

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

Machine Guns

Item number: 24/4/1

Title: 4th Australian Machine Gun Battalion

May 1918



AWM4-24/4/1

CONFIDENTIAL.

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Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

4th Aust. M.G. Bn.

FOR

MAY 1918

Signature of Officer compiling

C. J. Oruchatel Capt.
Adj. 4th Aust. M.G. Bn.

Signature of Officer Commanding

H. Murray St. 6d

MAY 1918

WAR DIARY 4th A.M.G. Battalion 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.

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Bn. H.Q. GLISY.	1		Machine gun Battalion is disposed in the VILLERS-BRETONNEUX Sector with 4 th Aust. Division (two Brigade front) as follows Right Brigade Sector - 12 th M.G. Coy, Left Brigade Sector - 4 th M.G. Coy, Support M.G. Coy covering exits from VILLERS-BRETONNEUX and approaches to Bois D'AQUENNE - 24 th M.G. Coy. Reserve Coy - 13 th M.G. Coy have 8 guns in HUBIGNY (Corps Defence) LINE as a nucleus garrison, and Coy H.Q. and 8 guns at BLANGY-TRONVILLE under tactical Command of G.O.C. Reserve Brigade -	Appendix H. 5/1
	4		13 th M.G. Coy relieved 12 th M.G. Coy in Right Brigade Sector, relief completed 11 30 p.m. without casualty -	1/Order H. 4.
	6		4 th Pioneer Bn assisted by Lieut. JACK - 24 th M.G. Coy - sited tactical wire for defence of Bois L'ABBE - Corps Defence Line -	5/1
	7		4 th Pioneer Bn (2 Officers) and adjutant 4 th M.G. Bn sited tactical wire for defence of Bois D'AQUENNE in co-operation with M.G. (enfilading) fire - 2 M.G. dugouts in Railway bank sited. at 0.27.28	5/2

(A8004) W.L. W1771/112-31 750,500 5/17 Sch. 52 Forms/C2118/14

Cpt. Duchatet left

MAY 1918.

WAR DIARY

4th A.M.G. Bn.

Army Form C. 2118.

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~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
M.G. Bn. HQ GLISY.	8		Tactical wiring Bois L'ABBE completed - Lt. Col. Murray V.C. DSO D.C.M. sited Machine Gun positions for interior defence of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX.	5/1
"	9		Work on M.G. Dugouts in O. 27. d. commenced by 4 th Pioneer Bn. material obtained from 256 Tunnelling Coy R.E. and delivered by M.G. Bn. Transport -	
"	10		12 th M.G. Coy relieved the 4 th M.G. Coy in Left Brigade Sector relief completed before 12 midnight -	1/Order No 5.
	12		13 th M.G. Coy co-operated by direct overhead fire and indirect fire (4 guns) in a raid by party from 13 th A.I. Bde. on enemy line between MONUMENT WOOD and VILLERS-BRETONNEUX -	
	13			
	14		4 th M.G. Coy relieved 13 th M.G. Coy in right Brigade Sector — relief completed at 12 midnight -	1/Order No 6.
	15 to 19		Until relief on 20 th /22 nd dispositions remain as follow:- Right Bde Sector, 4 th Coy; Left Brigade Sector, 12 th Coy; Support, 24 th Coy; Reserve, 13 th Coy.	

C. D. M. Chatelet Capt

MAY 1918

WAR DIARY 4th M.G. Bn.

Army Form C. 2118.

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~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MG. Bn. H.Q.	20 th		Relieved by 3rd Aust. Machine Gun Battalion. Relief completed by 11.30 pm. on 21st. May - See operation order No. 7.	1/Order No. 7.
GLISY.	21 st			
ALLONVILLE	22 nd		Dispositions are:- Battalion H.Q., ALLONVILLE; 4 th Coy, ALLONVILLE, 13 th Coy, QUERRIED; 12 th Coy, RIVERY; 24 th Coy, G. 18. a 5.1 (S.E. of ALLONVILLE). 4 th and 12 th Coys bathed in River SOMME before moving into billets -	
	23 rd		All Companies refitting and cleaning up generally - Baths, 24 th Coy bathed in SOMME 13 th Coy in L'HALLUE, clean clothing obtained - During night enemy bomb completely destroyed Limber and 1 sub-sections gun gear of 13 th Coy -	
	24 th		4 th Coy baths.	
	25 th		M.G. Coy Officers reconnoitered routes to and positions of readiness in preparation of counter attack or defensive action by Division in Corps Reserve.	
	26 th		Bombing Instructor (Cpl. attached from 13 th Bn indefinitely) arranged Bombing class, 30 NCOs and gunners, at 13 th M.G. Coy -	
	27 th		24 th M.G. Coy held sports during afternoon. Ptes FINCH and HAMMOND - Bn H.Q. Transport - visited a TANK Battalion, Tommy DRIVER became 'tight' and drove them home to billets in his TANK -	

D. D. & L., London, E.C.
(A8004) Wt. 11771/12-31 750,000 5/17 Sch. 52 Forms/C2118/14

C. Douchatel Capt

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MAY 1918

WAR DIARY 4th A.M.G. Bn.

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
ALLONVILLE	28.		Conference of M.G. Coy Commanders held at Bn H.Q. 10 am. Capt W.M.B. Cory (M.G.) 13 th Coy forgot to come. Lieut. CARROLL (T.O) and CAPT. DUCHATEL (Adj) visited 5 th M.G. Bn H.Q. and Transport Lines -	2/1
	29		Orders issued for move to line (5 th Divisional Sector) - During Afternoon Bn H.Q. played 13 th Inf. Bn. Cricket - Scores 88 v 1 wicket + 168.	1/ order No. 7.
	30 th		Details of relief of 5 th M.G. Bn arranged - C.O., 2nd in Command + Adj. visited 5 th M.G. Bn during day - Summary of evidence in the case of Lieuts. JACK and WATTS of 24 th M.G. Coy taken at 10 am. (L ⁺ RUDALL of 50 th Bn).	
	31 st		From 1 am to 3 am ALLONVILLE was shelled with H.V. gun causing nearly 100 casualties to 14 th Inf. Bn. 13 th and 12 th M.G. Coys moved to line. (See operation report for JUNE)	

C. Duchatel Capt

WAR DIARY

OF

4th Aust. M.G. Battalion.

FOR

MAY 1918

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
✓ 1.	Operation Orders N ^o 1 to 7.
✓ 1a.	Summaries of Intelligence.
✓ 2.	Training.
✓ 3.	Battalion Routine Orders, Nos 15 to 20.
✓ 4.	Lessons Learnt During Recent Operations.
✓ 4a.	Effective Strengths of Battalion.
✓ 5.	Maps.

C. J. Bruchart
 Adj. 4th M.G. Bn 3/6/18

4TH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION.

OPERATION ORDER NO. 2.

Headquarters,

15th April, 1918.

MOVE.

The 12th. Aust. M.G. Coy. complete with transport will move from PONT NOYELLES to BEAUCOURT AREA on 16th April, when they will come under the tactical command of G.O.C. 12th A.I. Bde. The Company will be disposed as under:-

BEAUCOURT	M.G. Company Headquarters.
BAVELINCOURT) 4 Sections. Billets as
BEHENCOURT) arranged by billeting party.

Move to commence at 2 p.m.

Billeting party to report to Staff Captain, 12th Aust. Inf. Bde. at EBART FARM (62D - C.i.e.) at 10 a.m. 16th inst.

Rations will be drawn as at present.

Completion of move and details of billeting to be reported as soon as possible.

ACKNOWLEDGE.

Capt.

Adj. 4th Australian Machine Gun Battalion.

Copies to -

4th Aust. Div. "C" and "Q".
12th Aust. Inf. Bde.
War Diary.
File.

M.G.T.3.

4TH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION.

Headquarters,

16th April, 1918.

O.C.

12th Aust. M.G. Coy.

Ref. MOVEMENT ORDER NO. 1.

1. Move of 12th A.M.G.Coy. is postponed until further orders.
2. The construction of Machine Gun positions in the 3rd. Zone as already reconnoitered will be commenced on morning of 17th April, 1918.
3. Progress Report of previous days work to reach Battalion H.Q. by 12 noon.

Captain.

Adj. 4th Australian Machine Gun Battalion.

Operation Order No 2
unobtainable

211 SECRET

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Cop.

4TH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION

Operation Order No. 3.

Headquarters
28th April 1918

Ref. Map 1/40000, 62D.
1/20000, 62D S.W.

1. The 4th Aust. Division will take over the front now held by 13th and 15th Aust. Inf. Bdes. from 10 a.m. on 28th April.
2. The 4th A.M.G. Battalion will relieve the 8th M.G. Battalion in the line on 28/29th as follows -
 - (a) Afternoon 28th - 24th A.M.G. Coy will relieve "B" Coy and 2 guns of "A" Coy (Cachy-Switch), and be responsible for covering exits from VILLERS BRETONNEUX and approaches to BOIS D'AQUEENNE, bringing maximum fire to bear towards South-east.
 - (b) 28/29th - 12th A.M.G. Coy will relieve 13th A.M.G. Coy and guns of "A" and "C" Coys, and 2 guns of 14th A.M.G. Coy - O 36 b. - in right Brigade sector.
 - (c) 29/30th - 4th A.M.G. Coy will relieve 14th A.M.G. Coy in left Brigade sector.
 - (d) 28/29th - 13th A.M.G. Coy on relief by 12th Coy will relieve 8 guns of "B" Coy in AUBIGNY LINE (Corps Defence) as nucleus garrison between U.L. Central and O. 21. a. O. O. Company H.Q. and remaining guns will move to billets at BLAGNY TRONVILLE.
3. All unrelieved guns of 8th M.G. Battalion in the Divisional sector will be withdrawn at 12 midnight 28/29th.
4. Details of relief to be arranged by Company Commanders concerned.
5. Direct Fire of all guns will be laid by indirect means for use in case of fog or smoke barrage.
6. Area is heavily gas-shelled, and Coy. Commanders will impress on all ranks the necessity for strict gas discipline or precautions. Dug-outs will be rendered gas-proof when possible.
7. Cookers will be taken as far forward as possible.
8. Transport will be brigaded at (approx.) M.17.b. and 18.a. near CANON - LAMOTTE road.
9. Battalion H.Q. will open at GLISY at 10.30 a.m. on 28th.
10. Notification of relief and dispositions to be sent to Battalion H.Q. as early as possible.
11. ACKNOWLEDGE.

Issued at 7 a.m.

Distribution -

4th A.M.G. Coy
12th "
13th "
24th "
8th M.G. Bn
5th "
4th Aust. Div. (2)
4th A.I. Bde
12th "
13th "
Extra copies (2)

C. W. Whately Captain
Adj. 4th Australian M.G. Battalion.

File 1

SECRET.

4TH. AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION.

Copy No. _____

Operation Order No. 4.

Headquarters
3rd. May 1918.

Ref. Map 1/20000 62.D.

1. "The 4th Aust. Inf. Bde. will arrange to take over from the 12th Aust. Inf. Bde. the front line from the present inter Brigade Boundary to the (inclusive to 4th. A.I. Bde.), running from S.E. to N.W. through O.36.D., B. and A.

The 4th. Aust. Inf. Bde. will continue to hold the front, as thus extended, with two battalions.

The 13th. Aust. Inf. Bde. will arrange to take over from the 12th Aust. Inf. Bde. the remainder of the Divisional front as established subsequent to the attack.

The Inter-Brigade Boundary will be adjusted to run as follows:-

Along the road, (inclusive to Left Brigade), running from O.36.D.9.7. to O.36.a.2.6., (Road Junction), thence straight line to Road and Railway Junction at O.34.b.90.75. thence along road, (inclusive to 4th. A.I. Bde.), running through O.34.a.60.75. to the main road at O.27.d.40.35., thence as before.

The relief will probably take place on the night 3/4 May, and all arrangements will be made on this assumption."

2. The 13th. Aust. M.G. Coy. will relieve the 12th. Aust. M.G. Coy. in the Right Brigade Sector.
3. After relief the 12th. M.G. Coy. will place 8 machine guns in the AUBIGNY Line in positions at present held by 13th. M.G. Coy. Remaining guns and headquarters of 12th. M.G. Coy. will move to billets at BLANGY TRONVILLE.
4. Consequent on re-adjustment of Inter-Brigade Boundary the 4th. Aust M.G. Coy. will arrange to relieve two guns of 12th. M.G. Coy. in Square O.36.a. on night 3/4 May.
5. Relief (paras 2 and 3) to be carried on night 4/5 May.
6. Details of relief to be arranged by M.G. Coy. Commanders concerned
7. ACKNOWLEDGE.

Captain

Adj. 4th. Australian Machine Gun Battalion.

SECRET.

Copy No.....

4TH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION.

Operation Order No. 5.

Headquarters,
8th May, 1918.Reference Map 62D. S.W. - 1/20,000.

1. The 12th Aust. Inf. Bde. are relieving the 4th Aust. Inf. Bde. in the Left Brigade Sector on night 9/10th May 1918.
2. The 12th Aust. M.G. Coy. will relieve the 4th Aust. M.G. Coy. in the Left Brigade Sector on night 10/11th May 1918, advance parties to be sent forward beforehand.
3. After relief the 4th A.M.G. Coy. will place 8 machine guns in the AUBIGNY (Corps Defence) Line, in positions at present occupied by the 12th A.M.G. Coy. Remaining 8 guns and M.G. Coy. Headquarters will move to BLANGY TRONVILLE and be under tactical command of 4th Aust. I. Bde.
4. Completion of moves to be reported by wire.
5. ACKNOWLEDGE.

Ordnance

Captain.

Adj. 4th Australian Machine Gun Battalion.

Issued through Signals at 3.30 p.m.

Extra copies to

Transport Officer.
 Quartermaster.
 2nd A.M.G. Battalion.
 6th A.M.G. Battalion.

211
SECRET.

4TH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION.

Operation Order No. 6.

Headquarters.
12th May, 1918.Reference Map 1/20,000 62 D.S.W.

1. The 4th Aust. Inf. Bde. are taking over the Divisional Front from the Right Divisional Boundary at U.5. central to the main VILLERS BRETONNEUX--WARTUSEE ABANCOURT Road, (exclusive), on night 13/14th May, relieving units of the 13th and 12th Aust. Inf. Brigades.
2. The 4th Aust. M.G. Coy will relieve the 13th. Aust. M.G. Coy. in the Right Brigade Sector on night 14/15th May.
3. The 13th Aust. M.G. Coy will relieve, on the same night, the nucleus garrison of 8 machine guns in the AUBIGNY line, now provided by the 4th Aust. M.G. Coy.
4. 13th Aust. M.G. Coy. H.Q. and remaining 8 guns will move to BLANGY TRONVILLE when they will come under tactical command of 13th Aust. Inf. Brigade.
5. Details of reliefs to be arranged between Company Commanders concerned.
6. Reliefs to be notified by code wire.
7. ACKNOWLEDGE.

C. F. Duchatel Capt.

Adjut. 4th Aust. Machine Gun Battalion.

Issued through Signals at 4 p.m.

Extra copies to
3rd. Aust. M.G. Bn.
37th French Div.

4TH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION.

Operation Order No. 7.

Headquarters,
19th May, 1918.Reference Map 1/40,000 - 62D.

1. The 3rd Aust. Division will relieve the 4th Aust. Division between 20/22nd inst.
2. The 3rd Aust. Machine Gun Battalion will relieve the 4th Aust. Machine Gun Battalion as under:-

Date.	Relieving Coy.	Coy. to be Relieved.	After relief move to -	Remarks.
May 20/21st.	23rd Coy.	12th Coy.	RIVERY	
21/22nd.	11th "	4th "	ALLONVILLE Area.	
21st	10th "	24th "	ALLONVILLE	Relief to be completed by 6 p.m.
22nd	9th "	13th "	QUERRIEUX	Relief to be completed by 12 noon.

4th M.G. Bn. H.Qrs. will open at ALLONVILLE at 6 a.m. on 22nd inst.

3. Details of relief to be arranged between M.G. Coy. Commanders concerned.
4. On completion of relief 4th, 12th, and 13th M.G. Coys will be attached to Brigade Groups, and will come under tactical command of G.O.Cs. 4th, 12th, and 13th Inf. Brigades respectively.
5. All Defence Schemes, Maps, etc. will be handed over to incoming M.G. Coys.
6. Administrative Instructions issued separately.
7. Completion of reliefs to be notified by Code wire.
8. ACKNOWLEDGE.

C. J. Duchatel

Captain.

Adj. 4th Australian Machine Gun Battalion.

Issued through Signals at 7 p.m.

Extra copies to -
3rd A.M.G. Bn.
5th " "

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS.

Issued in connection with Battalion Order No. 7.

1. Q.M. STORE.

ALLONVILLE (opp. Billet No.5.)

2. SUPPLIES.

For 12th 13th and 4th Coys. (less transport) will be drawn by respective C.Q.M.S's. through A.A.S.C. Coy. attached each brigade group. Remainder will be drawn through Q.M.

3. AMMUNITION.

Companies will move with Echelons full.

4. BATHS.

Baths are located at :-

CARDONETTE.

H.ll. Central.

QUERRIEU.

HOSPICE, RIVERY.

Allotment for Bn. H.Q. and transport, 24th, 4th, M.G. Coy. will be made by Bn. H.Q. 13th and 12th will make own arrangements.

5. TRENCH SHELTERS

And Tents and Hot Food Containers will be handed over to relieving units and receipts forwarded to Bn. H.Q. by 12 noon on 23rd May.

6. BILLETING.

Of 12th Coy. (RIVERY), 13th Coy. (QUERRIEU) and 4th Coy. (less transport), (ALLONVILLE Area) will be carried out under arrangement of respective Brigades.

M.G. Bn. will arrange billets of :-

Battalion H.Q.	ALLONVILLE
24th M.G. Coy.	"
Bn. Transport Lines.	"
(Bn. H.Q. Transport	
4th Coy, Transport	
24th Coy. Transport)	

7. BILLETING CERTIFICATES

Will be rendered before leaving present area by :- Bn. H.Q. at GLISY and O.C. Details at LAMOTTE.

Certificate of Town Major that billets have been left in clean and unlooted state will be obtained and forwarded to Bn. H.Q. by 12 noon on 23rd May.

8. ACKNOWLEDGE.

Crouchat

Capt.

Adj. 4th Australian Machine Gun Battalion.

Issued at 7 p.m. 20/5/18.

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4TH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY
TO 8 A.M., 1ST. MAY 1918.

OUR OPERATIONS.

- I. Artillery. Was active throughout the period
Intense bombardment was carried out for 10 minutes
at 10.45 p.m., and for 5 minutes at 11 p.m., and
again at 4.35 a.m. for 25 minutes.
Localities shelled by heavies at intervals :-
1. Farm in O.36.d.60.90.
2. Monument Wood.
- II. Trench Mortars. Fire was directed at intervals on farm at O.36.d.
60.90.
- III. Aircraft. Our aeroplanes very active, flying very low.
One plane fired into Monument Wood.
- IV. Machine Guns. Two of our guns fired from house-tops in VILLERS
BRETONNEUX intermittently into Monument Wood,
from 11 p.m. till 2 a.m.
Ammunition expended - 1360 rounds.

ENEMY OPERATIONS.

- | V. Artillery. | Locality | Class | Time | Remarks |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------|-------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| | O.27.c. | 5.9 | afternoon | about 12 shots
fired. |
| | O.30.c.6.4. | Light | 8.15 a.m.
till 3 a.m. | |
| | Ridge 300 yds.
in front of
CACHY. | 4.2 | 11 a.m. | 30 shells |
| | CACHY village | 5.9 | 8.30 p.m. | 5 mins. bombardt. |
| | CACHY SWITCH | do, | 10.30 " | 5 mins. bombard
ment. No
damage done. |
- VI. Trench Mortars. Fired on Farm in O.30.d.
- VII. M.Gs. Fire was directed on -
(a) Our M.G. positions near cemetery.
(b) At long intervals down railway line
through VILLERS BRETONNEUX
- VIII. Aircraft. During afternoon one low-flying plane was driven
off by our Lewis, and French, machine-gun fire.
- IX. Miscellaneous. Usual amount of Flares sent up by enemy, who appears
very alert.

Enemy plane at 10.30 am.
overhead 11.30

Lieut.

Intelligence officer, 4th A.M.G. Battalion.

4TH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY
to 6 a.m. 2nd May 1918.Our Operations.

Artillery. Fairly active throughout the period. Greater amount of fire appeared directed on enemy front line. Good shooting was observed.

Shooting short.

One 6-inch Mark 19 Gun firing from Square N12 dropped several shots at O.34.a.9.3. at 4.10 p.m.

Trench Mortars. Active at intervals throughout the night on Right Sector.

Aircraft. Fairly active, flying low over Left Sector.

Machine Guns. Did not fire owing to minor infantry operations on Right Sector. On remainder of front no target presented.

Enemy Operations.

Artillery. Left Sector. Support line shelled at 11 a.m. various calibres.

Right Sector. More active than on previous day. At 11.30 a.m. edge of forest was shelled for five minutes with 5.9 H.E. At 8.30 p.m. CACHY was shelled with mixture of gas (class unknown) and H.E. From 9.15 p.m. to 9.45 p.m. general shelling of whole support system with H.E. At 2.45 a.m. enemy barraged forward system for 5 minutes.

VILLERS BRETONNEUX. Was shelled by all calibres with H.E. and shrapnel from 6.15 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Aircraft. One plane flew along the line but did not attempt reconnaissance, his intentions apparently were to observe artillery effect.

Machine Guns. Active at intervals throughout the night, firing on our guns in O.36.a., and also firing along railway line from O.36!c.50.30.

Flares. Usual quantity of flares. Enemy appear alert.

Miscellaneous. S.O.S. went up at 2.45 a.m. and was answered by his artillery.

Enemy sniping active. Machine guns usually opened up with his bombardment.

Gas Shelling. Took place from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. on squares 34 ~~55~~ and 35. Phosgene, No. unknown.

Lieut.

Intelligence Officer, 4th A.M.G. Battalion.

4TH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY to 6 a.m. 3rd May 1918.

OUR OPERATIONS.

- Artillery.** Right Sector. Very active during the period. Monument Wood was shelled at intervals and the monument was demolished. At 2 a.m. a barrage was put down on U.S. for 40 minutes.
- Left Sector. Quieter than usual.
- Aircraft.** Very active on the whole of the front. At 11.45 a.m. 7 planes attacked 4 enemy planes, bringing one down in flames and one out of control. They fell in U.S.d.
- Machine Guns.** Direct guns did not fire owing to no suitable targets being offered. Indirect fire was brought to bear on P.30.c. and d., P.32.a. and b. Ammunition expended - 8000 rounds. Six guns on Right Sector fired on the Monument, roads in V. l. and 7., road in U.S.c., and on U.S.b.50.20. Ammunition expended - 18000 rounds. Guns fired throughout the night.
- Trench Mortars.** Fired on Monument Wood during the attack.
- Attack on Monument Wood.** Situation obscure at present. Attack commenced 2 a.m., and heavy M.G., rifle and grenade fire was encountered, causing our troops to withdraw. Four guns went with the attacking force, and up to the present three guns, one tripod, and a percentage of belt-boxes have been recovered. From reports casualties and losses in gun gear do not appear to be heavy.

ENEMY OPERATIONS.

- Artillery.** Right Sector. Not very active during the period. CACHY was shelled at irregular intervals. At 9 p.m. support area was barraged for 10 minutes. This was repeated at 11 p.m. After the attack enemy opened a desultory fire, which increased in intensity and is now fairly heavy, especially on railway line.
- Left Sector. Quieter than usual. Six 8-in. fell in O.S.a. at 9.35 P.m.
- VILLERS BRETONNEUX was shelled during the morning with H.E. and shrapnel, and a large petrol and oil dump was fired.
- Aircraft.** Very active. Attempts were made to cross our line but were frustrated by our planes. During the afternoon a few planes flying high were engaged by A.A. guns and our planes. Bombs were dropped on VILLERS BRETONNEUX.
- Machine Guns.** Inactive during the day, but were the main stumbling block in the attack. There appeared to be a great number of M.Gs. in Monument Wood. Our front and support lines were fired on at short intervals throughout the night.
- Trench Mortars.** Were used against us in the attack, and also fired on front line of left Sector.

Flares. Usual amount of flares were used. Two Red 4 appears to be the signal for heavy artillery, and an orange cluster the signal for light artillery and trench mortars. A large beacon light or fire was observed behind the lines, apparently a guide for night-flying planes. Burnt all night.

Miscellaneous. Sniping was active on both sides. At dawn several stretcher-bearers were seen removing wounded in P.M.

Lieut.

Intelligence officer, 4th A.M.G. Battalion.

Attack on Monument Wood. At 11.00 a.m. and heavy M.G. fire was commenced. The attack was repulsed, causing our losses to be heavy. Four guns were sent with the attacking force, and up to the present time guns, one killed, and a percentage of belt-bones have been recovered. From reports received and losses in our force do not appear to be heavy.

Artillery. Right Sector. Not very active during the period. CATCH was shelved at irregular intervals. At 9 p.m. support was bargained for 10 minutes. This was repeated at 11 p.m. After the attack many earned a temporary fire, which increased in intensity and in new light heavy, especially on railway line.

Left Sector. Lighter than usual. Six 6-in. fell in 0.0.0. at 9.35 p.m.

VILLIERS BRETHERTON was killed during the morning with H.E. and shrapnel, and a large petrol and oil tank was fired.

Aircraft. Very active. Attempts were made to cross our line but were frustrated by our planes. During the afternoon a few planes flying high were engaged by A.A. guns and one plane, bombs were dropped on VILLIERS BRETHERTON.

Machine Guns. Inactive during the day, but were the main attacking block in the attack. There appeared to be a great number of M.G.s in Monument Wood. Our front and support lines were fired on at short intervals throughout the night.

Trench Mortars. Were used against us in the attack, and also fired on front line at left sector.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

4th AUST. MACHINE GUN BN.

Headquarters.

4th May, 1918.

OUR OPERATIONS.Artillery.

Right sector. Generally active throughout the period. 18prs. and 75m.m. keeping up an irregular fire. Heavies shelled back areas from 8p.m. to 9p.m. An intense bombardment was heard on the right. Remainder of the night passed quietly.

Left sector. Fairly quiet during the period.

Aircraft.

Very active. Mostly flying in squadrons. One French plane was attacked by seven enemy planes but effected his escape. Enemy planes made off on the approach of a large number on our planes. Heavy A.A. fire was directed at our planes without result.

Machine Guns.

Our direct fire guns did not fire owing to no suitable targets being offered. Indirect guns from the following positions fired on MONUMENT WOOD to cover infantry reliefs, - 0.36.c.30.70. and 0.36.95.0.35.d.95.45. Ammunition expended 2,500 rounds. Harrasing fire was directed on P.26.c. and d. and P. 32.a. and b. and continued throughout the night. Ammunition expended 8,000 rounds.

Trench Mortars.

Carried out bombardment on enemy lines from 1a.m. to 3p.m. Six inch Newtons fired a few rounds on Chateau in MONUMENT WOOD during the afternoon.

Reliefs.

13th. A.I. Bde. relieved 12th. A.I. Bde. in right sector.

Enemy Operations.Artillery.

Right sector. Fairly active. Railway in vicinity of station was shelled intermittently with 5.9 H.E. During the morning Bois L' Abbe and Bois D'Aquenne were shelled with 5.9 H.E. The night was quiet. Left sector. Quiet during the period. A few H.E.'s. fell in VILLERS-BRETTONEUX and the vally in the 0.23.c.

Aircraft.

Very active. Planes attempting to cross our lines were met with A.A. and machine gun fire. ~~Two enemy planes were brought down during the day, one by our planes and one by A.A. fire.~~

Machine Guns.

Very active all day, especially on the streets of VILLERS-BRETTONEUX and on the railway line. M.G.'s. in MONUMENT WOOD were also firing. The usual amount of harrasing fire was directed on our front and support lines during the night.

Miscellaneous.

Three enemy propaganda balloons crossed our lines between 4.30p.m. and 5.30p.m. They fell in 0.22.c. 30.50., 023.b.20.80. and 0.16.d. A paper from the first is attached. Enemy observation balloons overlooked railway during the afternoon and observed shelling. One of our tanks which was stranded near MONUMENT WOOD was shelled by our H.T.M. and set on fire.

[Signature]
Lieut.

Intelligence Officer 4th Aust. M. G. Battalion.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

4th AUST. MACHINE GUN BN.

Headquarters.

5th May, 1918.

OUR OPERATIONS.Artillery.

The usual desultory fire was maintained throughout the period. A heavy bombardment of squares U.6.a. and c. was delivered from 6p.m. to 6-30p.m. by our heavies.

Machine Guns.

Direct fire. No targets presented.

Indirect fire. Harrasing fire was carried out on squares P.32.a. and P.32.b. Ammunition expended, 8,000 rounds.

Aircraft.

Our aircraft was very active throughout the period. Bombing planes were heard crossing the lines during the night.

Trench Mortars.

A few rounds were fired into MONUMENT WOOD between 3-15a.m. and 3-45a.m. from O.36.c.35.35.

Reliefs.

The 12th A.M.G. Coy. in the right sector was relieved by the 13th. A.M.G. Coy. The relief was completed by 11-30p.m. the 12th Coy. moving back to positions in the L'ABBE line.

Enemy Operations.Artillery.


About 30 rounds of 5.9 H.E. were fired into the internment camp in O.27.d. at 7-30p.m. VILLERS-BRETONNEUX and O.34.a. and b. were shelled intermittently. CACHY was shelled with 5.9H.E.

Machine Guns.

Enemy M.G.'s. in MONUMENT WOOD maintained an intermittent fire on following points: Railway line and streets of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX.

Aircraft.

Enemy planes crossed our lines at 6p.m and 7p.m. and were driven back by our A.A. fire.


Lieut.

Intelligence Officer 4th Aust. M. G. Battalion.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

4TH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION.

Headquarters.

7th May, 1918.

OUR OPERATIONS.Artillery.

Generally active. Fire directed against enemy positions in U.6.a. and c.

Aircraft.

Active patrolling carried out. One plane of ours hit by enemy A.A. fire was seen to fall in O.17.b. at 10a.m.

Machine Guns.

Direct fire. No targets presented.
Indirect ~~fire~~ harassing fire was delivered through the night on squares P.31.a., c. and b. Ammunition expended 8,000 rounds.

ENEMY OPERATIONS.Artillery.

VILLERS BRETONNEUX was shelled with 5.9 H.E. between 11a.m. and 12-30p.m. The village of GENETTES was shelled intermittently throughout the day by 5.9 H.E. Left sector quiet. A few 10 inch fell in squares O.15. and O.16. Our support lines in V.3. and V.4. were subjected to heavy bombardment during the morning, casualties suffered.

Aircraft.

Enemy patrols were active but were harassed by our M.G. and A.A. fire. A flight of about 10 high flying planes attempted to cross our lines about 3-45p.m., but were driven off in a S.E. direction by our A.A. fire.

Machine Guns.

On right sector much quieter than usual. Left sector forward areas were subjected to harassing fire throughout the night.

Miscellaneous.

Observation. Two enemy M.G.'s. were located. One at P.25.c.75.17. and one at P.25.d.00.73. Horse transport and troops were noticed moving in V.7.a. about 8a.m.

Weather. Observation good. Weather clear during the day.

Flares. Usual number of flares were sent up from enemy lines.

Lieut.

Intelligence Officer 4th Aust M.G. Battalion.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

4TH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION.

HEADQUARTERS.

8th May 1918.

OUR OPERATIONS.

Artillery.

Fairly active all day. Enemy front system was barraged 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. S.O.S. lines were barraged heavily at 3 a.m.

Machine Guns.

No targets presented for direct fire. Indirect fire. Harassing fire was delivered through the night on P.3/a. and c. Ammunition expended 5,000 rounds.

Aircraft.

Usual patrols.

ENEMY OPERATIONS.

Artillery.

Inactive on left sector. Right sector, fairly active all day. Southern edge of BOIS D'AQUENNE was shelled about 5 p.m. A number of rounds were fired at railway in O.27.d. about 8 p.m.

Machine Guns.

Usual fire was delivered on our forward system during the night.

Aircraft.

Two enemy planes flew across our lines at about 7 p.m.

Miscellaneous.

SHORT SHOOTING.

Right sector.

Between 10 and 11 a.m. our guns barraged enemy front lines. Several of these shells fell on our own front line causing casualties.

MOVEMENT.

At about 11 a.m. movement was observed in square V.13.d.

WEATHER.

Dull but observation fair.

"DUDS".

A large number of rounds fired by our artillery failed to explode.

[Handwritten signature]

Lieut.

Intelligence Officer 4th Aust Machine Gun Battn.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

4TH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION.

Headquarters.

9th May, 1918.

OUR OPERATIONS.Artillery.

Usual activity.

Machine Guns.

Direct fire. No targets presented.

Indirect fire. The usual program of harrassing fire was carried out on squares P.3/a. and c. Ammunition expended 5,000 rounds. In addition to this 250 rounds were fired at an enemy plane which came within range.

Aircraft.

Very active up till 8p.m.

ENEMY OPERATIONS.Artillery.

Very quiet. VILLERS BRETONNEUX was lightly shelled during the day and a few 4.2 in. fell in O.23. c.

Machine Guns.

The usual amount of fire was directed on our front system during the night.

Aircraft.

At 3p.m. two planes crossed our lines flying low, these were heavily engaged by our M.G. and A.A. fire.

Miscellaneous.GAS SHELLS.

At 6-30p.m. about 20 gas shells fell in O.27.b. and south of VILLERS BRETONNEUX, apparently Phosgene.



Lieut.

Intelligence Officer 4th Aust. M. G. Battalion.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

4TH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION.

Headquarters.

10th May, 1918.

OUR OPERATIONS.

Artillery. The usual activity.

Machine Guns. Direct fire nil. Indirect fire. The usual program was carried out on squares P.31. a. and c. Ammunition expended 5,000 rounds.

Aircraft. Very active all day. One plane was forced to land in U.3.d.

ENEMY OPERATIONS.

Artillery. Fairly quiet. A few shells fell in BOIS D'ABBE at 5.30p.m., in O.3.d. at 11a.m. and O.34.d. and edge of wood at 3p.m.

Machine Guns. Active throughout the night.

Aircraft. Very active. At 11a.m. two planes flew over our lines and engaged working parties with their M.G's. at O.23. central. Again at 7.30p.m. six planes fired with their machine guns on our forward system. At 8.45p.m. two planes flew over in the direction of AMIENS. All these targets were engaged by our M.G. and A.A. fire.

Miscellaneous.

WEATHER.

Misty in the morning but clear and fine during the rest of the day.

Lieut.

Intelligence Officer 4th Aust. M.G. Bn.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

4TH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION

Headquarters.

11th May, 1918

OUR OPERATIONS.

Artillery. Usual activity.

Machine Guns. Direct fire. 50 rounds were expended against enemy aircraft. Indirect fire. Tracks in P.31.b. were harrassed at intervals throughout the night. Ammunition expended 4,000 rounds.

Aircraft. Very active. A French plane was forced to land in O.34.c. at about 1p.m.

Reliefs. The 12th A.M.G. Coy. relieved the 4th A.M.G. Coy. The relief was completed at 11.30p.m., the 4th Coy moving back into positions vacated by the 12th Coy in the AUBIGNY line.

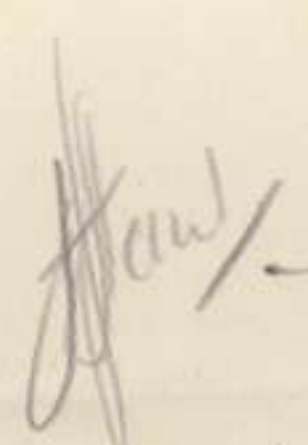
ENEMY OPERATIONS.

Artillery. Very quiet. About 30 5.9 inch shells fell in gully in O.22. between 7p.m. and 10p.m.

Machine Guns. The usual activity during the night.

Aircraft. Very active. At 8a.m. two bombs were dropped in O.25.a. During afternoon 6 bombs were dropped in O.28.d. and O.34.b. No damage was done.

Miscellaneous. A Vickers gun at O.21.b.80.80. was badly damaged by shell fire.


Lieut.

Intelligence Officer 4th Aust. M.G. Battalion.

SECRET.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

4TH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION.

Headquarters.

12th May, 1918

OUR OPERATIONS.

Artillery.

Active throughout the day, U.G.a was heavily barraged from 12.30a.m. to 1a.m.

Aircraft.

Fairly active.

Machine Guns.

Direct fire nil. Indirect fire was directed on U.G.a. from 12 midnight until 1a.m. Ammunition expended 5,000 rounds. Tracks in P.31.b. were subjected to harrassing fire throughout the night. Ammunition expended 4,000 rounds.

ENEMY OPERATIONS.

Artillery.

Fairly active. CACHY was shelled at intervals during the day. The reply to our barrage was very light, shells mostly falling in O.36.a. and c. *cc*

Aircraft.

Active. Two planes dropped bombs on VILLERS - BRETONNEUX about 3p.m. Two squadrons crossed our lines at 4.30p.m. and one plane flew low along our line at 7p.m.

Machine Guns.

The usual activity was displayed during the night.

Lieut.

Intelligence Officer 4th Australian Machine Gun Battalion.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

4TH AUST MACHINE GUN BATTALION.

HEADQUARTERS.

13th May 1918.

OUR OPERATIONS.

- Artillery. Fairly active at irregular intervals. Back areas received a great deal of attention, heavies and shrapnel being used.
- Machine Guns. Direct fire. 500 rounds were fired at enemy planes which came within range of our guns.
Indirect fire. Guns in O.30.a. fired throughout the night on tracks in P.31.b and c. Ammunition expended 3,000 rounds. Two guns in O.34.d. fired on south side of MONUMENT WOOD from 11.30 p.m. till 12.30 p.m. in support of infantry patrol from U.5.b.40.70. Ammunition expended 2,000 rounds.
- Aircraft. Were very active after 4.30 p.m. Large numbers of planes crossed enemy lines. Bombing was heard behind the enemies lines during the night.

ENEMY OPERATIONS.

- Artillery. Quiet during the day, but livened up at 6.30 p.m. when he shelled our front and support lines in P.25. Since dawn shelling has been brisk several shells falling in O.22. and 23. and railway cutting in O.27. and 28.
- Machine Guns. Quieter than usual on left sector but active on the right.
- Aircraft. Very active from 6 p.m. till dusk flying very low over our lines. Our M.G.s and A.A.guns engaged all targets.
- Trench Mortars. A few "Pineapple" bombs fell on our front line in P.25.
- Miscellaneous. Prisoners. One prisoner was brought in about midnight
- Patrols. A small enemy patrol was dispersed by our L.G. fire at 10 p.m.
- Movement. Sniping and listening posts at P.25.a.90.00. are reported to have been evacuated.

Arthur A. Bowless Lieut.

Intelligence Officer 4th Aust Machine Gun Battn

SECRET.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

4TH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION

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Headquarters.

14th May, 1918.

OUR OPERATIONS.

Artillery. Fairly active. 6" howitzers registered on enemy lines in P.25.a.

Machine Guns. Direct fire. Nil.
Indirect fire was directed on roads in P.20.a and U.6.c. Ammunition expended 4,000 rounds.

Aircraft. Were active during the early morning.

Trench Mortars. Stokes Mortars fired 30 shells on enemy advance post in O.25. at 2.10a.m.

Raid. Two officers and 26 other ranks of the 46th A.I. Battalion raided enemy advance posts at 2.10a.m. to obtain identification. The raid was unsuccessful owing to M.G. and T.M. fire.

Reliefs. The 4th A.I. Bde. relieved the 13th A.I. Bde. and took over 500 yds. of front from the 12th A.I. Bde.

ENEMY OPERATIONS.

Artillery. Very active from dawn till 12.30p.m., shelling edge of wood in O.26.b. and O.27.a. The valley in O.25. was shelled with 5.9's and 77's till nine 9.a.m. The usual amount of shells fell in VILLERS-BRETONNEUX.

Machine Guns. Fairly active during the night.

Aircraft. Very active from dawn till 9a.m. Planes crossed our lines in large numbers. A number of bombs were dropped on wood and surrounding area.

Miscellaneous. Flares. Numerous white flares were sent up during the night. Two reds and one green located our raiding party and were replied to by enfilade M.G. fire.

Arthur A. Bowles.

Lieut.

Intelligence Officer 4th Australian M. G. Battalion.

File

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

4TH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION.

Headquarters.

15th May, 1918.

OUR OPERATIONS.Artillery.

Fairly active throughout the period. From 8.15p.m. to 10.30p.m. enemy support lines were engaged by our Field guns.

Machine Guns.

Direct fire. Our A.A.M.G.'s. fired 1,200 rounds at enemy planes which came within range.

Indirect fire. Fire was directed on P.26.d.90.60. and P.32.a.90.30. Ammunition expended 3,000 rounds.

Aircraft.

Very active throughout the day and night. Several planes were heard firing with their M.G.'s.

Relief.

The 4th A.M.G. Coy. relieved the 13th A.M.G. Coy. in the forward positions, the 13th Coy. occupying positions vacated by the 4th Coy. in the AUBIGNY line.

The 45th and 47th A.I. Bns. relieved the 48th and 46th A.I. Bns. in the front line.

ENEMY OPERATIONS.Artillery.

Greater activity was manifest throughout the period.

Machine Guns.

The usual activity. Fire was directed on wood in P.19.c. and on reverse slopes in O.29.b. and O.23.d.

Miscellaneous.

At 2p.m. one of our balloons was observed to fall in flames on the left of CORBIE.

Lieut.

Intelligence Officer *John A. Fowler*
4th Australian Machine Gun Battalion.

4TH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION.

Headquarters.

16th May, 1918.

OUR OPERATIONS.

Artillery. Active. A constant fire was kept up by our 18 pdrs. on enemies forward position. MONUMENT wood was subjected to heavy shelling.

Machine Guns. Direct fire. 100 rounds were fired at enemy post in O.25.d., the result unknown. Our A.A.M.G.'s. were active against low flying planes. Ammunition expended 2,000 rounds.

Indirect fire. The usual program was carried out from 9.45 p.m. till 4 a.m. Ammunition expended 4,000 rounds.

Aircraft. Very active throughout the period constantly patrolling our front. During the night a number of bombing planes crossed the lines.

ENEMY OPERATIONS.

Artillery. Quiet on forward system but active otherwise.

Machine Guns. The usual activity was displayed throughout the night. One gun is said to be firing from a turnip heap in P.25.b.

Aircraft Very active all day. Bombing planes crossed our li lines at night and bombs were dropped in O.30.a. at 12.30 a.m.

Miscellaneous. Aircraft. Our A.A.M.G. located at O.30.a.40.60. claimed to have brought down an enemy plane at 8.25 p.m. The plane was flying at 3,000 feet over our front line. No other guns fired until the plane was disabled. It fell in the enemy lines.

Arthur A. Dowling

Lieut.

Intelligence Officer 4th Australian Machine Gun Battalion

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SECRET.

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4TH AUST MACHINE GUN BATTALION.

HEADQUARTERS.

17th May 1918.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

OUR OPERATIONS.

Artillery.

Usual activity was displayed.

Machine Guns.

Direct fire. Our A.A.M.G.s were very active all day firing at low flying machines. Ammunition expended 3,250 rounds.

Indirect fire. The usual programme was carried out, guns firing from 9 p.m. till dawn. Ammunition expended 12,000 rounds.

Aircraft.

Very active patrolling all day. Bombing planes crossed enemy lines in large numbers during the night.

One plane was forced to land in our lines. The plane was burnt and stretcher-bearers removed the wounded airmen.

Trench Mortars.

Stokes fired a few rounds on suspected snipers posts at midnight.

ENEMY OPERATIONS.

Artillery.

Quiet on forward positions but active on back areas. About 9 p.m. a barrage was put down on re-entrants in O.23.b. and d. only light guns being used.

Machine Guns.

Usual firing during the night.

Aircraft.

Great activity throughout the period. Frequent attempts to cross our lines were beaten off by our A.A. and M.G. fire. At 4.30 p.m. an enemy plane was driven down by our aircraft, plane fell behind COMBIE. One enemy A.E.C. twin engined plane number C.588/17 was forced brought down by our fire and landed in O.27.a. Bombing planes were active during the night.

Miscellaneous.

Gas. Gas shells fell near batteries in O.14. and 20. from 9 p.m. till midnight.

W. H. A. Davies Lieut.
Intelligence Officer 4th Aust Machine Gun Battalion

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

4TH AUST. MACHINE GUN BATTALION.

Headquarters.

6th May, 1918.

OUR OPERATIONS.Artillery.

Fairly active throughout the period. Heavy firing was carried out on O.8.a. and c.

Aircraft.

Very active. Bombing planes were heard crossing the line during the night.

Machine Guns.

Direct fire guns. No targets presented. Indirect fire XXXX was delivered on squares P.23.a and c., P.32.a and b., and P51 a and c. and was maintained at regular intervals throughout the night. Ammunition expended 8,000 rounds.

ENEMY OPERATIONS.Artillery.

Enemy artillery was fairly quiet. Between 10 a.m. and 12 noon a few rounds were fired into VILLERS-BRETTONNEUX, heavies. And GACHY at intervals during the day.

Aircraft.

Only one plane was observed and this was flying high, crossing VILLERS - BRETONNEUX at noon.

Machine Guns.

On the right sector quieter than usual. M.G.'s in MONUMENT WOOD fired occasionally through the night. On the left sector greater activity than usual. Our front, support and reserve lines were fired on throughout the night.

Miscellaneous.

Short Shooting. Several of our own shells fell short on embankment near O.36.c.40.35. at 1 a.m., 2.20 a.m., and 2.30 a.m. This was reported to the Artillery Liaison Officer. The shells were all "Duds". Considerable enemy movement has been noticed on the road at P.27.b.40.35. This appears to be a Battalion Headquarters.

Lieut.

Intelligence Officer 4th Aust. M.G. Battalion

4TH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION

Headquarters.

18th May, 1918.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

OUR OPERATIONS.

Artillery.

Generally active. Intermittent salvos by 18 pdrs. At 5 p.m. a barrage was put down on MONUMENT WOOD for 10 minutes.

Machine Guns.

Direct fire. Our forward guns in P.25. fired 500 rounds at an enemy working party which dispersed. Our A.A. guns were active against low flying machines. Ammunition expended 5,600 rounds.

Indirect fire. From 9.20 p.m. till dawn fire was directed on new tracks in P.26.c. and d., MONUMENT, MONUMENT WOOD, and trenches in the vicinity of road in U.5.d. and U.6.c. Ammunition expended 10,100 rounds.

Aircraft.

Very active. Several fights took place in one of which an enemy plane was destroyed and fell at 0.30.a. 90.30. The pilot, who had a wooden leg, was killed.

ENEMY OPERATIONS.

Artillery.

Not as active as on previous days. During the morning railway cutting in O.26. was enfiladed with 5.9's. Valleys and low ground in O.21. and 22., and VILLERS BRETONNEUX received attention. At 2 p.m. reverse slopes near CORBIE were engaged by a battery of 5.9's. This battery was located and silenced by our 6 inch guns.

Machine Guns.

Were active against our aircraft. During the night intermittent fire was directed on our front and support lines, squares O.30.a. and O.29.b. and sunken road in P.19.c.

Aircraft.

Active. Several attempts to cross our lines were frustrated by our A.A.M.G. fire. At 10 a.m. a plane flew very low over battery positions in O.20. Bombing planes were active during the night.

Arthur Andrewes

Lieut.

Intelligence Officer 4th Australian Machine Gun Battalion.

SECRET.

4TH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION.

Headquarters.

19th May, 1918.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.OUR OPERATIONS.

Artillery. Usual activity. Enemy lines were shelled heavily between 1.45 a.m. and 2.45 a.m.

Machine Guns. Our A.A.M.G's. fired on all low flying planes that came within range. Ammunition expended 2,750 rounds. Indirect fire. The usual program of harassing fire was carried out from dusk till dawn. Targets being tracks in P.26.c. and d. and trenches in U.5.d. and U.6.a. Ammunition expended 12,000 rounds.

Aircraft. Active. Reconnaissances were carried out during the day and bombing planes were heard crossing the lines during the night.

ENEMY OPERATIONS.

Artillery. Usual activity. Several fires were seen in VILLERS-BRETENNEUX caused by shelling.

Machine Guns. Fired on our aircraft during the day and the usual amount of fire was directed on our lines during the night

Aircraft. Fairly active during the period. Bombing planes were not so much in evidence as on previous nights.

Arthur A. Towles

Lieut.

Intelligence Officer 4th Aust Machine Gun Battalion.

4TH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION.

Headquarters.

20th May, 1918.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.OUR OPERATIONS.Artillery.

Active throughout the period. A constant fire was directed on enemy positions for the greater part of the night.

Machine Guns.

Direct fire. Our A.A.M.G.'s. engaged all targets expending 3,200 rounds.

Indirect fire. The usual programme was carried out. Ammunition expended 13,000 rounds.

Aircraft.

Active patrolling was carried out throughout the day and large numbers of bombing planes crossed the lines during the night. One plane was forced to descend in our own lines at 10 a.m.

French Mortars.

STOKES fired on enemy front line at 10 p.m.

ENEMY OPERATIONS.Artillery.

Quiet on forward areas and only medium activity against our batteries. VILLERS-BRETONNEUX was shelled intermittently throughout the period.

Machine Guns.

Active during the day against our aircraft. At night the usual fire was directed on our lines.

Aircraft.

Fairly active. High flying planes carried out reconnaissances but all low flying planes were driven off by our A.A. and M.G. fire. Bombing planes were active on back areas at night.

MISCELLANEOUS.Signals.

Enemy planes dropped white flares which broke into clusters of stars. Nothing materialised.

Crombhatel Capt. Lieut.

Intelligence Officer 4th Australian Machine Gun Battalion.

Appendix N^o 2Training

1. Notes for Conference at Br. H.Q. 28/5/18
2. M/L 4/5. Memo re training
3. M/L 1/1. Training of Signallers
4. Syllabus of Training for Signallers

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APPENDIX. 2/1

NOTES FOR COMPANY COMMANDER'S CONFERENCE

at
Bn. H.Q. 28/5/18 at 10 a.m.

1. Training of Nuclei.
Present lack of system.
Officers not making most of opportunities.
Specialist (such as Bombing) Instructor of Nucleus.
Detailed list showing composition of nucleus to be submitted before going into line again.
2. Training of Signallers.
To be continuous.
3. Tactical Wiring.
Gaps to be made for movement of counter attack troops through wire. Gaps to be concealed by overlapping.
4. Remounts.
Great difficulty being experienced in obtaining.
Sick horses to be treated by own Vet. where possible to save evacuations.
5. Stealing Horses.
C.O. of units is responsible for all horses or animals on lines which cannot be accounted for.
6. Motor Bicycles and Bicycles.
Same as above. No further indents for bicycles allowed.
7. Horse Lines.
It is strictly forbidden to tie horses to trees.
8. Cutting Down Trees.
Forbidden. Units found cutting down unauthorised trees are liable to pay for all damaged trees in the vicinity.
9. Grazing.
In unauthorised places forbidden.
10. Pilfering.
Units found in possession of stolen material or food-stuffs will be charged with all articles stolen from same place. i.e. A man steals a duck from a farmyard, then the unit pays for all ducks stolen from that farm.
11. Sanitation.
Latrines to be prepared immediately on moving into new camp.
Covering manure and fly breeding filth.
Certificates to be invariably obtained on leaving area.
12. Lice.
Cause of Trench fever. Hot iron on seams.
13. Promulgation of Orders.
14. Honors and Awards.
To be kept strictly confidential.
Competition.
Awards for unwarranted work.
Padres (etc) in connection with.

Appendix 2/1

NOTES FOR COMPANY COMMANDER'S CONFERENCE.

Continued.

15. Lost Stores

And over indenting. Company Commanders held responsible.

16. Box Respirators.

Greatest importance to be attached to training all ranks in use, and drill will be carried out for 1 hour daily by all companies and nucleus. When in line respirators must be fitted and inspected daily under the supervision of an officer.

211 M.G. 4/5.

4TH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION
Headquarters.
28th May 1918.

APPENDIX 2/2

37

O.C.
Alm A.M.G. Coy.

Training.

1. Progressive training under M.G. Coy arrangements will be carried out while in Divisional Reserve.
2. Hours of training will be :
Morning - 9 a.m. to 12 noon
Afternoon - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
No parade will be held before breakfast meal. The afternoon parade will be devoted to organised games, and completion of range practices.
3. Careful attention will be given to following points when drawing up Training Programmes:-
Saluting Drill. 1-hour daily, to be conducted by Section Officers.
Rifle Exercises and Smartening-up Drill.
Range Practices. To be considered of first importance and particularly in training new recruits.
Range Charts. M.G.Os and gun numbers to receive instruction in making range charts from maps, and a due proportion to be trained in use of Barr and Stroud Range Finder.
Open Warfare. Judging distance and use of ground and cover, engaging targets at unknown range.
4. Arrangements are being made for Bombing Instructor to visit Companies in turn.
5. Training Programme for week commencing 27/5/18, 1918, and sketch showing training facilities - i.e., parade ground, range, bombing ground, etc. to reach this Office by 6 p.m., 28th inst., please.

C. J. Duchatel Captain

Adj't., 4th Australian Machine Gun Battalion.

3 copies to 4th Aust. Division.

File

211 M.G. 4/1/1.

APPENDIX. 2/3
3 38

4TH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION
Headquarters.
28th May 1918.

O.O.
th A.M.G. Coy

Training - Signallers.

1. The second M.G. Battalion Signalling Course will assemble at Battalion H.Q. on 27th inst. at 10 a.m.
2. Two other ranks per Company will be detailed to report at that time and will be transferred to Battalion H.Q. as from 27th inst.
3. Rations for day of arrival to be carried.
4. Instructors - Battalion Sig. Officer (Lieut. GREGSON) and L/Sgt. TEMPLETON.
5. The following other ranks who have completed first Bn. Signalling Course will report to Companies on 28th inst. and be shown on strength from that date. Rations for day of arrival will be carried. -

M.G. Coy

Remarks

To ensure the best work being obtained from these men they should be given employment in their Companies as Signallers in order to keep their work fresh and up-to-date

C. D. Whittell

Captain

Adj't., 4th Aust. Machine Gun Battalion.

Copy to Battalion Signal Officer.

3 copies to War Diary.

SYLLABUS OF SIG. TRAINING.For Week 27/5/18 to 2/6/18.

	1st Hour.	2nd Hour.	3rd Hour.	4th Hour.	5th Hour.
M o n d a y	School Assemblies.			Tests on Buzzer and Morse Flag.	
T u e s d a y	Flag Drill.	Lecture - General Principals.	Buzzer Reading.	Lecture - A. and C. Forms, Signal Register, D.K.'s Docket Message Envelope.	
W e d n e s d a y	Flag Drill.	Lecture - Station Work. (visual)	Buzzer Reading.	Station Work:- Morse Flag.	
T h u r s d a y	Flag Drill.	Cable Joining.	Buzzer Reading.	Station Work Morse Flag.	
F r i d a y	Flag Drill.	Lecture Lucas Lamp.	Buzzer Reading.	Telephone Operating.	
S a t u r d a y	Flag Drill.	Station Work Lucas Lamp. Telephone--Operating.		Revision of Weeks Work.	

211
Warrington

SYLLABUS OF SIG. TRAINING.

For Week ending 13-5-18 to 19-5-18.

Hour	1st.	2nd.	3rd.	4th.	5th.
M o n d a y .	Flag Drill General.	Visual Station Work.	Lecture -Mes- senger Dogs and Pigeons.	Buzzer Read- ing.	Map Read- ing. Con- ventional Signs.
T u e s d a y .	Flag Drill Mis. Signs.	Ciphering and Coding of Messages.	Practice use of A. and C. Form Signal Register with Enciphered Messages.	Buzzer Read- ing.	Prismatic Compass.
W e d n e s d a y .	Flag Drill General.	Jointing Cables.		Buzzer Read- ing.	Map Reading Continued.
T h u r s d a y .	Flag Drill Mis. Signs.	Station Work, Visual with Lucas Lamp.		Buzzer Read- ing.	Tank Sig- nals.
F r i d a y .	Flag Drill General.	Telephone Operating.		Buzzer Reading.	Lecture - Linesman's Duties.
S a t u r d a y .	Flag Drill.	Laying and Maintaining Cable.		Revision of Weeks Work.	

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War Diary

APPENDIX.

2/4
41SYLLABUS OF SIG. TRAINING.

For Week 6-3-18 to 13-3-18.

Hour.	1st.	2nd.	3rd.	4th.	5th.
M o n d a y.	Flag Drill Mis. Signs.	Buzzer Read- ing and Prac- tice.	"A" and "C" Message Forms	Buzzer Read- ing.	Lecture, Dut- ies of Des- patch Riders and Runners.
T u e s d a y.	Flag Drill and Short Numerals.	Duties of a Signaller on Visual Work.	Demonstration and Practical Station Work.	Buzzer Read- ing.	Correct Pro- cedure and use of "A" & "C" Forms and Signal Regis- ter.
W e d n e s d a y.	Flag Drill and Long Numerals.	General Lecture on Telephonic Means of Communication as in use by Battalion at present.		Buzzer Read- ing.	Mis. Signals and Their Uses.
T h u r s d a y.	Flag Drill and Mis. Sig- nals.	Lecture on Lucas Daylight Lamp.	Buzzer Read- ing. Practical Work with Lamp.	Buzzer Read- ing.	General Des- cription of Telescope and Practical uses.
F r i d a y.	Flag Drill, General.	Cable Joining.	Cable Joining.	Buzzer Reading.	Testing Cab- les and Lines for Breaks and Losses.
S a t u r d a y.	Flag Drill, General.	Buzzer Read- ing.	Visual Stat- ion Work.	Revision of Week's Work.	

2

BATTALION ROUTINE ORDER NO. 15.

by
LIEUT-COLONEL H.W. MURRAY, V.C., D.S.O., D.C.M.
Commanding
4th Australian Machine Gun Battalion.

5th May 1918.

Part I.

Abandoned Wine.

1. The following Extract from 4th Army Routine Orders is published for information and necessary action :
1935 - Abandoned Wine. - The existence of large quantities of liquor in the forward portions of the Army area constitutes a danger.

The General Commandant en Chef has authorized the requisitioning by the French Authorities for the use of the French Army of :-

(a) Excess supplies of wine held by tradespeople in the area East of the Hazebrouck - Lillers - St. Pol - Doullens - Amiens road.

(b) Supplies of wine in excess of the needs of the civil population which arrive at railway stations in the area mentioned in (a).

The requisitioning is in the hands of Monsieur l'Intendant Poliot, Directeur de l'Intendance Militaire Francaise, who has been asked by the French Mission to remove first of all those stocks of wine which have been abandoned by the owners in the areas close behind our lines.

If military exigencies demand it, stocks of abandoned wine which cannot be guarded may be destroyed. Abandoned wines are not to be taken either by troops or by messes or canteens.

Pay.

5. pay will be available on Wednesday next, 8th inst. at 12 noon. Requisition by wire will reach this Office not later than 12 noon on Sunday, 5th inst.

Part II.

Honours
and
Rewards.

1. Under authority granted by his Majesty the King, the Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief has awarded the Military Cross to Lieut. T.R. JACK, 24th Aust. M.G. Coy. AIF. The Army Commander, the Corps Commander, the Divisional Commander, and the Battalion Commander desire their congratulations to be conveyed to the recipient.

Promotions.

2. Battalion M.G.

To be Corporal, dated 14/4/18 (A.F. BQ13 - 5/5/18) :-

No. 514a	Pte (T/Cpl)	J. LINKS.
" 4228	"	J. HOWARD.
" 3091	"	H. C. BROWN.
" 2443	"	E. E. BURNS.
" 3108	"	T. R. RANKIN.
" 3614	"	R. E. N. NEAYLON.

To be Corporal, dated 17/4/18 (A.F. BQ13 - 5/5/18) :-

No. 3440 Pte (T/Cpl) D. C. O'NEIL.

To be Sergeant, dated 18/4/18 (A.F. BQ13 - 5/5/18) :-

No. 2785	T/Sgt.	H. L. ANDREWS.
" 3091	Cpl.	H. C. BROWN.

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211
Promotions
(continued).

To be Sergeant, dated 1/5/18 (A.F. B213 - 5/5/18) :-

No. 514a Cpl " J. LINKS.
" 4226 " J. HOWARD.
" 2614 " R. E. W. NEAYLON.

To be Lance-Corporal, dated 1/5/18 (A.F. B213 - 5/5/18)

No. 2469 Pte. J. M. WATSON.

4th A.M.G. Coy.

To be Temp. Corporal, vice Cpl J. H. Parsell, D.C.M.,
to A.M.G.T.D., dated 29/4/18 (A.F. B213 - 5/5/18) :-

No. 5451 L/Cpl H. RODAKIS.

To be Lance-Corporal, dated 29/4/18 (A.F. B213-5/5/18)

No. 381 Pte R. VALE.
" 4218 " H. G. HUXTABLE.
" 336 " R. W. CASHMORE.

24th A.M.G. Coy.

To be Temp. Corporal, vice L/Sgt Peckes, Struck off
Strength 25/2/18, dated 10/3/18 (A.F. B213 - 5/5/18) :-

No. 655 Pte R. W. D. BEALE.

C. Duckett
Captain

Adj. 4th Australian Machine Gun Battalion.

BATTALION ROUTINE ORDER NO. 17.

APPENDIX. 3⁴⁴

by
LIEUT-COLONEL H.W. MURRAY, V.C., D.S.O., D.C.M.
C o m m a n d i n g
4th Australian Machine Gun Battalion

16th May 1918.

Part I.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Prisoners taken
by the enemy. | 1. Attention is directed to G.R.O. 3891 - copies
already in Companies' possession. |
| Thefts from
prisoners-of-war. | 2. Attention is directed to G.R.O. 3987 - copies
already in Companies' possession. |
| Mesquites. | 3. Attention is directed to 4th Army R.O. 2019 -
copies already in Companies' possession. |
| Game sheeting. | 4. Attention is directed to Corps R.O. 1380 - copies
already in Companies' possession. |
| Salvage of
Blankets, etc. | 5. Attention is directed to Corps R.O. 129 - copies
already in Companies' possession. |

Part II.

- Honours
and Rewards.
1. The C.O. desires to congratulate the following
N.C.Os. and men, on their having been awarded the
MILITARY MEDAL :-

No.	2785	Sgt.	H.L. ANDREWS	(4th A.M.G. Coy)
"	513	Pte.	O. HANSEN	" " "
"	3912	Sgt.	R. SINCLAIR	" " "
"	2331	"	W.H. ROBERTS.	" " "

Crowder

Captain

Adjt., 4th Aust. Machine Gun Battalion.

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appendix 3. 45

BATTALION ROUTINE ORDER NO 18.
by

LIEUT- COLONEL H.W. MURRAY, V.C., D.S.O., D.C.M.

Commanding

4th Australian Machine Gun Battalion.

19th May, 1918

Part 1.

Routine
Orders.

1. Special attention is drawn to 4th Army Routine Order 2039. March Discipline and Traffic Control.

Attention is drawn to 4th Army Routine Orders 2045-Steel Helmets, and 2046-Gas Zones.

Part 2.

Promotions.

1. 4th A.M.G. Coy.

To be T/Sergeants, dated 6/5/18, (A.F.B.213 of 18/5/18) :-

1389 Cpl. J. A. ROSS
663 Cpl. H. B. TYLER

To be Corporals, dated 6/5/18, (A.F.B.213 of 18/5/18) :-

2385 L/Cpl. H. J. KENT
270 L/Cpl (Dvr) R. J. SHARP
608 Pte C. W. HOWELL
1574 Pte G. D. TYLER

To be T/corporals, dated 6/5/18 (A.F.B.213 of 18/5/18) :-

278a L/Cpl O. A. BENSON
3159 " H. P. HAMILL
1558 " P. W. HENVILLE
415a " I. HENDERSON
1824 " A. H. DUNCOMBE

To be Farrier, (under A.I.F. Order 785) dated 25/4/18. (A.F.B.213 of 18/5/18) :-
1033 Pte H. STONE

24th A.M.G. Coy.

To be Corporal, dated 19/5/18, (A.F.B.213 of 18/5/18) :-

655 T/Cpl. R.W.D. BEALE

To be T/corporal, dated 12/5/18, (A.F.B.213 of 18/5/18) :-

435b L/Cpl. (Dvr) P. CORBEY

To be L/Sergeant, dated 19/5/18 (A.F.B.213 of 18/5/18) :-

655 Cpl. R.W.D. BEALE

Appointment.

- 2 Lieut F. HICKS (4th A.M.G. Coy) is appointed assistant Transport Officer and is taken on strength of Battalion Headquarters.

No. 1863 Pte. F. DIXON is transferred from 4th Coy. to Bn. H. Q.

C. W. Hutchings Capt
Adj. 4th Australian Machine Gun Battalion.

BATTALION ROUTINE ORDER NO. 18.

by
LIEUT-COLONEL H.W. MURRAY, V.C., D.S.O., D.C.M.
C o m m a n d i n g.
4th Australian Machine Gun Battalion.

24th May, 1918

Part I.

Dress. 1. The cutting down of breeches into "shorts" is forbidden.

Salvage of Worn Clothing. 2. The following extract from D.R.Os. is re-published for information and necessary action :-

"2128. The Divisional Commander has noticed that a considerable number of old socks, some shirts and other woollen things, such as puttees, blankets, etc. are being thrown away by personnel of the Division. This is very wasteful and contrary to orders. All worn out woollen articles are to be returned to D.A.D.O.S. All ranks are to be informed that salvage of such articles is most important and necessary owing to the difficulty experienced by the nation in obtaining wool.

Orders. 3. Attention is drawn to the following Routine Order :-

- G.R.O. 4013 - Dress.
- 4023 - Railways, Damage to.
- 4024 - American personnel evacuated to British Hospitals.
- 4044 - Drawing of Ordnance Stores.
- 4045 - Moves.
- 4th Army R.O. 2030 - March Discipline
- 2044 - Infectious Diseases.
- 2045 - Steel Helmets.
- 2046 - Gas Zones.
- 2047 - Horses, Protection of against gas.
- 2050 - Billets and Camps.
- 2055 - Field Service Boots, Issue to Officers.

Sick Parade. 4. Sick parade for Battalion H.Q., 4th Coy., and 24th Coy. will be held at 8.30 a.m. daily at Battalion Rest Billet (No. 7 Billet, ALLOUVILLE).

Each Company's sick will be sent under one orderly N.C.O. and not sent by Sections as is sometimes done at present.

Part II.

Honours and Rewards. 1. The C.O. desires to congratulate the following N.C.O.'s. and men on their having been awarded the MILITARY MEDAL :-

13th A.M.G. Coy.

519 Pte H.J. REP
3242 Sgt L.J. BUSHILL
3466 Cpl R.L. DAVIE
3385 Pte J.D. MARSHALL
538 " A.H. CARTER
1968 T/cpl J.S. RIGG
30 Pte. R. OLIPHANT
4475 " C.J. CLARKE
525 T/cpl G.M. STAINBURY
3453 Sgt. P.R.H. BREWER

13th A.M.G. Coy.

2762 L/Cpl. F.M. CASTLES
95 T/cpl. C.E. MORGAN
1701 Sgt. A. ARMSTRONG.
361 Pte. J.D. KINNON.

24th A.M.G. Coy.

467 Sgt T.J. LIDDICOAT.

C. W. Hutchings

Capt.

Adj't. 4th Australian Machine Gun Battalion.

21/1/1919

BATTALION ROUTINE ORDER NO. 19.

by
LIEUT-COLONEL R. W. MURRAY, V.C., D.S.O., D.C.M.
Commanding
4th Australian Machine Gun Battalion

30th May 1919.

Part I.

MARCHES.

1. The following letter from 4th Aust. Div. (G. 34/23) is re-published for information and necessary action:
"During the hot weather likely to be experienced for the next few months every effort must be made to avoid marching troops during the heat of the day.
So far as tactical exigencies permit all marches on hot days will be made between 5 p.m. on one day and 9 a.m. on the next."

ROUTINE ORDERS.

2. Special attention is drawn to Corps Routine Order No. 141 - Removal of property from houses in abandoned villages. This order will be read out to all troops on parade three times.

Attention is drawn to the following Routine Orders:-

- G.R.O. 4083 - Pay of soldiers of the United States Army.
- 4085 - Leave - Monthly Returns.
- 4086 - Loss of Nails for Egyptian Expeditionary Force.
- 4088 - Grenades - Components to be saved.
- 4089 - Rifles fitted with telescopic sights - care of.

Corps R.O. 145 - Horses, Mules and Donkeys found straying or captured.

- 146 - Run issue.
- D.R.O. 2045 - Pet Returns.
- 2046 - Water Supply.
- 2047 - Tents.
- 2048 - Accommodation.

Part II.

HONOURS and REWARDS.

1. Under authority granted by His Majesty the King, the Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief has awarded the following decoration:-

Military Cross.

Lieut. R. J. CLAPTON (since died of wounds) - 4th Aust. M.G. Coy.

DISCIPLINE.

2. The following punishments have been awarded:-

12th A.M.G. Coy.

1745 Pte A. FROUSON. Crime: Absenting himself without leave from 9 a.m. 20/5/19 to 11 a.m. 22/5/19. Awarded 28 days P.P.No. 3 by C.O. Forfeits 3 days pay under R.W. Total forfeiture - £7.10.0.

2320 Pte A. R. CHAPMAN. Crime: Insolence to an N.C.O. Awarded 7 days forfeiture of pay, by C.O. Total forfeiture - £1.10.0.

2101 Pte J. B. BROWN. Crime: Absent without leave from 9 a.m. 22/5/19 to 11 p.m. 22/5/19. Awarded 7 days forfeiture of pay, by C.O. Forfeits 1 day's pay under R.W. Total forfeiture - £2.

(Over

(2).

APPOINTMENTS.

3. Battalion H.Q.

To be 2nd Lieutenant, dated 20/5/18:-
2000 Sgt. (T/R.S.M.) J.J. DWYER, V.C.

13th Coy.

To be 2nd Lieutenant, dated 20/5/18:-
104 Sgt. R.B. BAKER.

4th Coy.

To be 2nd Lieutenant, dated 20/5/18:-
105 Sgt. J.L. CLARE.
(Auth: DAC.AIF. 60/27/102).

18th Coy.

To be Drivers (under A.I.F. Order 705) :-
2577 Pte W.C.C. BROWN - dated 6/5/18.
427 " G. WATSON - " 16/5/18.
(A.P. No 13 of 25/5/18).

4th Coy.

To be Lance-Corporals, dated 23/5/18, (A.P. No 13 of 25/5/18):-
4723 Pte W.A. TANKY.
500 " V.C. HARRIS.

PROMOTIONS.

4. 4th Coy.

To be Sergeant, dated 23/5/18, (A.P. No 13 of 25/5/18):-
503 T/Sgt R.B. TYLER

To be 2nd T/Sergeants, dated 23/5/18 (A.P. No 13 of 25/5/18) :-

5451 Cpl E. BODAKIS.
273 " G.C. CHERRY.

To be Corporals, dated 23/5/18, (A.P. No 13 of 25/5/18):-

5451 T/Cpl E. BODAKIS.
3260 " H.P. BANTLE.
1824 " A.H. DUNCOMBE.
1722 " C.A. BENSON.

To be T/Corporals, dated 23/5/18, (A.P. No 13 of 25/5/18) :-

5392 L/Cpl W.A. HOPE.
512 Pte R.W. CASHMORE.

TRANSFERS.

5. From Bn. H.Q. to 4th Coy, dated 22/5/18 :-

2nd Lieut. J.J. DWYER, V.C.

From 4th Coy to Bn. H.Q., dated 23/5/18 :-

150 Sgt. R.W. WILSON.
4502 Pte T. DUNN.

From Bn. H.Q. to 24th Coy, dated 24/5/18 :-

5820 Pte K. HARRIS.

From 24th Coy to Bn. H.Q., dated 24/5/18 :-

4233 Pte H. HARRIS.

C. Douchett

Captain

Adjt., 4th Australian Machine Gun Battalion.

BATTALION ROUTINE ORDER NO. 20

By
 LIEUT-COLONEL H.W. MURRAY, V.C., D.S.O., D.C.M.
 Commanding
 4th Australian Machine Gun Battalion.

31st May 1918.

Part I.

G.R.O. 1. Special attention is drawn to G.R.O. 4097 - Bicycles and Clinometers Field - Cancellation of Indents.

Routine Orders. 2. Attention is drawn to the following Routine Orders :-

G.R.O. 4070 - Hostile Aircraft.
 4082 - War Establishments - Part VII A, Amendments
 4083 - Combined Leave and Railway Warrants.

4th A.R.O.

2068 - Sorting of Field Ammunition.
 2073 - Clothing, Summer Scale.
 2074 - Headquarters, Div. Ammunition Column.
 2080 - Horses picking up nails.

G.R.O. 3938- 3. Until further notice estaminets in Army and G.H.Q. Areas
 Closing of Estaminets. will be closed to British Troops except between the hours
 of 10.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. to 9 p.m. In the
 L. of C. Area the hours during which troops may enter estaminets
 will remain as at present, from 12 noon to 3 p.m. and
 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
 G.R.Os 1661 and 1693 are cancelled.

Part II.

Honours and Rewards. 1. Under authority granted by His Majesty the King, the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief has awarded the following decoration :-

Military Cross.

Lieut. T.E. COWLEY, 4th A.M.G. Battalion.

Appointments. 2. 4th A.M.G. Coy.

Lieut. H.J. HUNT, M.C. is appointed Second-in Command,
 dated 28/5/18.

13th A.M.G. Coy.

4140 Pte J.A. COOK to be Driver (under A.I.F. Order 785)
 dated 28/5/18 (A.F. B213 of 1/6/18).

24th A.M.G. Coy.

To be Lance-Corporals, dated 24/5/18, (A.F. B213
 of 1/6/18) :-

435 Pte (A/L/Cpl) R.J. JUNOR
 4320 " " J.C. CAPERN
 6753 " " R.A. GRANT, M.M.
 6255 " " H.L. ENGLAND
 586 " " G.S. JOHNSON

To be Lance-Corporals, dated 24/5/18, (A.F. B213 of
 1/6/18) :-

2688 Pte S. McD. GARRICK

602 " C.H. BRINDLE

6526 " F.J. GRAHAM

4737 " W.A.G. KENEALLY

540 " E.A. DAVIES

691 " H.E. TWIST

6537 " F.J. HUNT

(' over.

Promotions.

2. 2. Battalion H.Q.s.

To be Corporal, to complete establishment, dated 14/4/18 (A.F. B213 of 1/6/18) :-
1965 T/Cpl R.W. LITTLEJOHNS.

13th A.M.G. Coy.

To be Sergeant, dated 28/5/18, (A.F. B213 of 1/6/18)
2843 T/Sgt F.V. KING.

To be T/Sergeant, dated 28/5/18, (A.F. B213 of 1/6/18) :-
2333 Cpl F. BENNETTS.

To be T/Corporals, dated 28/5/18, (A.F. B213 of 1/6/18) :-
3665 pte R. WADE
515 " W. RIPPES.

24th A.M.G. Coy.

To be Sergeant, dated 24/5/18, (A.F. B213 of 1/6/18)
1938 T/Sgt H.W. COURTNEY

To be T/Sergeant, dated 24/5/18, (A.F. B213 of 1/6/18) :-
438 Cpl P.P. MURPHY

To be Corporals, dated 24/5/18, (A.F. B213 of 1/6/18)
409 T/Cpl R.S. DUGGAN
749 " J.A. EAMES

To be T/Corporals, dated 24/5/18, (A.F. B213 of 1/6/18) :-
477 L/Cpl S.R. WATSON
542 " H.G. POSTER
686 pte F.G. PASSMORE
451 L/Cpl W.J. IRWIN
412 A/L/Cpl C.H. BUCHANAN, D.M.
6153 pte C.O. PATERSON
440 A/L/Cpl E.J. TREVENEN.

To be T/C.Q.M.S., dated 28/5/18, (A.F. B213 of 1/6/18) :-
460A Sgt F.P. PACKER

Appointment.

3. 24th A.M.G. Coy.

To be Driver (under A.I.F. order 785), dated 20/5/18 (A.F. B213 of 1/6/18) :-
2820 W.F. DALEY.

Reversions.

4. 4th A.M.G. Coy.

325 T/Cpl R.W. CASHMORE reverts to L/Cpl on return of Cpl DAVIS from A.M.G.T.D. (A.F. B213 of 1/6/18) 1.28
4725 L/Cpl W.A. TANKEY reverts to private at own request, dated 28/5/18 (A.F. B213 of 1/6/18).

13th A.M.G. Coy.

6149 Dvr P. WALCH reverts to private 14/5/18 at own request (A.F. B213 of 1/6/18).

825 T/Cpl G.M. SAINSBURY reverts to pte on evacuation, 25/4/18, (A.F. B213 of 1/6/18).

24th A.M.G. Coy.

4922 C.Q.M.S. E. WILSON reverts to Sgt. at own request, dated 25/5/18, (A.F. B213 of 1/6/18).

Transfers.

5. From H.Q. to 13th Coy. :-

847 Dvr C. NEWLINDS, dated 21/5/18.

From 13th Coy. to H.Q. :-

3489 Dvr R.B. SHIEL, dated 21/5/18.

8905 pte W.J. NORRIS

C. Duchatel

Captain

Adj't. 4th Australian Machine Gun Battalion.

4th Aust. Machine Gun BattalionTactical Lessons learnt during Recent Operations.1. Tactical Wiring.

It is suggested that where tactical wiring is done that waves or bends of greater length and depth be used. Although this necessitates a greater expenditure of wire it offers far bigger obstruction to the enemy and causes him to lose direction and come under enfilade fire of machine guns. Except for purposes of stopping a rush on the front line, wire with small waves is of very little value, as it is easy to cut a gap through it and does not cause loss of direction or bunching of troops. Where deep traverses are used in wire it is suggested that a light apron wire be run across the base of the triangle. See accompanying sketch.

2. A.P. Ammunition.

One very good illustration of the value of A.P.P. S.A.A. against Tanks was afforded recently. The enemy had made a sniper's post in an abandoned Tank about 400 yards from our front line. Efforts to dislodge him with Newtons and Stokes mortars were without success, as he continued to snipe, causing inconvenience to our front line. It was decided to engage it with a Vickers machine gun using 25 $\frac{1}{2}$ A.P. ammunition. Two Lewis guns co-operated on either flank to deal with the enemy if he quitted the Tank. On fire being opened the enemy endeavoured to escape through a door of the Tank and were shot by co-operating Lewis guns. 500 rounds were fired and sheets of flame several feet in length were observed where bullets struck. No further sniping from the Tank was done during the remaining two days tour of the unit.

3. Direct Harassing Fire.

It was known that the enemy occupied some very large dugouts about 1200 yards from our front line and behind a low rise. They were engaged by guns placed in the third floor of a building in VILLERS BRETONNEUX. Judging by the amount of searching done by enemy for these guns the fire was very effective.

Amuray

Lieut-Colonel

C.O., 4th Aust. M.C. Battalion.

26/5/18.

LESSONS LEARNT DURING RECENT OPERATIONS.

1. LIAISON.

The necessity for Liaison, both laterally and in depth between Machine Guns and the Infantry is again emphasised. A case was recently brought to notice where two Machine Gun sub-sections of different Companies but the same Battalion were in position within two hundred yards of one another, in close support to the front line. An officer was in charge of each sub-section, but both were in ignorance of the proximity of the other.

2. Machine Guns in Village Defence.

The following points have been brought out in connection with the Defence of Villers Bretonneux.

(a) Guns to be sited in strong points to conform to general scheme of defence, and so that they have infantry protection against an outflanking movement, and have also a certain amount of mutual protection.

(b) The tasks of guns should be to enfilade roads and approaches, and specially prepared and wired lanes of fire made by clearing a track through walls houses etc. In this way fire of guns can be effectively crossed, and a band of fire placed across otherwise covered lines of approach between streets.

(c) The actual gun position should be chosen near ground level in a strong building, a hole made in the wall and carefully camouflaged, strong overhead cover made for protection against shrapnel and falling debris, and provided with a cellar which can be rendered gas proof. When it is necessary for the gun position to abut a few yards on to the street in order to get better field of fire, a strong splinter proof, sometimes a shell proof, emplacement can be built beside a house which is then pulled down on top of the emplacement and serves as extra cover and excellent camouflage.

3. A.A.MACHINE GUNS.

have proved very effective against enemy low flying aeroplanes. Three have been brought down during the past month in this Battalion. One of these was shot down with a captured german gun using A.P. ammunition.

4. M.G.BATTALION SIGNALLERS.

are permanently allotted to Machine Gun Companies - 4 per Company. In addition a Signalling Corporal is appointed by M.G. Companies out of their establishment of Corporals. A signalling Class is conducted at Battalion H.Q. for the purpose of maintaining and eventually increasing the number of Company Signallers. The Class is conducted by Bn. Sig. Officer assisted by the Bn. Sig. Cpl. who is a duly qualified instructor.

A. Murray Lieut-Colonel,
C.O., 4th. Aust. Machine Gun Battalion.

File (Manning)

Appendix 4

LESSONS EXPERIENCED DURING THE RECENT OPERATIONS.

1. The necessity of all guns being amply protected. One occasion on the 5th April, was particularly noticeable. No sentry or scout was posted forward, the situation demanding it, as fog made observation difficult, allowing the enemy to approach the position closely before being observed. Had grenades, especially No. 35 Rifle Grenade, been employed, there is little doubt that the enemy would have been beaten off, allowing the gun to inflict heavy casualties. Bombs and if possible rifle grenades should always be in gun positions, and an infantry escort of bombers provided by the nearest Company Commander.
2. Liaison Duty. (Forward and Lateral).
One Company has been in the habit of detailing an independent officer whose one and only duty is to keep close liaison between Company Commanders in the front line and Forward and Flank Guns. This officer is made responsible for this one branch, allowing Machine Gun Headquarters to keep liaison between Infantry Battalions and Brigade, thoroughly acquainting these latter two with the tasks of all guns. This method of liaison has proved highly satisfactory and is recommended for adoption throughout all Machine Gun Companies.
3. Ammunition.
A good supply of ammunition must be maintained on all guns, and throughout belts must be carefully conserved. One instance brought to light shows one gun expended nearly all belts at long ranges, and the enemy pushing forward considerably endangered the gun. The crew had been severely reduced and assistance for belt-filling called for from the infantry. Rear Guns firing indirect must on all occasions keep their belts filled, and at least a bulk reserve of 15,000 rounds, 5,000 of which is to be held in reserve for direct fire.
4. Siting of Barrage Batteries.
Where batteries are installed for barrage purposes the primary consideration must be their ability to empty direct fire should the occasion arise. No particular instance of this occurred, as all guns were sited on forward slopes. This can always be adopted, and with the careful use of camouflage batteries are difficult to locate. Batteries are generally some distance behind the front line, and can be easily and most usefully employed to command and protect features of high tactical importance.
5. Sacrificing of Guns.
All Machine Gunners must be most carefully and thoroughly acquainted with the tactical situation, and where the position demands it, prepared to sacrifice themselves. One subsection stood by their guns on the morning of the 5th April, and caused the enemy heavy casualties. The two gun crews were practically wiped out, only two surviving. These two guns fired until they were overpowered by the enemy, but their splendid sacrifice had the result of stopping the enemy.
6. Fire of Guns.
All guns whether direct or indirect must always have their lines of fire laid out by indirect means. One Section of Guns on the 5th April could have done considerable execution had their tasks been laid out by indirect means. The morning of the attack was densely foggy, and the task allotted was a tunnel under a railway embankment. No arrangements had been made to lay out lines of fire by indirect means, consequently it was not until the enemy was close in that the attack was discovered. Another Section had their lines laid out by indirect means, resulting in good work being done before the enemy reached the position from which he could be observed.



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7. Superiority of Fire.

Superiority of fire was strongly emphasised on one occasion. A number of forward guns were called upon by the infantry to assist in keeping down enemy machine gunners. The following method was adopted. Forward machine guns were instructed to fire on any target, whether suitable for machine gun or rifle fire. Guns creating consolidation in depth were placed in telephonic communication with an observer in the front line, and worked as a battery of opportunity. These guns were controlled by an F.O.O who directed their fire on any target presenting itself; resulting in a few days time in considerably quietening the enemy. Harassing fire was extensively employed at night. The expenditure of ammunition was considerable, but proved worthy of the result.

8. Mounting of Guns.

Guns should on all occasions be mounted. An instance is brought to light and proves that a position was saved by sentries being alert and gun prepared for immediate use. On the morning of the 5th April the enemy attempted to rush our trenches under cover of a dense fog. Observation was impossible beyond 50 yards but the guns were ready for immediate use. The enemy advanced to within 50 yards of the trench, when the signal was given of the attack. Fortunately wire hampered his progress but before he could do any damage the attack was completely broken up by the fire of machine guns. Guns should at all times be mounted and with the aid of careful camouflage can be easily hidden from the enemy's view.

9. Sentries and S.O.S.

Sentries must at all times be on the alert and must know the S.O.S. and the approximate position from which it is to be fired. One instance brought forward shows that though the guns had excellent field of fire, one hundred yards to their flank was a little dead ground. The enemy made use of this, resulting in the guns being almost overpowered before they fired. Fortunately the enemy was discovered but it only emphasises the fact that all gun commanders must thoroughly reconnoitre the ground near their positions, and take the necessary precautions to protect their guns, either by establishing a post or by means of patrolling. This can be arranged with the infantry commander.

10. Guns and Spare Parts.

Throughout the whole operation guns and gear worked splendidly, the only exception being lock springs. The breakages in this particular part were not excessive, but were the only thing that proved troublesome. Barrels were always obtainable and broken or damaged parts readily renewed. Oil was rather thick but this was easily rectified. Stoppages throughout were below normal.

J. Murray Lieut.-Col.
C. O., 4th Aust. M. G. Btn.

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4TH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION

Strength as at 30/4/18, Officers:- 47. Other ranks:- 784.

Decrease.			Increase.		
	Off.	O.R.		Off.	O.R.
Casualties:-			1st. Appts.	4	-
Killed	1	8	Reinforcements	-	3
Wounded	4	22	Return from		
Drowned	-	1	Wounded	-	12
Sick to Hospital	1	56	Sick	1	33
Transfers	-	6	Transfers	1	90
To Super. List			From Super. List		
of N.C.O's. (O.T.C.)		4	of N.C.O's.		
Promoted.		4	(A.M.G.T.D. & O.T.C.)		3
			From Sec. List.		
			(A.M.G.T.D.)	1	
	6	99		7	141

Strength as at 31/5/18, Officers:- 48. Other ranks:- 826.

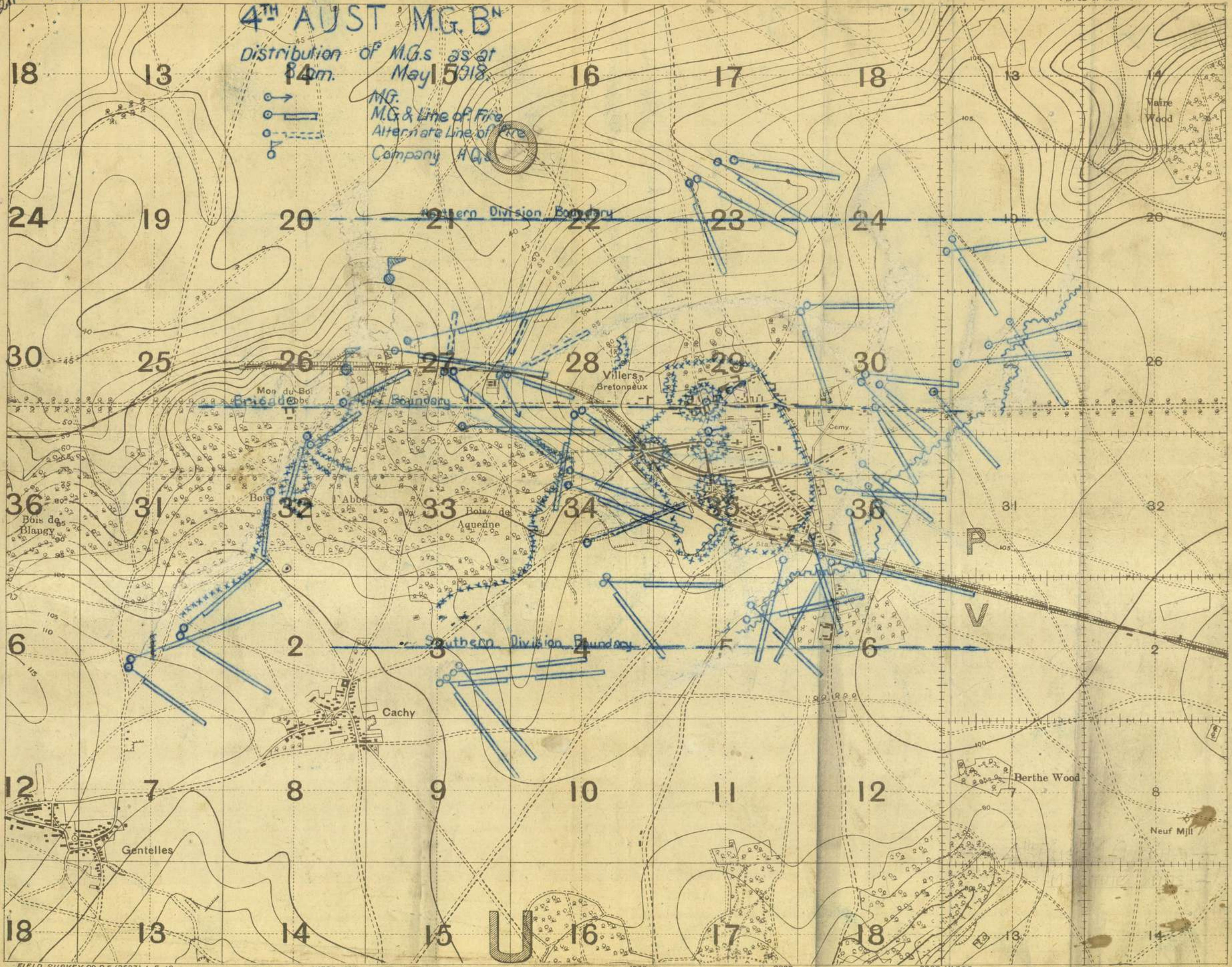
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Parts of 62° S.W. 62° S.E.

4TH AUSTRALIAN M.G. B^N

Distribution of M.G.s as at 14m. May 15 1918.

MG.
M.G. & Line of Fire
Alternate Line of Fire
Company H.Q.s



FIELD SURVEY CO. RE. (3537) 1. 5. 18.

SCALE 1:20,000 YARDS 1000

AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

APPENDIX. 5/1
Appendix 5/1

War Diary

SECRET.

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APPENDIX.

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4TH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION.
Instructions No. 1.

Headquarters.
8th May, 1918.

Reference Map 62 D. S.W. -1/30,000,
and attached sketch.

Machine Guns and tactical wire.

1. Dispositions of Support Machine Gun Company (24th) and tactical wire for defence of approaches to Bois D'Aquenne, eastern side, and exits from VILLERS BRETONNEUX are shown on attached sketch.
2. Wiring is being done by 4th Aust. Pioneer Battalion.
Gaps will be left in wire as shown in sketch. The position of gaps to be marked on ground by a white post placed on northern side of gap, and a notice board inside the wood, pointing in direction of gap.
3. Machine Guns are disposed:-
 - (a) To check enemy in VILLERS BRETONNEUX.
 - (b) To cover exits from VILLERS BRETONNEUX: enfilade along wire line of wire and cover gaps.
 - (c) To more effectively cover gaps and enfilade line of wire from O.34.c.3.9. to 3.2. two guns will be placed inside wood in the locality indicated in O.34.a.
 - (d) Wire on southern edge of wood will be covered by guns of Eight Brigade Sector - at present in U.3.c. For this purpose alternative positions will be selected and built, in locality shown, to be used when necessity arises.
4. Preparation of M.G. positions will be carried out forthwith under separate instructions issued to M.G. Company Commanders concerned.
5. Machine Guns will be moved to new positions on completion of above work and at a date and time to be notified to all concerned.

C. J. Donohue

Captain.

Adjt. 4th Australian Machine Gun Battalion.

Extra copies to
2nd A.M.G. Battalion.
5th " " "

File / 1

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