

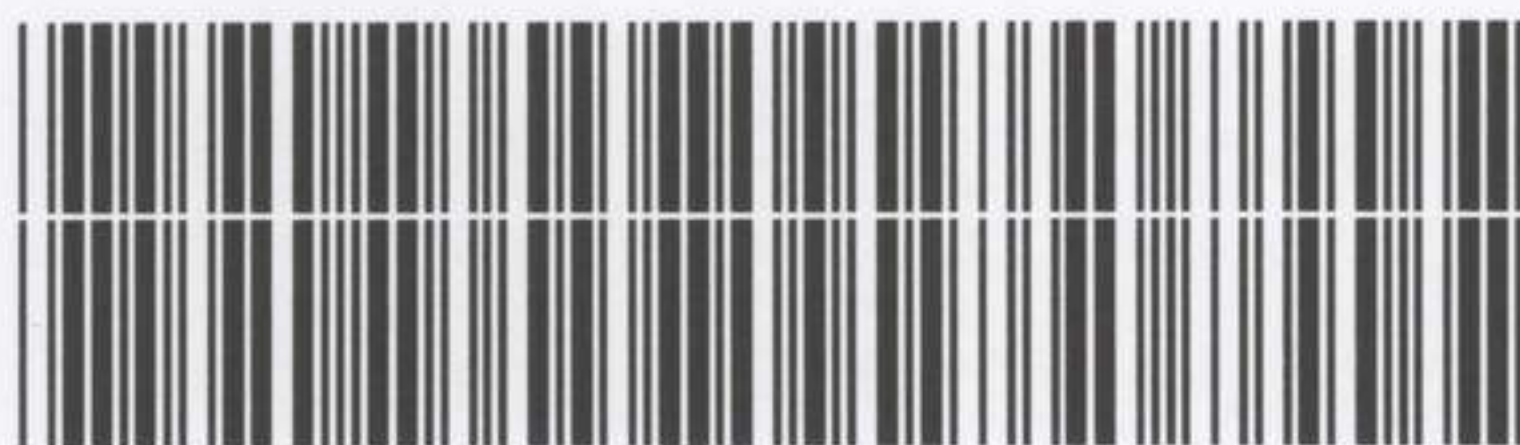
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Machine Guns

Item number: 24/3/5

Title: 3rd Australian Machine Gun Battalion

July 1918



AWM4-24/3/5

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155

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

3rd Australian Machine Gun Battalion.

FOR

JULY 1918

Signature of Officer compiling

SA Macmullen-Lee

Signature of Officer Commanding

Col Blundell

Completed

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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will be prepared in manuscript.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

3rd July - C. O. Pen
July - Duplicate

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			Reference Map: FRANCE Sheet 62.D. 1/40000.	
ALLONVILLE	1st July.		Representative Battalion Parade ordered for Australian Prime Minister. Battalion Order No. 16 This was cancelled and Mr. Hughes together with Mr. J. Cook inspected the 11th A.I. Brigade and the 9th M.G. Company only.	APPENDIX I
	2nd July.	3.30 pm.	11th A.M.G. Coy. plus one section, made up with representatives of the 9th, 10th, and 23rd Coys. moved out from ALLONVILLE to BUSSY-les-DAOURS in connection with the HAMEL offensive which was fixed for the morning of the 4th July. The Commanding Officer's report of this opn. attd.	APPENDIX II
	3rd July.		Honours and Awards. Special Order of Major-General Gellibrand. No. 54 C.Q.M.S. Fincham, C. 11th M.G. Coy. awarded the Military Medal for conspicuous gallantry on the night of May 25th near VILLERS-BRETONNEUX in organising and conducting ration parties through a heavy barrage.	
		7.30 pm.	The first concert organised by the Battalion was held at ALLONVILLE.	
QUERRIEU	4th July	3.10 am	HAMEL offensive opened. See Appendix II. Concert by "Bandicoots" in evening. 10th M.G. Coy. held an Aquatic Carnival.	
ALLON-VILLE	5th July		Selection of N.C.O's for Aspirant Officer's Course at Corps School made by C.O. No. 501 Sgt. Williams, J.A. No. 377 Sgt. McClure, R.E. and No. 84 Sgt. Orr, J.C. chosen. The American Engineers Cabaret and Concert Party gave a concert.	
	6th July		Demonstration of an attack on a strong point carried out under the supervision of the C.O. for the Divisional Officers School. Free discussion by the School on the merits and demerits of machine gun emplacement which had been constructed during the previous few days was also held. C.O. went to Australian Corps to attend Machine Gun Commanders' Conference.	
	7th July		Sunday was observed as a day of rest, Church parades being voluntary and fatigues being cut down to a minimum.	
	8th July		In the morning the C.O. held a parade of Officers and N.C.O's of all Companies for the purpose of an open discussion on machine gun emplacements and the protection of gun crews from shell fire when in the line. It was decided that pending the construction of deep gas-proof dug-outs tunnel splinter proofs with head cover ranging from 2 to 10 feet should be constructed by the gun	

59th Machine Gun Coy.

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ALLON-VILLE	8th July		Reference Map: FRANCE. Sheet 62.D. 1/40000. crews themselves, Captain D.A. Whitehead 23rd M.G. Company being detailed as works Officer to superintend and instruct in this work. Plan of xxxx splinter-proof attached 9th and 11th M.G. Coys. and Bn. H.Q. had gas masks tested in lachrymatory gas.	APPENDIX III.
	9th July.	8.30 p.m.	In accordance with Divisional Defensive Instruction No. 17, S.G. 401/32/109 Battle Stations practice was carried out by the Division, the 3rd Aust. M.G. Bn's part being covered by Battalion report BN/587 Conference of all officers of 11th A.I. Brigade held at Aerodrome, ALLONVILLE (Brig-Gen. Cannon presiding) at which the various phases of, and questions arising from, the HAMEL offensive were dealt with. Divisional Order No. 98 re relief of the 4th Aust. Division by the 3rd Aust. Division in the "B" or HAMEL Sector received. Para. 6 of this order had reference to the relief of the Machine Guns in this area and read as follows:- "C.O. 3rd A.M.G. Bn. will arrange relief of machine guns in the left Brigade area night 11/12th July and the balance of the 4th A.M.G. Bn. on the night 12/13 July". Second in Command (Major A.W. Taylor, M.C.) proceeded to 4th A.M.G. Bn. H.Q. to arrange details of relief. C.O. went to Divisional Conference at Chateau, ALLONVILLE, where a wide range of subjects was discussed. 9th M.G. Coy. Honors and Awards - No. 729 Pte. Clarke, L.J. was presented with M.S.M. Ribbon by Corps Commander.	APPENDIX IV.
ALLON-VILLE	10th July.		C.O. and 2nd in command reconnoitred "B" Divisional Sector preparatory to relieving 4th A.M.G. Bn. Divisional Gas demonstration held in field at G.10.d.5.5. In the evening Colonel Charteris, D.I.M.G.U. and Colonel Rogers, A.P.M. 4th Army, Major Pike, and Lieut. Brissendon D.C.O. dined at Headquarters Mess and afterwards attended concert given by the "Bandicoots".	APPENDIX V.
	11th July		Battalion Order No. 17 re relief of 4th A.M.G. Bn. issued. C.O. at Divisional Headquarters. 9th M.G. Coy. less "B" Echelon moved into left Brigade Sector where they relieved the 12th A.M.G. Co.	
	12th		Second in Command, who is to command the Battalion in the line, with the I.O. moved to HAMELET and established Forward Headquarters at O.6.b.50.45	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			Reference Map: SH FRANCE: Sheet 62.D. 1/40000.	
ALLON-VILLE	12th July		<p>The 11th M.G.Coy. moved from ALLONVILLE and established camp at 0.2.c.9.3. near AUBIGNY, they with their affiliated brigade being in Divisional Reserve.</p> <p>The 23rd M.G.Coy. moved from RIVERY and relieved part of the 13th and 24th M.G.Coys in the centre of the sector.</p> <p>10th M.G.Coy. moved from QUERRIEU and relieved portion of the 4th and 13th M.G.Companies on the right of the sector. Headquarters were established at 0.18.a.45.00.</p> <p>23rd M.G.Coy. H.Q. at J.32.c.35.95. and 9th M.G.Coy. H.Q. at J.28.c.35.60.</p> <p>Disposition of Guns in the line as at 12th July is shown in</p> <p>In accordance with the established Divisional principle harassing fire by day and night was taken in hand immediately.</p>	APPENDIX VI
BUSSY-les-DAOURS	13th July.		<p>Battalion Headquarters established at BUSSY-les-DAOURS, command passing from 4th A.M.G.Bn. at 10 am "B" Echelons of 9th, 10th, and 23rd Coys. established together at in dugouts at approx.H.35.c.9.5. 9000 rounds were expended in harassing enemy roads tracks, works, etc. All Companies checked locations of gun positions. Enemy artillery active with gas and H.E. in NOTAMEL WOOD and valley east of HAMEL.</p>	
	14th July.		C.O. forward with Lieut. D. Lilley re Mobile M.G. Battery. Captain D.A. Whitehead (O.C. Works) forward re Splinter-proof shelters and dugouts for gun teams. 14,500 rounds expended in night firing	
HAMEL SECTOR	15th July.		Enemy artillery put down concentrations on roads in P.4.d. and trenches and about 50 rounds 10.5 c.m. in VAIRE. 2x700 27,000 rounds used in harassing enemy.	
	16th July.		Enemy attitude normal and artillery quiet. 24000 rounds expended on enemy works, trenches, etc.	
	17th		<p>C.O. and Captain Whitehead visited Forward H.Q. and various gun positions.</p> <p>23rd M.G.Company moved two guns from reserve positions at P.1.a. to P.9.c.35.30 so that they can contribute to the harassing program. During the night 16/17th 51750 rounds were expended, this large increase being made on account of a prisoner's statement that an enemy battalion relief would be taking place. About 1000 rounds were fired during daylight hours on the valley in ACCROCHE Wood, P.16.d. and 22.a. and b. Constant enemy movement is being observed here.</p> <p><i>Disposition of Guns in the line as at 17th July Appendix VI</i></p>	Appendix VI

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			Reference Map: FRANCE Sheet 62.D. 1/40000.	
HAMEL SECTOR. BUSSY. HAMEL SECTOR.	18th July.		Battalion M.O. (Captain T.M.Mansfield) inspected the forward area. Improvements effected to accommodation of men in echelons and Battalion Headquarters. 38100 rounds expended in usual harassing fire, 2500 of these being fired in daylight hours	
	19th July.	9.30 a.m.	Second in Command held a conference with Company Commanders at which were discussed Range Cards and Charts, and Gun position orders, also Intelligence Reports. Orders applicable to the sector were drawn up and Sector maps for use at gun positions were issued to the Companies. 36700 rounds were fired during the period, 5000 of which were expended during the daylight hours on valley in P.17.a., 17.c. and 23.a.	
	20th July.		32750 rounds expended on usual harassing fire, 2000 of which were fired in daylight on trenches in P.23.a. and A.A. gun P.17.c.30.80.	
BUSSY- les-DAOURS HAMEL SECTOR.	21st July.		A/C.S.M.I. Jones attached to Battalion from 4th Army as Physical Training and Bayonet Fighting Instructor. Recreational training carried out daily, each Company "B" Echelon and Battalion Headquarters being allotted half an hour of the instructor's time. 33850 rounds expended in usual harassing fire on enemy trenches, roads, tracks, etc.	
BUSSY AUBIGNY HAMEL SECTOR BUSSY.	22nd July.		C.O. and Captain Whitehead touring line. Major King, D.A.Q.M.G. visited Battalion Headquarters and inspected the Quartermaster's Branch. The Battalion furnished a Divisional Guard of two N.C.O's and 6 men for the first time. Brig-Gen. Cannon (G.O.C. 11th A.I.Bde.) inspected the 11th A.M.G.Coy. and expressed himself as well satisfied with their turnout and appearance. 30750 rounds expended of which 3500 were fired in daylight on enemy centres.	
AUBIGNY	23rd July.		C.O. and Adjutant visited 123rd U.S.M.G.Bn. re attachment of personnel of that unit to the 3rd A.M.G.Battalion for training in the line and necessary details were arranged. 38100 rounds were expended in harassing fire. Daylight shooting 3500 rounds. 11th M.G.Company carried out barrage practice on miniature range with aid of thermometer targets.	

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			Reference Map: FRANCE Sheet 62.D. 1/40000.	
BUSSY.	24th July		Major Culbertson 123rd U.S.M.G.Bn. visited this Battalion Headquarters to make final arrangements in connection with attachment of personnel. C.O. delivered a lecture to Officers on "Mess Etiquette" at 10th M.G.Coy. Rear H.Q. 29700 expended, 500 of which were fired on a party of Beche on a pre-arranged signal from the Infantry. The party was seen to be dispersed, casualties being inflicted.	
HAMEL SECTOR.	25th July		C.O. visited Advanced Headquarters also 9th and 10th Brigade H.Qrs. American troops allotted to the 9th M.G.Coy. - Lieuts. Cunnane, G.F. and Bartlett, B.W. and 32 Other Ranks; to 23rd M.G.Coy. Lieut. Elmore, K.A. and Foster, I.K. and 32 Other Ranks. Except for the Officers a like number of Australian personnel have been relieved. Lecture by Adjutant (Capt. C.E.Brodziak) on method of conducting Orderly Room, at 10th M.G. Company Rear H.Q.	
BUSSY.			Honours and Awards. In connection with HAMEL Offensive on 4th instant Sgt. F. Gue was awarded the Military Medal.	
HAMEL SECTOR			31900 rounds expended, 3000 rounds of which were fired in daylight. At 9.30 p.m. enemy party in C.T. in P.17.a. was engaged and dispersed on signal from the Infantry. At 2.15 a.m. enemy barraged and attempted to raid one of our posts in P.6.a. As the S.O.S. signal was not sent up no machine gun fire was brought to bear on enemy whose preparation and attack was met by our men moving out into No Man's Land. One of the enemy was severely wounded and taken prisoner and at least three killed, the raid being a complete failure.	
BUSSY.	26th July.		General Gellibrand (G.O.C. 3rd Aust. Division) inspected Battalion Headquarters and "B" Echelon and expressed himself as well satisfied with the general turnout. Brig-Gen. Cannon and Officers of the 11th A.I.Bde attended a demonstration of machine gunnery carried out by the 11th M.G.Company under the supervision of Captain Whitehead, M.C. who explained the tasks of the machine gun, and the advantages of the Vickers over the Lewis gun; also barrage and indirect fire. Afterwards the lecture was clearly demonstrated on the miniature range and officers of the 11th A.I.Bde. were given every opportunity of inspecting the guns and the method of carrying out this work. They showed the keenest interest and the General expressed himself as well pleased, and sure that his officers had benefitted by the demonstration. Assistant Adjutant (Lieut. T.L. Huxtable) gave a lecture at 10th M.G.Coy. Rear H.Q. on F.G.C's.M. to the Officers.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BUSSY. HAMEL SECTOR	27th July.		<p><u>Reference Map: FRANCE Sheet 62.D. 1/40000</u></p> <p>Promotion: Capt. C.E. Brodziak to be Major.</p> <p>Enemy attitude normal. Night firing 51450 rounds, 3000 being fired in daylight on area P.23.a. c. and d.</p> <p>Captain D.A. Whitehead visited Forward Headquarters with reference to dugouts for 10th M.G. Coy. Quartermaster (Lieut. Tyzack) came up to discuss with Major Taylor matters affecting the Q.M.'s. Branch. Reserve Dump of 100000 S.A.A., Bomb Grenades, and Smoke Bombs established at Advanced Battalion Headquarters.</p> <p>During the period 51800 rounds were fired, 4000 of which were fired in daylight and 28000 in conjunction with raid on cemetery in J.36.c. by 33rd Battalion.</p>	
HAMEL SECTOR.	28th July.		<p>28,000 rounds expended on harassing enemy works, roads, etc. 1500 rounds of this were fired in daylight.</p> <p>Work on various types of shelters ^{for gun teams} has been carried on continuously and dugouts were finished to-day affording shelter for two sections of the centre Company.</p>	
	29th July		<p>Colonel Charteris, D.S.O., D.I.M.G.U. 4th Army, and Major Culbertson, Commanding 123rd U.S. M.G. Battalion visited forward Battalion Battalion Headquarters HAMELET, and together with Major Taylor inspected portion of the line and some of the American personnel attached to the Battalion. Both Colonel Charteris and Major Culbertson were well satisfied with their visit.</p> <p>30600 rounds spent in the usual harassing fire, 2500 rounds of which were expended in daylight hours.</p>	
	30th July 31st July		<p>29750 rounds expended.</p> <p>23750 rounds fired in harassing enemy, 2500 rounds being fired in daylight. To-day the 18th British Division commenced to relieve the 9th A.I. Brigade on the Northern side of the SOMME and at the same time relieving the 5th Aust. Division in the MORLANCOURT Sector. This necessitated a change in the Northern boundary of the Australian Corps from North of SAILLY-le-SEC to the River Somme. In order to meet meet this change the 23rd M.G. Company took over from the 9th M.G. Company the two guns north of the river, and the 4 guns in J.34.a. and b.</p>	

R. H. Marshall
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WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HAMEL SECTOR	31st July.		<p><u>Reference Map: FRANCE. Sheet 62.D. 1/40000.</u></p> <p>The 9th M.G. Company (less two sections) marched out to "B" Echelon at BUSSY-les-DAOURS the remaining two sections taking over four guns on the right of the 23rd Company, passing under the orders of the 23rd Company. This relief was completed at 2.45 a.m. on the 1st August. On the same day ^{the 11th Coy} relieved the 10th Company in the right of the Divisional Sector, relief being reported complete by 11.15 p.m.</p> <p>The C.O., Acting Adjutant (Captain D.A. Whitehead, M.C.) and I.O., witnessed a combined demonstration by tanks and part of the 57th A.I. Battalion held near St. VAAST (Ref. Map: AMIENS 1/100000) This was extremely interesting, consisting of an attack on an a series of trenches the tanks advancing close under the barrage (imaginary, and indicated by flags) crushing down the wire to afford passage to the Infantry, and neutralising the garrison in the trenches and strong points. The Infantry followed mopping up and taking advantage of the shelter and making the most of every opportunity offered them by the tanks. Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, Commander-in-Chief, and General Rawlinson, Commanding 4th Army, were also present. On leaving the demonstration the C.O. and party visited the Australian Flying Squadron at FLESSELLES and after lunching with the O.C. (Major Blake) inspected the aerodrome and machines. On his way to BUSSY the C.O. visited Division.</p>	Appendix 7.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices								
			<p style="text-align: center;"><u>G E N E R A L.</u></p> <p>Since the Battalion arrived on the SOMME at the end of March it has had two rests out of the line and one can safely say that of the two the period 29th June to 11th July was a far greater rest to the men than the few days spent at QUERRIEU in May. The Companies were all camped in woods and spent a good deal of their time in making their quarters as neat and comfortable as possible. On the whole the weather during the rest period was fine, and was bright during the day, but at night clouds usually came up and presented conditions the opposite to the ideal for hostile bombing planes. Consequently the men's rest was not disturbed. While in rest guns, stores and equipment were overhauled and the usual type of technical training proceeded in the mornings, the afternoons being given up to recreational training, which included swimming, cricket and football, and participation in the sports held by the 9th and 10th A.I. Brigades. On going into the line in the HAMEL Sector the dispositions of the 4th A.M.G. Battalion were taken over, but after consultation with the Brigadiers alterations were decided upon which were put into effect as shown in maps appended. The policy of affording comfortable, dry, and splinter-proof shelters and deep dugouts for the gun teams was vigorously pursued and the results attained for the period very satisfactory. From the 17th to the 29th July transport was provided nightly for carrying up engineer's and pioneer's material, and the quantities carried being:-</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Barb wire 4317 coils,</td> <td>Screw pickets, long 2910.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Angle Irons short 2010.</td> <td>Screw pickets, short 6695.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Long Forest Pickets 1647.</td> <td>Angle Irons, long 910.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Short do. 2766</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Night firing was carried even more extensively than in the VILLERS-BRETONNEUX Sector, 684050 rounds being fired during the period, an average of 36,000 per 24 hours. The area covered by this shooting is shown approximately on the attached map. Of this above total about 30,000 rounds have been fired during the hours of daylight, and when observation of results has been possible, and casualties have been inflicted and parties of Boche dispersed.</p> <p>According to Prisoners' statements the 152nd Infantry Regiment have suffered heavier losses during the period the 16th - 27th July from machine gun fire than during the whole eight weeks spent in the BAPAUME Area. They have also experienced great difficulty in getting rations up to the line from this cause and from Artillery fire. Results like these justify a heavy expenditure of machine gun ammunition as it helps to no little degree to break and and keep down enemy morale.</p>	Barb wire 4317 coils,	Screw pickets, long 2910.	Angle Irons short 2010.	Screw pickets, short 6695.	Long Forest Pickets 1647.	Angle Irons, long 910.	Short do. 2766		<p>See App. 6 & App. 9.</p> <p>APPENDIX VIII</p> <p><i>2nd machine gun</i></p>
Barb wire 4317 coils,	Screw pickets, long 2910.											
Angle Irons short 2010.	Screw pickets, short 6695.											
Long Forest Pickets 1647.	Angle Irons, long 910.											
Short do. 2766												

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			<p>During the time the Battalion has been in the line the nucleus personnel have carried out normal machine gun training, bayonet fighting and physical exercises and as Americans have been attached for line experience, and so released a like number of men to the nucleus, a greater number have benefited by this than would have been the case under normal circumstances. The attached Americans have shown great keenness in the line and mixed well with the Australians. Classes have been held both for Officers and Other Ranks in all branches of training and have ^{been} of great benefit to all.</p> <p><u>Casualties for July.</u></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Killed.</th> <th colspan="2">Wounded.</th> <th colspan="2">Missing.</th> <th colspan="2">Died of Injuries</th> <th colspan="2">Injured.</th> <th colspan="2">Died of Wounds.</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Off.</th> <th>O.R.</th> <th>Off.</th> <th>O.R.</th> <th>Off.</th> <th>O.R.</th> <th>Off.</th> <th>O.R.</th> <th>Off.</th> <th>O.R.</th> <th>Off.</th> <th>O.R.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>-</td> <td>6</td> <td>1</td> <td>24</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Battalion Strength as at 1st July 48 Officers 924 Other Ranks. do. do. 31st " 52 do. 907 do.</p>	Killed.		Wounded.		Missing.		Died of Injuries		Injured.		Died of Wounds.		Off.	O.R.	Off.	O.R.	Off.	O.R.	Off.	O.R.	Off.	O.R.	Off.	O.R.	-	6	1	24	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	1	
Killed.		Wounded.		Missing.		Died of Injuries		Injured.		Died of Wounds.																														
Off.	O.R.	Off.	O.R.	Off.	O.R.	Off.	O.R.	Off.	O.R.	Off.	O.R.																													
-	6	1	24	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	1																													

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WAR DIARY

OF

3rd Aust. Machine Gun Bn.

FOR

July. 1918.

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
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- | | |
|----|--------------------------------------|
| 1. | Battalion Order No 16. ✓ |
| 2. | Report of Hamel Operation ✓ |
| 3. | Plan of Splinter Proof Dugout. ✓ |
| 4. | Battle Stations Practice B.N. 587. ✓ |
| 5. | Battalion Order No 17. ✓ |
| 6. | Gun Dispositions 17.7.18. ✓ |
| 7. | Battalion Order No 18. ✓ |
| 8. | Night Firing Map. ✓ |
| 9. | Gun Dispositions. ✓ |

THIRD AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION ORDER NO. 16.

Reference Map:
Sheet 62D.W. 1/25000.

Copy No. 7....
Battalion Headquarters,
1st July, 1918.

1. The Third A.M.G. Battalion will hold a representative parade at 10.15 a.m. Tuesday 2-7-18, in wood in G.I.S. to enable the Prime Minister of Australia to have an opportunity of addressing them.
2. The Battalion will be formed up so as to form a hollow square with sides each of 30 yards, as per diagram attached.
3. Two markers per company will report to the R.S.M. on the parade ground at 10 a.m. Companies will march on to markers at 10.15 a.m.
4. DRESS: Officers will wear open-neck tunics, Sam Browne belts and hats. Sticks will not be carried.
Other Bands: 25 men per company will parade in drill order with arms, the remaining 75 men will parade in drill order without arms.
5. Companies will divide their men into four equal sections of 25 each, the leading section to be armed; in selecting the latter the men best dressed and of the finest physique should be chosen.

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Appendix I.

Captain & Adjutant,
Third Australian Machine Gun Battalion.

*13th Aust. Division
29 AMG Coy. 523rd AMG Coy.
2 10 " " 6.9 War Diary
4 11 " " No File.*

APPENDIX I

----- ACTION OF 11th A.M.G.COY. IN THE HAMEL OFFENSIVE -----
 ----- JULY 4th, 1918. -----

2nd July, 1918.

APPROACH MARCH:

The 11th A.M.G.Coy. plus one composite section made up from the other companies of the 3rd A.M.G.Bn. marched out from camp at ALLONVILLE at 3.50 p.m. on 2-7-18 via QUERRIEU to BUSSY-les-DAOURS, which was reached at 5.30 p.m. Here the men rested and had a hot meal, after which the company, less two sections under Lieuts. White and Huxtable, continued its march to the line via AUBIGNY, FOUILLOY and HAMELET, positions in the support line being taken up by 2 a.m. 3-7-18.

COMPANY

HEADQUARTERS.

July 3rd 1918.

Company Headquarters established at U.31.b.90.60. While the men rested in the trenches the officers made their final reconnaissance and arrangements for the assembly, and on this night 48 hours rations, over and above their iron rations, were issued to the men.

DISPOSITIONS:

Twelve guns were detailed to go forward with the advancing Infantry, four of which, under Lieuts. Bunn and Forbes were to go forward to the final objective; one section, under Lieuts. Bates and Carlson, and another under Lieuts. Harding and Ball, being detailed for the first objective. The remaining section of the 11th Coy. and the composite section under Lieuts. White and Huxtable respectively were detailed to proceed to prepared positions at U.34.a.70.20. (K) and U.34.a.92.00(L).

ASSEMBLY:

The twelve advancing guns assembled with the reserve companies of the 42nd and 44th Battalions.

TEAMS & STORES:

Each advancing gun team consisted of one N.C.O. and seven men, and carried the following stores in addition to the gun:-

Tripod and Spare Parts.
 16 Filled Belts.
 2 Picks.
 2 Shovels.
 32 Sand Bags.
 32 Grenades.
 2 Tins of Water.

FIRST DISPOSITION:

Final Objective: The advance was made without much difficulty and the four guns for the final objective got to their positions and were mounted along the line of consolidation, covering the front with bands of fire in conjunction with the Lewis Guns. 4000 rounds of bulk S.A.A. were obtained for each gun. Three captured Maxim Guns were also mounted in this line.

FIRST OBJECTIVE:

Four guns were sited in P.3.d. North of the village of HAMEL covering the spurs to the North of the village and the exits. Four guns were sited South of the village performing the same duty on that side of the village. In addition to these direct fire tasks, these guns put down an S.O.S. barrage in P.11.d. Each of these eight guns had 8000 rounds S.A.A. in bulk.

REPORTS:

Immediately the guns were in position their dispositions and fields of fire were forwarded to C.H.Q. on a message map, these reports being in within an hour of zero. Later, when the line of consolidation was definitely fixed, a further message map was sent in showing any alteration made.

LIAISON:

Close touch was maintained throughout the operation with the Infantry Commanders.

Appendix II

TARGETS:

After the objectives were reached no machine gun targets presented themselves.

BARRAGE BATTERY:

The two barrage sections (K and L Batteries) moved into their positions on the night of 3/4 July, 1918, and were able to lay out their zero lines in daylight. They maintained neutralising fire in front of the 18 pounder barrage on strongpoints in and about HAMEL, expending about 43,000 rounds.

CASUALTIES:

The total casualties for the 3rd A.M.G.Bn. for the operation were:-

Killed	3	Other Ranks.
Wounded	10	" "

GENERAL:

On night 4/5th July 18 S.O.Ss went up at 10.17 p.m. and our forward guns fired 12,000 rounds (5,000 German) K and L Batteries 24,500 and the eight support guns 12,000.

The arrangements for the attack were excellent and well carried out, especially the work of the tanks in bringing up S.A.A. and other stores. The dropping of S.A.A. for forward guns by aeroplanes was not such a success, as the parachutes drifted to the West of HAMEL.

The German machine gunners were very quick getting up from their deep dugouts, and getting their guns into action after the barrage had passed.

On one occasion the Brigade on our right was held up for a time creating a distinct gap, which Lieut. Harding covered by putting No. 12 gun in position immediately. This shows the necessity for the Commanders of the support guns being fully alive to the responsibility of their job, not merely to push forward to their objective as speedily as possible, but to be ready to put a gun or more if necessary into position immediately and cover the exposed flank in front with enfilade fire.

The Company claim having taken ten prisoners in the first objective on the right of HAMEL and brought out of the line four captured Light Machine Guns. When relieved the brigade on our left had not completely linked up. The Company was relieved at 11 p.m. on the night of 7/8th July, 1918.

(Sgd) A.C. BLACKLOW Lt-Col.
Commanding,
Third Aust. Machine Gun Battalion.

Appendix II

1. I am at _____ 2. I have reached the limits of my objective.

3. My {Platoon } is at _____ 4. {is consolidating. }
 {Company } {M.G. } at _____ {has consolidated. }

5. Am held up by {Wire } at _____ 6. Enemy holding S. Pt. _____

7. I {am } in touch with _____ on {right } at _____
 {am not } {left }

8. Am shelled from _____ 9. Am in need of _____

10. Counter-attack forming at _____ 11. Hostile {Baty. } active at _____
 {M.G. }
 {T.M. }

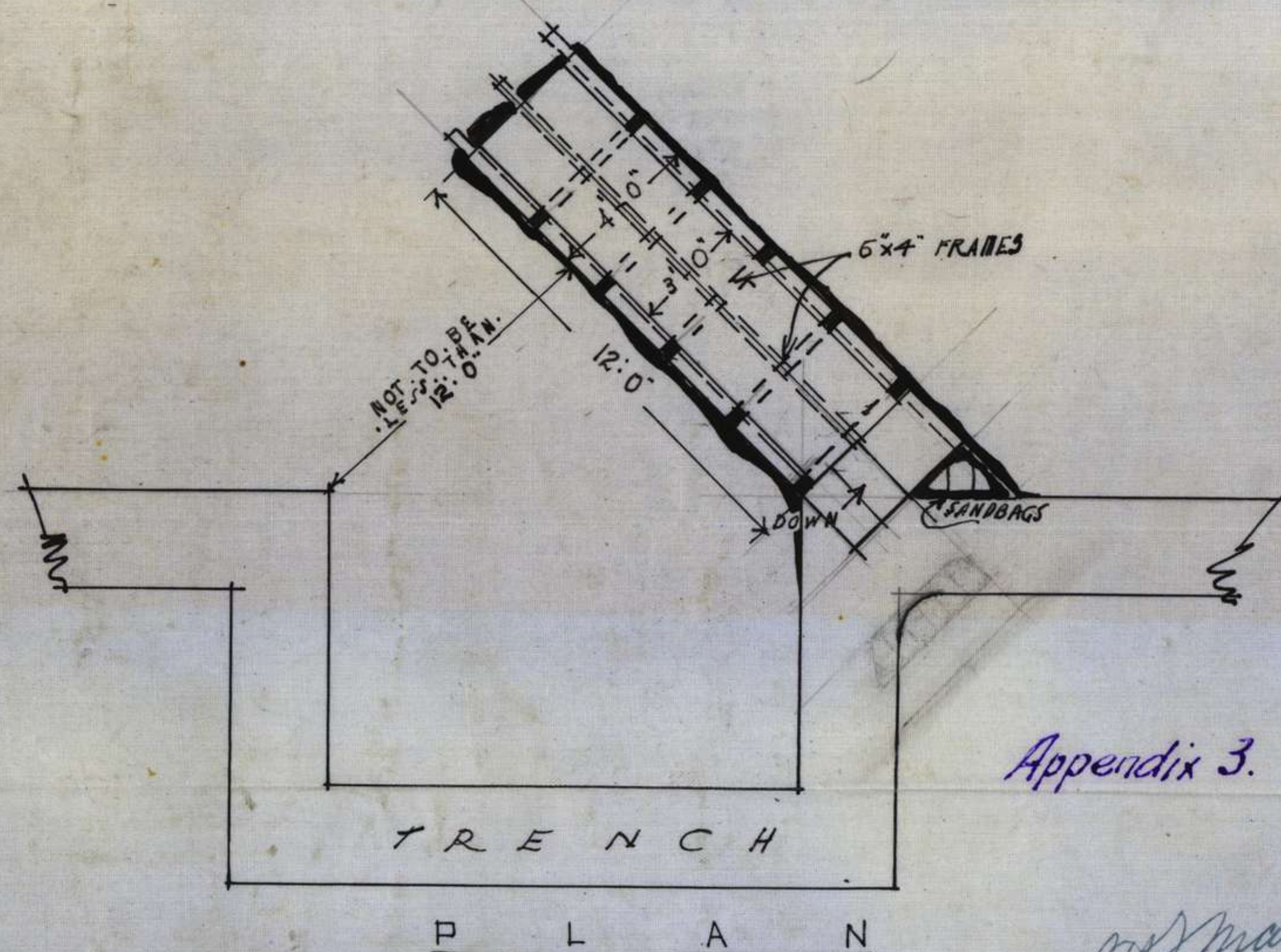
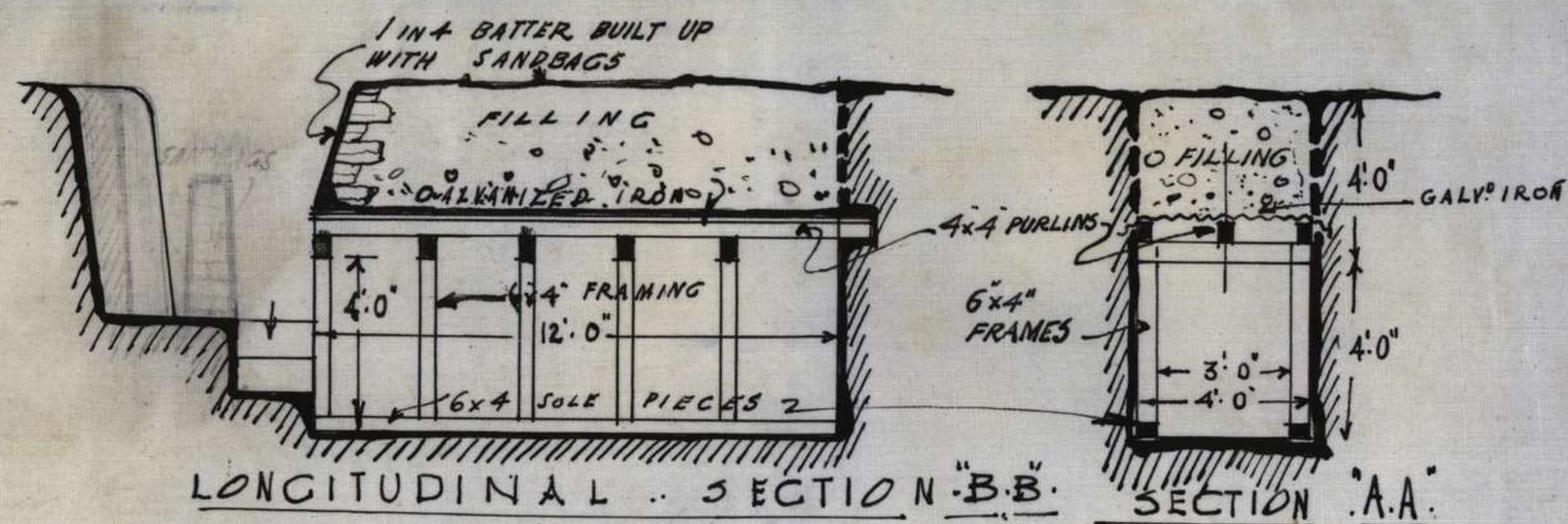
12. Reinforcements wanted at _____

13. Estimate my present strength at _____ rifles.

14. Add any other useful information _____

Name _____ Platoon _____ Company _____

Battalion _____ Time _____ m. Date _____ 1918.



Appendix 3.

G. Macmillan

THIRD AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION

SECRET.

BATTLE STATIONS PRACTICE.

Machine
Copy No. 6
Bn. Hqrs.
8-7-18
No.

1. Third Machine Gun Battalion will carry out manning of battle stations for practice purposes, on the evening of a date to be selected.
2. On receipt of wire (a) Companies will act as instructed hereunder:-
 - (a) "Battle Stations practice acknowledge"
Recipients will acknowledge by wire
 - (b) "Acknowledged practice"
 - (c) "Position practice"
 As soon as troops are in allotted positions Companies will wire:
3. No movement in connection with practice will take place before 8.30 p.m.
4. O.C.'s Companies on receipt of wire (a) will send an Officer immediately to report to their respective Brigades ~~immediately~~ for instructions.
O.C. 9th. Coy. (Divisional Reserve) will send an officer to report to 3rd. Machine Gun Battalion Headquarters for instructions.
5. No orders will be issued which will in any way indicate that an actual hostile attack is expected, they must signify clearly that it is for purposes of practice only.
On receipt of wire:-
 - (d) "Normal dispositions"
normal dispositions will be resumed and Companies will notify their respective Brigade Headquarters also this Battalion Headquarters
 - "Normal practice"
6. Acknowledge.

C. B. Bradman
Capt. & Adjt.
Third Aust. Machine Gun Battalion.

R. 11. 10.

Appendix IV

Distributions

1. 2 Aust Division
2. 9 Aust M.G. Coy
3. 10 " "
4. 11 " "
5. 2 reg " "
6. 9 War Diary
10. File

C O P Y.

Headquarters,
3rd Aust. Division.

Re. Battle Stations Practice.

BN/578

9-7-18.

Following report rendered as per instructions in your
S.G/401/32/109.

At 7.10 p.m. on 8-7-18 received wire:-

"Battle stations practice. Acknowledge"

Sent wire T/536

"Acknowledged practice."

7.15 p.m. Immediately got in touch with all Companies and gave verbal instructions to comply with orders as discussed at Commanding Officer's Conference the previous day. Confirmed this by wiring Companies as follows:-

"Battle Stations practice; acknowledge; report respective
"Brigades instructions"

9th M.G.Coy. (Divisional Reserve) instructed to report
Battalion Headquarters for orders.

On receiving notification from Companies that they were in
position, despatched wire:-

"Position practice",

to Divisional Headquarters at 8.30 p.m.

Commanding Officer inspected Battalion Headquarters and 9th
and 11th M.G.Companies on their Battle Alarm posts at 8.45 p.m.
Companies "Stood to" until receipt of wire from Division,

"Normal dispositions"

at 1.10 a.m. on 9-7-18. Repeated wire to Companies at 1.15 a.m.
On notification from Companies wired Division:-

"Normal practice" at 1.40 a.m.

The time taken from receipt of wire as far as Headquarters
and Divisional Reserve was concerned was 1 hour 15 minutes.
As the 23rd, 10th, and 11th M.G.Companies acted under instructions
from their respective Brigades, it is taken that the information con-
cerning them will be forwarded by the Brigades concerned.

Appendix IV

(Sgd.) A.C. BLACKLOW. Lieut-Colonel,
Commanding, Third Aust. Machine Gun Battalion.

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APPENDIX.

4

SECRET:

Copy No. 13.

THIRD AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION ORDER No. 17.

11th July, 1918.

1. The 3rd A.M.G.Bn. will relieve the 4th A.M.G.Bn. in "B" Divisional Sector on nights 11/12th, 12/13th July, 1918, as follows:-

10th M.G.Coy.	will occupy	Right Sector	on night	12/13 July.
9th "	"	Left	"	11/12 "
23rd "	"	Centre	"	12/13 "
11th "	Will be in Divisional Reserve.			
2. Bn. H.Q. to be established at BUSSY by 10 a.m. 13th July. Companies will come under the command of the C.O. 4th A.M.G.Bn. Command will pass at 10 a.m. 13th July.
3. Details of the relief will be as arranged at C.O.'s. Conference at 4th A.M.G.Bn. H.Qrs. on 10th instant.
4. Instructions as to movements North of the SOMME are laid down in Fourth Army Standing Orders. Movements South of SOMME - Sections at 100 yards interval.
5. A C K N O W L E D G E.

DISTRIBUTION: P.T.O.

C.B. Rodgman
 Captain & Adjt.
 Third Aust. Machine Gun Battalion.

Appendix V

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DISTRIBUTION:

1. H.Q. 3rd Aust. Div. ✓
 2. H.Q. 9th Inf. Bde. ✓
 3. H.Q. 10th Inf. Bde. ✓
 4. H.Q. 11th Inf. Bde. ✓
 5. O.C. 9th M.G.Coy. ✓
 6. O.C. 10th M.G.Coy. ✓
 7. O.C. 11th M.G.Coy. ✓
 8. O.C. 23rd M.G.Coy. ✓
 9. C.O. 4th A.M.G.Bn. ✓
 - 10-13. War Diary.
 14. File.
- 19

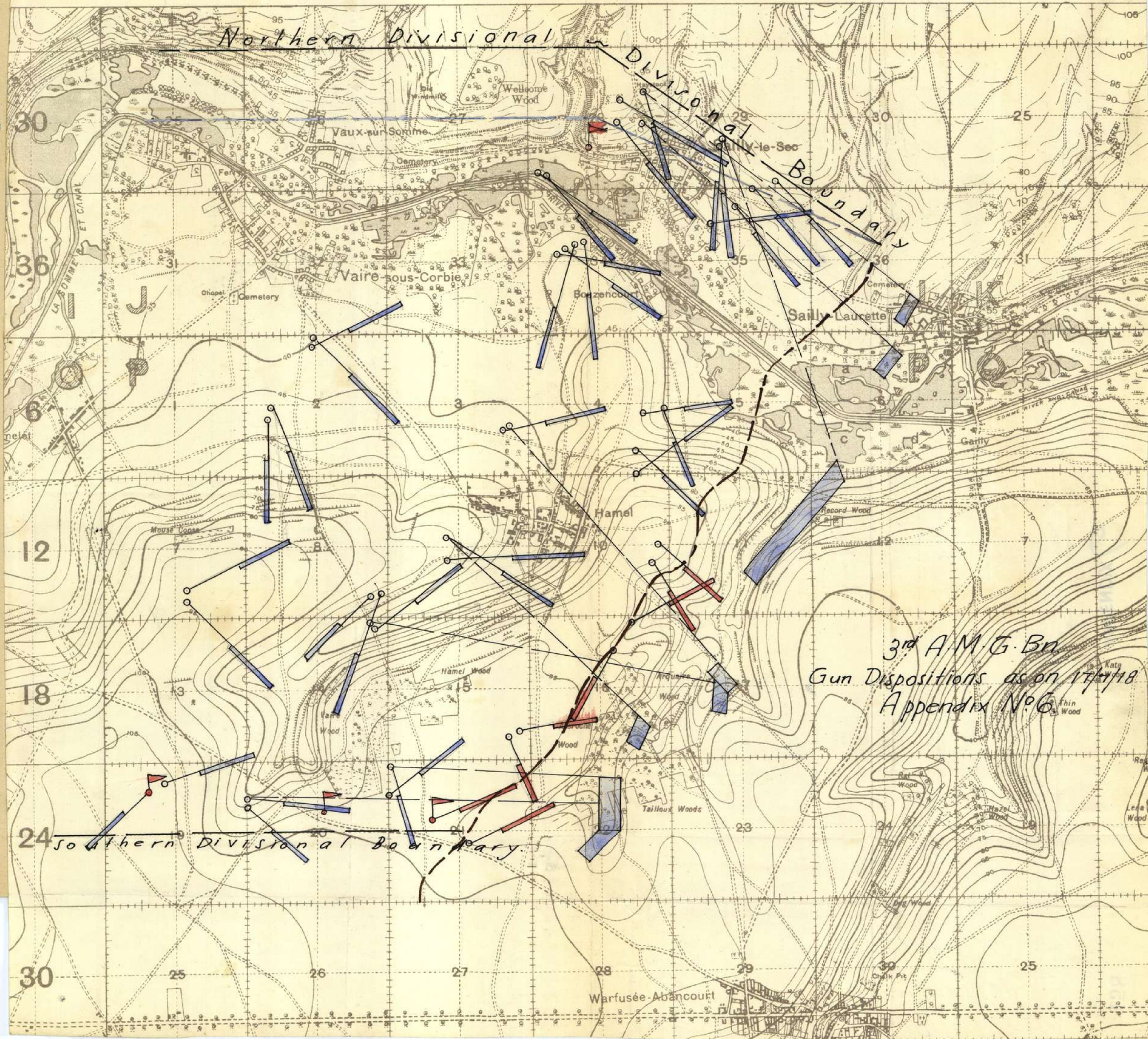
158

6
20

LA NEUVILLE

Parts of 62°N.W., 62°N.E., 62°S.W. & 62°S.E.

EDITION



THIRD AUST. MACHINE GUN BATTALION ORDER No. 18 Copy No.....

SECRET:

Battalion Headquarters,
29th July, 1918.

1. The 10th A.M.G.Coy. will be relieved by the 11th A.M.G.Coy. in the Right Brigade Sector on the night 31st July/1st August, 1918.
2. Company Commanders concerned will make mutual arrangements for relief.
3. Completion of relief will be notified to these Headquarters and also to 10th Brigade Headquarters by the use of the code word "LACE"
4. List of stores taken over to be forwarded to this Office within 24 hours of relief.
5. A C K N O W L E D G E.

DISTRIBUTION.

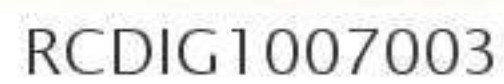
P.T.O. *Appendix 7*

[Signature] Capt. & Actg. Adjt.
for C.O. Third Aust. Machine Gun Bn.

APPENDIX.

7 21

1. H.Q. 3rd Aust. Division.
2. H.Q. 9th Inf. Bde.
3. H.Q. 10th Inf. Bde.
4. H.Q. 9th M.G. Coy.
5. O.C. 10th M.G. Coy.
6. O.C. 11th M.G. Coy.
7. O.C. 23rd M.G. Coy.
- 8-11. War Diary.
12. File.



Quatrième et Dernière feuille
H. G.

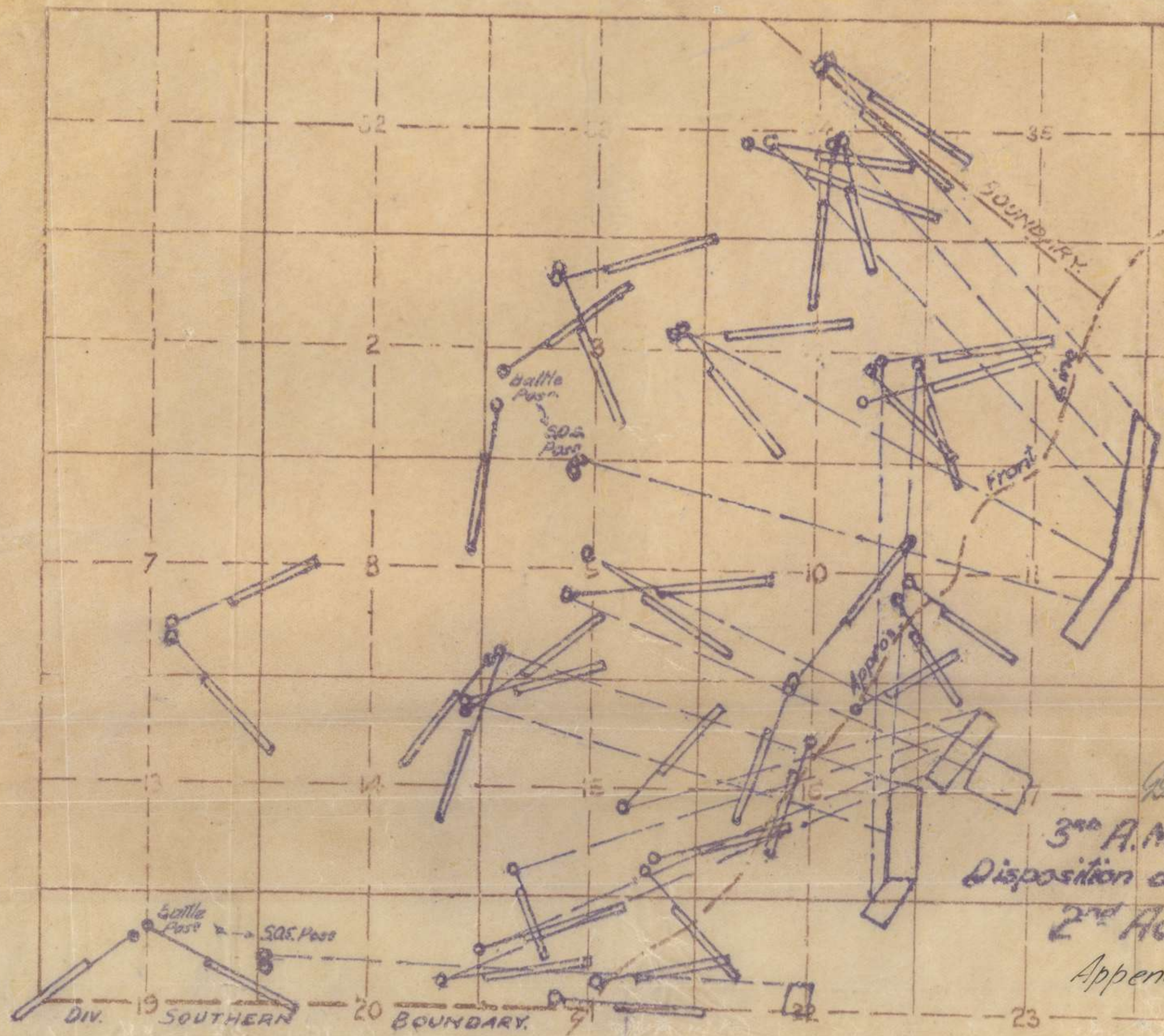
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APPENDIX.

23.
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P



3rd A.M.G. Bn
Disposition of MGs as on
2nd August 1918.
Appendix 9.

APPENDIX 9