

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

Machine Guns

Item number: 24/11/32

Title: 6th Australian Machine Gun
Company

October 1918



AWM4-24/11/32

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
DUPLICATE.
TRIPLICATE.

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

6th Australian Machine Gun Coy

FOR

October

1918

2ND AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTN.
No.
Date <i>October 1918</i>

Signature of Officer compiling

Bordas R. R. Captain

Signature of Officer Commanding

Bordas R. R. Captain

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.)

2ND
AUSTRALIAN
MACHINE GUN BATTN.
No.
Date

Army Form C. 2118.

102

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
6 th AMGC.	1918			
Shut 620 NE	Oct 1 st		Boy left Hamel X13010 at 09-15 and marched to Villers L12 d 84 arriving at 13-15. Boy acting under orders of G.O.C 6 th A.I.B.C. remained in old trenches awaiting operation orders.	
	2 nd		Left Villers at 09-15 and marched to Nanroy (WIANCOURT 1/20 G16 b 34) at 11-00 Transport lines were established at G160 77.	
	3 rd		Awaiting Movement & Operation Orders.	
	4 th		Covered by report on Operations	
	5 th		In Report of Operations attached. Boy relieved by B Coy 114 th American M.G. Batt. Relief completed by midnight and crews moved independently to Nanroy (WIANCOURT 1/20 G16 b 34).	
	6 th		Boy left Nanroy at 11-00 and marched to Herbicourt (62° NE L14 a 77) reaching destination and billeting at 13-15	
	7 th		Transport left at 06-15 and proceeded by road to Bappy (AMIENS 17 J1) arriving and halting at 16-00. Boy left at 09-00 for Tincourt (62° NE J24 a 50) at which point boy intrained for La Roche (AMIENS). Detaining at La Roche at 19-00 the boy marched to St Ledger 57° P23 d 63 arriving and billeting at 11-30	
	8 th		03-30. Boy rested all day. Transport left Bappy at 06-00 and proceeded to Saours arriving and halting at 15-30	

Douglas Blue Cap

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.)



Army Form C. 2118.

102

Place	Date 1918	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
6 th AMGC.	Oct. 9		Transport left. Dours at 06:00 and completed move to St. Ledger at 15:30	
	10		Day spent in overhauling gun gear and taking shortages.	
	11		Company paraded at 09:30 for Physical Training Elementary gun Drill Mechanism. Afternoon devoted to Sports	
	12		Phys. Training gun Drill Mechanism in morning. Afternoon games.	
	13		Church Parade at 10:45	
	14-19		See attached Syllabus.	
	20		Church Parade at 10:45	
	21-25		See attached Syllabus	
	26		Battalion Sports held.	
	27		Church Parade at 10:45	
	28-31		See attached Syllabus.	
			Strength of Coy Oct 1 st 12 officers 1960. Struck off Strength Bank basanathio, 2 off killed 3 off 180 R. Wdd. other losses 1 off 130 R. Total off Strength 6 off 31 off.	
			Taken on Strength 4 off 22 off. Present Strength of Coy 10 off 187 off.	
			Borglas MacApt	

6th Company Commanders Report on Operations on Oct 5th 1918

At 1st on 4th inst. I received verbal orders from 10 Batta to report to the 6th & 13th which I did forthwith. The Brig General explained the scheme of attack to me and attached 2 guns to each of the 3 attacking Battalions. The remaining 10 guns to be in reserve.

The officer in charge of the attacking sections interviewed the Battalion com^{ds} and were told exactly what to do.

The attached reports from Section A & B give the operation in detail.

There is no report from the 12th section which remained in support at H 10 d 4 & throughout the operation.

Cos A & D were at H 10 at 13 with those of the 3 Batt^{ns} operating.

Casualties	Killed	2 officers
	Wounded	3 "
		18 O.R.s

The Americans relieved us by 12-30 am Oct 6th 1918.

Sgd: J. B. Drummond Capt
O.C. 6th AMGC

Comdant 3 Batta

3

Report Covering Action of No 3 & 4 guns of No 1 Section

Before moving off from camp at G 16 b 44 the section planned the operation to No 1.

The gun teams moved out from G 16 b 44 at 530 pm on 4th post and marched to trench at H 10 b 35 60. Some ammunition ration etc were carried in bundles. At the trench section removed gear from bundles and remained there until 4 am on 5th post when they moved forward to a bunker in rear of Lumbering Off Tape.

At 545 am No 3 & 4 guns took up positions on Tape at H 5 b 41. On barrage lifting 3 & 4 guns moved off with Inf 1st wave to bunker road at H 5 b 9 5 where they remained, 6 mins to allow infantry to move on. They then moved up about 150 yds behind infantry to B 300 54 where shelter was taken in shell hole from MG fire. MG fire easing off No 3 gun dug in at B 300 62 and No 4 gun moved on and occupied main trench at B 300 70 35 at 9 am suffering no casualties. Teams moved to objectives in single file at 30 paces interval. No 3 gun did no shooting acting only as a covering gun for No 4 and infantry. No 4 gun engaged German MG Co.

small parties of infantry moving towards MONTBREHAN at
 sunset road B25 to very successfully, are being at
 1000-1200 yds and controlled by Infy. officers with glasses

Sgt J. J. Bennett bpt
 Det. Tuckon

Longer & Mac Co ps

Report covering action of No 2 Section

2 guns of my section were ordered to attack with the Pioneer Batts and cover the right flank of the main attack. To reach Neville's Cross or thereabouts and help in the consolidation.

We left Quarry area at 5.30 pm on the 4th inst and reached trenches at 11.10 & 11.8 at 7.30 pm. At 9 pm we went forward with the Pioneers and took over the front line at 11.6 & 6.1.

At 4.45 am on the 5th inst we withdrew about 300 yds with the Pioneers but again went forward at 6.10 am.

At 6.50 am reached Neville's Cross having put out of action 14 German machine guns at I 7a 74 & I 7a 43.

Objectives were reached without difficulty.

14 German machine guns were put out of action along the railway line at I 7a 43. We came upon these suddenly and annihilated them. About 100 killed tried to get away. 300 of these were killed and 50 wounded, 4 left being fired at 300-400 yds range. Many of the wounded were carried in. Our guns also came into action on right flank causing heavy casualties among the enemy who was massing.

Donald MacLellan Capt. J. P. Adams 2nd
No 2 Section

Defence covering action of No 3 Section

At 3 am on 5th inst we moved from Namroy to Foucourt reaching village at 5 am

The section commander had verbal orders at 10 am to proceed with 4 guns to the North & North East and to cover the ground to the North and NW of the village as the enemy were expected to counter attack

At 10-15 we moved from Foucourt maintaining all gear at 1.30 pm we had the 4 guns in position at

B30 C 4.7 2 guns

B30 C 9.4

B30 D 3.1

Positions were reached without difficulty

Sgt A. Foster Sgt
No 3 Section

Douglas Place Camp

Report Covering Action of No. 4 Section

No. 4 Section moved off from rear camp at 3 am under orders to occupy positions in reserve at H10 b. Verbal orders from G.I. Company were then received to move forward and to take up positions on right of village MONTBRETHAN to give additional support to infantry.

Guns were moved forward at 8.30 am and went left of REMECOURT to H5 d 11 and then through the village and took shelter from heavy enemy barrage in Railway cutting at H6 c 54.

Section officer reported to 2nd Batt N Co as to situation forward and decided to move guns to H12 b 9.9.

In Railway cutting ~~cross~~ of 2 guns became casemates so that only 2 guns could be moved to H12 b 9.9 in position with 2nd Batt.

From this position scattered groups of retreating enemy were engaged along ridge and roads through I7 a & b and the road out of the village through I1 d to I7 b. Two belts were fired & repelled. The effect of the fire was to cause enemy to attempt to break through Douglas & Park.

them to retire beyond rising ground.
 At 2.30 pm a gun was mounted in conjunction
 with a Lewis gun of 18th Bt at 1000 ft.
 Owing to infantry withdrawing from ridge and the
 uncertainty whether enemy occurred. Capt NTH of
 MONTBRETAIN difficulty was experienced in
 selecting positions to strengthen infantry whilst
 consolidating.

Sgt W Carrick Sgt
 R. Section

Douglas MacLay

Syllabus of Training for Week ending Oct 19th 1918

2ND
AUSTRALIAN
MACHINE GUN BATTN.

No.

Date

Day	9.30 TO 10.15	10.15 TO 11	11.15 TO 12 NOON	12 - 2	Afternoon
	Infantry Drill 8		Lecture No 1 Section		
Tuesday	Rifle Exercises	Elementary Training	Immediate Action	Lunch	Baths
		Inspection - Adjusting of Respirators	Lecture No 4 Section		
Wednesday	Do.		Mechanism	"	Recreational Training
		Elementary Training 8	Lecture No 2 Section		
Thursday	Do.	Action	Immediate Action	"	
		Light Telling and Laying	Lecture No 3 Section		
Friday	Do.		Causes of Stoppages		"
			Care and Cleaning		
Saturday	Do.	J.O.C.I			Half Holiday

6TH Aust M.G. Coy.

Deane + Mac

R. Ballister. Lieut.

2nd Aust Machine Gun Batt. Syllabus of Training

2ND
AUSTRALIAN
MACHINE GUN BATTN.

No.

Date.

102

Day	09.30 - 10.00	10.00 - 10.30	10.30 - 11.00	11.00 - 11.45	11.45 - 12.30	12.30 - 14.00	14.00 - 16.30
	Close Order Drill	I.B.R. Drill	(Lectures) Compass Work	Stoppages	Concealment of guns		
Monday	(Infantry)	One Company Machine Gun Range	Limber Drill	Map Reading	Judging Distance	Stoppages	Lunch Recreational Training
Tuesday	"	One Company Machine Gun Range	I.B.R. Drill	Range Cards	Open Warfare by Section	Open Warfare by Section	"
Wednesday	"	One Company Machine Gun Range	Indication and Recognition of Targets	Contours	Limber Drill	Range Cards	"
Thursday	"	One Company Machine Gun Range	I.B.R. Drill	Compass Work	Open Warfare by Section		"
Friday	"	One Company Machine Gun Range	Stoppages	Barrage	Indication and Recognition of Targets	Range cards Practical	"
Saturday		One Company Machine Gun Range					Compass & Map Work

APPENDIX

12

Syllabus of Training for Week ending 7-11-18

2...D
AUSTRALIAN
MACHINE GUN BATTN.
No.
Date

Day	09:30 - 10:00	10:00 - 11:15	11:15 - 12:30	14:00 - 16:30	Col I	Col II
	Close Order Drill	Mechanism Subjects Col I	Tactical Open Warfare Subjects Col II		General Description	Elementary Map Reading
Monday	1. Section for boy on 25 yds Range				Mechanism Stoppages	Practical Compass Work
	Close Order Drill	Mechanism Subjects Col I	Tactical Open Warfare Subjects Col II		Into Action Care. cleaning	Mounting from all positions
Tuesday	1. Section for boy on 25 yds Range				Spare Parts Box. Stripping and assembling. gun drill	Concealment,
	Route March				Belt Fitting and Repairs	Combined Light practice
Wednesday	Route :- St Leger - Somant in Pontoon				Timing. Reasons for correct	Judging Distances
	P7 & 40-70 (Surroundings) - St Owen - St Leger				Light etc.	Part I. N.Y. Range Course
	Close Order Drill	Mechanism Subjects Col I	Tactical Open Warfare Subjects Col II			Range Cards.
Thursday	1. Section for boy on 25 yds Range					Lumber Pack Work
	Close Order Drill	Mechanism Subjects Col I	Tactical Open Warfare Subjects Col II			(No Barrage Work)
Friday	1. Section for boy on 25 yds Range					
	Close Order Drill	Mechanism Subjects Col I	Tactical Open Warfare Subjects Col II			
Saturday	1. Section for boy on 25 yds Range					

Organised Games. Sports. Recreational Training.

Boupa. H. R. C. 13

APPENDIX

13

SECOND AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION.SPORTS MEETING.

It is proposed to hold a Battalion Sports Meeting on Saturday, 26th. instant, weather permitting.

1. Entries are called for the following events and should reach the Secretary (Lieut. J.L. Lane) not later than Monday 21st. instant.

2. A nomination fee of 1 franc per entry (irrespective of event) must accompany each entry.

The Committee desire, that these nominations pass through Orderly Room Clerk, to facilitate matters both for nominee and Secretary.

3. Prize moneys for events will follow when all possible funds, collected from various sources, have been assessed.

PROGRAMME.

Saturday, 26/10/18.

1. 100 yards Flat Race.
2. 220 " Flat Race.
3. 440 " Flat Race.
4. 880 " Flat Race.
5. 120 " Hurdle Race. 10 Hurdles, 3 feet.
6. High Jump. X 4 feet 6 in.
7. Long Jump (or Broad). Running.
8. Hop, step and a jump.
9. Rug-o'-War. (1 Team each Coy. represented. 8 men 1 Capt.)
10. Obstacle Race.
11. Relay Race. 1 Team per Coy. & H.Q. of 4 men each, each man runs 220 yards; - 880 yards.
12. Sack Race. 50 yards.
13. Musical Chairs. (On G.S. Bikes).
14. Horse Rescue Race. (2 jumps).
15. Wrestling on Mules. (4 from each unit).
16. Mule Rescue Race. (3 jumps).
17. Horse Hunters Contest. (4 jumps open).
18. Officers Mule Race. (2 furlongs).
19. Mule Race. (3 furlongs. open).

Signed. J.L. Lane Lieut.
Hon. Secretary.

Augustine

SECOND AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALIONSPORTS MEETING RESULTS

Event 1.	Obstacle Race.	1st. 7th.Coy. Dvr. Dixon	Points 3.
		2nd. 22nd.Coy. Ryan	" 2
Event 2.	Hop Step & Jump.	1st. 6th.Coy. Cpl.Trevan	Points 3.
		2nd. " " Pte.Walker	" 2.
		3rd. " " -	" 1.
Event 3.	100 yds.Flat Race.	1st. 7th.Coy. Dvr.Dixon	Points 3.
		2nd. 6th.Coy. Sgt.McGaffin	" 2
		3rd. 6th.Coy. Lt.O'Brien	" 1.
Event 4.	Sack Race.	1st. 6th.Coy. Pte. Monk	Points 3
		2nd. 5th.Coy. " O'Brien	" 2
		3rd. 6th.Coy. -	" 1
Event 5.	220 yds.Flat Race.	1st. 6th.Coy. Sgt.McGaffin	Points 3.
		2nd. 6th.Coy. Pte.Meagher	" 2
		3rd. 6th.Coy. Lt. O'Brien	" 1
Event 6.	High Jump.	1st. 5th.Coy. - Ramage	Points 3.
		2nd. 6th.Coy. L/C. Chitty	" 2
		3rd. 22nd.Coy. Cpt.McLennan	" 1.
Event 7.	440 yards.	1st. 22nd.Coy. - Fairless	Points 3.
		2nd. 6th.Coy. Cpl.Trevan	" 2
		3rd. 7th.Coy. Lt. Haydock	" 1.
Event 8.	Tug-O'-War.	1st. 6th.Coy. Team	Points 4.
		2nd. 22nd.Coy. Team	" 2.
Event 9.	Long Jump.	1st. 6th.Coy. Pte.Walker	Points 3.
		2nd. 5th.Coy. R.R.S.Ramage	" 2
Event 10.	880 yards.	1st. 22nd.Coy. Pte.Fairless	Points. 3
		2nd. 7th.Coy. Lt. Haydock	" 2
		3rd. 6th.Coy. Lt. Callister	" 1
Event 11.	120 Hurdles.	1st. 7th.Coy. Pte.Pickett	Points 3
		2nd. 7th.Coy. Dvr.Dixon	" 2
		3rd. 22nd.Coy.Cpt.McLennan	" 1
Event 12.	Musical Chairs.	1st. 7th.Coy. Pte.Sandells	Points. 3
		2nd. 6th.Coy. Pte.Woods	" 2
		3rd. 6th.Coy. Pte.Brophy	" 1
Event 13.	Relay Race.	1st. 6th.Coy. Team	Points 4.
		2nd. 5th.Coy. Team	" 2
Event 14.	Horse Rescue.	1st. 5th.Coy. Lt. Ryan	Points 3.
		2nd. 5th.Coy. Dvr.Kelsall	" 2
		3rd. 6th.Coy. -	" 1
Event 15.	Wrestling on Mules.	1st. 6th.Coy. Team	Points 3.
		2nd. 5th.Coy. Team	" 2
Event 16.	Mule Rescue Race.	1st. 6th.Coy. Dvr.Harris	Points 3
		2nd. 5th.Coy. Lt. Ryan	" 2
		3rd. 6th.Coy. -	" 1
Event 17.	Horse Hunters.	Dead) 22nd.Coy. Lt. Byatt	Points. 2½
		Heat) 6th.Coy. Dvr. G. Smith	" 2½
		3rd. 7th.Coy. -	" 1
Event 18.	Mule Race (2 furlongs)	1st. 7th.Coy. Dvr. Hammond	Points 3.
		2nd. 6th.Coy. " G. Smith	" 2
		3rd. 6th.Coy. -	" 1

Handwritten note:
Horse Race on

SECOND AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALIONSPORTS MEETING RESULTS. contd.

Event 19.	Mule Race (3 Furlongs)	1st. 6th.Coy. Cpl. Passeri	Points 3
		2nd. 7th.Coy. Dvr. Hammond	" 2
		3rd. 7th.Coy. -	" 1

Event 20.	Officers Mule Race (Special).	1st. 22nd.Coy. Cpt. McLennan	Points 3
		2nd. 22nd.Coy. Lt. Murray	" 2
		3rd. 5th.Coy. Lt. Ryan	" 1

Special Event. Fancy Dress Character.
1st. Pte. & Mrs. Piconi as:-
Charlie Chaplin & Mrs. in France.

POINTS.

<u>1st.</u>	<u>2nd.</u>	<u>3rd.</u>	<u>4th.</u>	<u>5th.</u>
<u>6th.Coy.</u>	<u>7th.Coy.</u>	<u>22nd.Coy.</u>	<u>5th.Coy.</u>	<u>Bn. H.Q.</u>
55½	24	19½	19.	-

Douglas S. Mac Cas

Report

6th
MACHINE GUN COY.,
2nd AUSTRALIAN DIV.
No.
Date.

On 6th M.G. Coy Transport for October 1918.

Oct 1st to 6th } As per War Diary Intelligence Summary
inclusive of Operations

Oct 7th Under Orders from OC 2nd M.G. Battⁿ I took charge of Battⁿ Transport for the move to St. Lege. Moved from Hebecourt as part of 5th Ryde Group at 06.15 arriving at 1st Day's destination Cappy at 16.00

" 8th Transport Group moved at 06.00 & arrived at Baons at 15.30

" 9th Transport Group moved at 06.00 & completed move to St. Lege at 15.30.

" 10th } (a) Constructing Ashed Transport Lines (b) Overhauling & Painting
To 25th } Limbers (c) Refacing & Cleaning Harness (d)

" 26th Battⁿ Sports Meeting in which a number of the Coy Mules & Horses competed.

" 28th (a) Improving Horse Stable, Repairing Water Cart
To 31st (c) Re-washing Axes by Battⁿ Wheelwright etc

J. Blankam Lt.

T.O.

6th M.G. Coy.