our casualties were 1 O. R. Killed (buried by heavy shell) Lt GILL with two men took up a position so as to be able to cover the ground to left of FINE. MOUQUET in case of possible counter attack. In my opinion the position is un sound, as the trench is shallow & muddy & no conveniences exist for belt filing & protection of crews, however, as the battalions are at present extremely weak the M. Buns are to assist them in close support. Indirect fire positions for six guns are being prepared.

18 Aug 1916 At a conference of C.O.s at Brigade Headquarters we were informed certain events were to happen tonight. All arrangements were made for firing six indirect firing guns commencing five minutes before zero time & continuing until the fire slackened off. As the 4th Bn. on the left were counter attacked a gun under Capt. DAVISON of D Sect was sent up in support. Our telephone wire to advanced Brigade Hdqrs. was most useful it having only been smashed twice for a few minutes each time during the night. By this means communication



with Brigade + Advanced Brigade <sup>57</sup>  
 Headquarters was maintained. Ptes  
 ALLMOND LESLIE + Lt/Cpl ANDERSON did  
 excellent work in keeping communications  
 intact.

19 August 1916 During last night's operations  
 40,000 rounds were fired by the six  
 guns doing indirect fire. The general  
 operations appeared to have been a  
 success. Orders that we were to be  
 relieved by midnight were received at  
 1630. Regret that Lieut J. G. MCKAY +  
 seven of his gun crew were killed by  
 shell fire about 1830. Relief by 3rd  
 Aust. M.G.C. complete by 11:30 PM.  
 All ranks extremely pleased to be  
 relieved, the strain of modern bombard-  
 ments is very heavy + all are very weary.

20 August 1916 Arrived in ALBERT  
 during early hours of the morning.  
 In billets there. Men rested all  
 day. Orders received at 2100 regarding  
 move early tomorrow morning.

21 Aug 1916 Proceeded by march  
 route to WARLOY. As we were leaving  
 transport lines three German aeroplanes  
 appeared overhead but no bombs  
 were dropped. All ranks tired so  
 rested as much as possible  
 orders received to move to LA VICOGNE  
 tomorrow morning.



22 August 1916 Arrived at LA  
 TICOPNE after a hot and long  
 march about 1330. The issue of a  
 locker to the Company would prove  
 a great boon. Billeted in same  
 billets as heretofore.

23 August 1916 Gave men a good rest  
 all the morning. At 3 P.M. G.O.C  
 1st A.N.Z.A.C. reviewed the 1st Inf Bde  
 (less 1st Bn. & 1st Coy) & presented  
 medal ribbons for honours recently  
 awarded. He also made a brief speech  
 eulogising the behaviour of the troops  
 under heavy shell fire.

24 August 1916 Marched to BAGNEUX  
 near DOULLENS. On the way saw  
 a portion of the Guards Brigade whose  
 bearing & discipline favourably impressed  
 my command. As it is expected we  
 entrain from DOULLENS N. The route  
 was carefully reconnoitred.

25 August 1916 Practised this  
 morning advancing & halting whilst on  
 the march after the style of the  
 Guards Brigade. The men take an  
 interest in the work & the results  
 attained were satisfactory.  
 Entrained by sections. A section  
 with 1st Bn. B with 2nd Bn & so on



26 August 1916 Arrived at <sup>59</sup> PAPERINSHE  
with remainder of 1st Inf Bde.  
Marched into an old Canadian  
Camp, men are all in huts.  
Rained heavily.

27 August 1916 Church parade  
at 0900. Muster parade at  
1030 unpacked & repacked haversacks,  
inspected gas helmets & got guns  
ready for action. Afternoon ride  
to Brigade Headquarters, but no  
news is yet available.

28 Aug 1916 No 991 Sgt EDINBURGH  
J. who has been missing since  
the 22nd. reported today under  
escort. He gave himself up at  
AMIENS. Took summary of  
evidence for a T.G.C.M. of his  
account. Paraded morning  
& afternoon. Weather conditions  
good.

29 Aug. 1916 Proceeded in motor  
car as far as YPRES with C.Os. of  
all battalions of 1st Inf Bde.  
Conferred with I.O.C. 10th M.G.Co  
regarding relieving him on night  
of 31st Aug / 1st Sept.



30 August 1916. Men were marched<sup>60</sup> into POPERINGHE where they had a hot bath. Were informed today that we have to relieve the CANADIAN MOTOR MACHINE GUN BRIGADE'S guns in our sector. As the 10th M.G. Co have nine guns in action this further relief will entail a deal of trouble. The Company is 2 Officers and 17 other ranks short at present.

31 August 1916. Marched out of CAMP ERIE at 7 P.M., entrained at BRANDHOEK for YPRES' ASYLUM arriving there at 9 P.M. - Were met by guides from 10th M.G. Co who led us to a rendezvous at TRANSPORT FARM (Map Reference I 21 A. 6. 2. BELGIUM SHEET 28 NW 1: 20000) Our transport with gear aboard arrived at 10 P.M. - Guides then proceeded to various gun positions which were relieved at 2.30 A.M.

Nine guns are in action, 4 from B Section, 4 from D Section, & 1 from C Section. Were informed that the Lewis Machine Gun Section of the 1st Pioneer Bn. are attached to us. This will obviate my difficulties in arranging to relieve Canadian MMGB tomorrow.



WAR DIARY  
MARCH TO 31 AUG 1916

SECRET

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