

**AWM4**

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

Machine Guns

**Item number:** 24/11/23

**Title:** 6th Australian Machine Gun  
Company

January 1918



AWM4-24/11/23

6<sup>th</sup> AMG Coy

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WAR DIARY

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.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
6 <sup>th</sup> AMG Coy NEUVRE EGLISE 28 SW T20D209.5	1918 Jan.	1 <sup>st</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> Includ.	The company was engaged in Physical Training gun Barrage Drill in the mornings and carried on Salvage Duties in the afternoons. During this period war material to the value of £164-0 was salvaged.	
		6 <sup>th</sup>	11 a.m. Church Parade held at Y.M.C.A. at Kortegypt.	
		7 <sup>th</sup> -11 <sup>th</sup> Includ.	Company engaged in Physical Training gun Barrage Drill in the mornings. The afternoons were devoted to Salvage Work, war material to the value of £754-19-10 60 lbs Paper & 40 lbs cardboard being collected.	
		12	Guns & ammunition were overhauled preparatory to moving into the line. The Nos. 1 of gun crews moved into the line in the afternoon.	
		13	No 2 Section + 1 gun team of No 1 Section forming Rear group left camp at 1 p.m. and entrained at T26c Central for Hyde Park at which point they collected gun gear & rations and moved forward to positions relieving the Rear group of 7 <sup>th</sup> AMG Coy at 3.45 p.m. Rear group consisted of No 5 gun situated at U15d 85.70 & Nos. 6, 7, 8, 9 guns situated at U16a 05.17 forming Battery. No 3 Section forming Left group & No 4 Section with 1 gun crew of No 1 Section forming Forward group left camp at 3 p.m. and entrained at T26c Central for Hyde Park at which point gun gear and rations were collected & crews moved to positions	

A6945 Wt. W11422/M1160 350,000 12/16 D. D. & L. Forms/C./2118/14.

Douglas R. Cox

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WAR DIARY  
or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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6 <sup>th</sup> AMG Coy - Ploegsteert 28 SW 4	1918 13 <sup>th</sup> contd.		Left Group consisting of 1 Battery of 4 guns:- No 10 gun situate at v 9 d 80.00 No 11 gun situate at v 10 c 00 30 No 12 gun situate at v 11 a 00 70 No 13 gun situate at v 10 b 17. completed relief at 5.15 p.m. Forward group 5 guns comprising Battery:- No 1 gun situate at v 11 c 55.67 No 2 gun situate at v 10 b 90 60 No 3 gun situate at v 10 a 55.15 No 4 gun situate at v 10 a 85 50 No 14 gun situate at v 17 a 45 45 completed relief at 6.15 p.m. Very little firing was done during the night by either side - Half the company remained at the rear and moved to Park Camp near Romarin (36NW) B8C 25.00. They were engaged on fatigue duties between Forward + Rear Headquarters carrying ammunition + rations.	
36NW B8C 25.00	14		Snow commenced falling at 4.30 am. Only a light fall was registered. Both our + enemy artillery indulged in counter battery work. A few 5.9 and Minnenwerfer shells fell in the sector. Enemy machine gun fire at times swept across Dram Track running from Long River to Support Line. Our own guns fired 7500 rounds during the night on targets at v 12 b 00 15 v 12 b 40 30 v 12 c 7 3 v 12 d 4 7 v 18 b 00 55. There was great aerial activity during the day our own planes being especially active.	

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Rondelet Rue Capt

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6 <sup>TH</sup> AING Coy	1918 Jan 15		Misty rain fell early in the morning increasing later to a steady downpour. Much damage was done to gun emplacements & trenches whilst dugouts remained uncomfortably wet for the balance of time the company was in the line. Artillery was fairly quiet as observation was practically impossible. Enemy machine guns showed slight activity. During the night our own guns fired 8500 rounds on targets at U12C 3.4 U12C 55.75 U18C 00.55. U18C 00.55 U12C 06.25-U12C 4.4	
	16		Rained at intervals during the day. Artillery engaged in counter-battery work. Shells were observed falling on Messines Ridge & Ultimo Avenue. Pill box at No2 position was hit and gun emplacement slightly damaged. During the night crews were engaged in strengthening emplacements which had been damaged by rain & rebuilding parapets & pumping dugouts. 3750 rounds were fired on U18C 0.8 U12C 60.95 to U12C 1.5.	
	17		Very misty. Warneton Tower was not visible the whole day. Enemy machine gunners were very active firing at intervals on Truck Line from Long Ruin to Support Line. Our artillery fairly quiet. Enemy artillery shelled Useful Lane DOUVRE VALLEY. During the night we fired 2000 rounds on U12C 00.25 to U12C 4.4 & crews still further strengthened positions.	Doxlas & Rae Cas

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WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date 1918	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
6 <sup>th</sup> AMB Coy	Jan. 18		Weather improved. Enemy machine gun fire again very heavy on sector. Shells fell very close to No 3 position but no damage was done to position. No Shrapnel burst over Ultimo Avenue. Our own machine guns fired 7250 rounds on U12C 83.38 to U12 d 20.58 U12C 4.1 to U12 d 5885 U18 b 00.55 U12 b 00.25 to U12 4.3. Crews were also employed in cleaning up trenches and draining shelters & strengthening positions.	
	19		Enemy machine gun fire greatly decreased but still firing at intervals on Truck Line. Our own planes showed marked activity but very few enemy planes were observed. Balloon observed at 3.30 pm travelling in NW direction. Artillery very quiet. Fired 7500 rounds during the night on targets at U12C 5.1 to U12 d 2.6. U12 b 00.25 to U12 b 4.3 Shelters were improved anti aircraft mount strengthened trench revetted during night.	
	20		Fairly quiet during the day with slight artillery activity, towards evening. We fired 2000 rounds on target at U12 b 00.25 to U12 b 4.3 2000 rounds on V74.1. 2000 rounds on Road U12 b 40.25 to U12 b 75.30 1500 rounds on U12C 45.10 to U12C 30.35 2000 rounds on U12C 90.40 during the night. also attempted again to pump water out of trenches & shelters.	

Rouge & Blue Cap

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6th AMC Coy	1918	21	Half company which had been at Lark Camp relieved the crews of the line. Relief was completed at 4.30 pm. Artillery very quiet. During the night we fired 1500 rounds on U12c 55.05 to U18d 65.83 1750 rounds on Road at V12b 40.25 to V12b 75.30 2000 rounds on Mound at Cb 7a 4.1 2000 rounds on U12c 90.40 2000 rounds on U18a 70.95.	
	22		Artillery engaged in fair amount counter-battery work. Aeroplanes exceptionally busy. During the night we fired 2000 rounds on target at V12b 40.25 to V12b 8.3. 2000 rounds on V12b 0.2 to V12b 4.3 1500 rounds on Truck Junction at V7a 3.0. 4000 rounds on U12c 8.3 to U12d 3.6. - Gun flashes having been observed at U15c the position was kept under observation with the result that Capt. Rae observed & reported as follows. "Gun flashes were observed at U15c 90.35 as follows: - At 120° Magnetic Time from flash to sound of gun 20 seconds. Gun therefore about 7300 yds distant. About 8" Howitzer and was firing on battery at Hyde Park. At 153° Magnetic Time from flash to sound of gun 16 secs. Gun therefore about 5800 yds. distant. At 151° Magnetic. No time obtained. These two latter probably 77 mm.	

Rae's Report

WAR DIARY

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6 <sup>th</sup> AMBCoy	1918 Jan. 23.		Great aerial activity was manifested during the day by both sides. Artillery very quiet. Few Minnenwerfer shells fell in the vicinity of No 1 gun but no damage was done to position. Enemy machine gun fire very subdued. Our machine guns fired 8000 rounds on targets at V12C83 to V12d 30-66 V18a 69 99 Road V12b 40 25 to V12b 75 30 Mound V7a 41	
	24		Great activity in the air was again the dominant factor of the day's happenings. Our machine gun fire proved very effective at times frequently turning enemy planes. Little counter battery work was done during the day. Artillery being very passive. During the night we fired 12000 rounds on targets at V12C83 to V12d 80-66 V18a 69 99 Road V12b 40 25 to V12b 75 30	
	25		Exceptionally fine day & consequently great aerial activity. One enemy plane brought down on left sector. Enemy artillery very active. Fired 11" shells all day in the vicinity of batcomb. Reported Minnenwerfer firing from V12C85 30. Fired 12000 rounds on V12C90 40 Road V12b 46 25 to V12b 75 30 Mound at V7a 41. Had 1 man wounded.	
	26.		Very misty. No activity in the air. Artillery quiet. Few Pineapple Bombs. Minnenwerfer shells fell in vicinity of V11c. At 5 pm guns fired in conjunction with artillery & trench mortar on V18a 70 65 to V12c 45 10 trench V12c 30 35 - V12c 45 10. V12c 8-3 - V12d 80 66. V18a 69-99 for 15 minutes. Later we fired on Road at V12b 40 25 - V12b 75 30. Mound at V7a 41.	

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Douglas Ractaw

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6th AMG Coy Hazybrouck 1/100000 JH 8598.	1918 Jan 27		Again very misty. Very quiet. Company was relieved by 10th AMG Coy. Relief completed at 5:15 pm. Crews were met at Hyde Park Corner by limbers and conveyed to Tent Camp to which camp Rear Headquarters and half coy had moved in the morning.	
	28		The day was spent in overhauling + cleaning gun gear.	
	29		Morning was spent by men at the baths and the afternoon devoted to cleaning up camp preparatory to moving. Transport left for Watterdal staying the night at Strazee. (Hazybrouck 1/100000 JH 6575)	
	30		Coy was relieved at Tent Camp by 8th AMG Coy. + moved out of camp at 2 pm to Entrain at De Pennabak which place was left at 7 pm. Transport stayed the night at Pognescur. (Hazybrouck 1/100000 JH 4570)	
Hazybrouck 1/100000 JH 2050	31	12:40am	Arrived at Lottinghem + marched to Dillets at Watterdal. Movement of coy (save Transport) completed at 3 am. Transport arrived at halted at Lumbe, continuing + completing the move on 1st Feb.	

Douglass Mac Cam