

AWM4

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

Machine Guns

Item number: 24/5/1

Title: 5th Australian Machine Gun Battalion

March 1918



AWM4-24/5/1

CONFIDENTIAL

Original.

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A U S T R A L I A N I M P E R I A L F O R C E

W A R D I A R Y

HEADQUARTERS, 5th A U S T R A L I A N M A C H I N E G U N B A T T A L I O N.

F O R P E R I O D O F

16TH MARCH t o 31ST MARCH 1918.

Signature of Officer compiling

M. B. M. / Capt.

Signature of Officer Commanding

H. P. / Major

Sheet No 1.

Confidential original

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WAR DIARY of H. 2. 5th Aust. 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

Period from 16th March to 31st March 1918.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
B.F.				
BAILLIEUX	16/3/18		Formation of the 5 th Aust. Machine Gun Battalion	
Stul 28 S.W. 2			Composition:— Battr. H. 2 ⁿ , 8 ^m , 14 ⁿ , 15 ^m , and 25 th Aust. M.G. bcp	
M. 35. Q. 80. 40			of the 5 th Aust. Division	
DRANOUTRE			Exhact 5 th Aust. D. R. O. Para 139 of the 15.3.18	
			"Majr A. H. Wright A/D. M.G. C. to command the 5 th Aust. M.G. Battr	
			On receipt of the above order & notification to the effect that	
			it had been decided to form the 4 M. Gun. bcp in the	
			Division, into a M. Gun Battr, steps were immediately	
			taken to appoint and concentrate a Battr H. 2 Staff as follows	
			temporarily pending their confirmation by higher Authority	
			A/b. O. - Majr. A. H. Wright	
			A/Staff - Capt. A. A. Bump	
			A/2. M. - Capt. W. B. Heathcote	
			A/J. O. - Capt. R. Webb (D. B. M)	
			A/Adj. - Capt. G. Luffell (M. 6)	
			A/S. M. - Capt. G. Wellisch T. O. H. G. R. Lidd.	
			2. M. S. - Lt. G. J. Walker (D. B. M)	
			Battr. Head Quarters were established at D. H. 2. (DRANOUTRE)	
			A proportion of clerks, runners etc were withdrawn from the Companies.	

Temp. Staff
M.G. bcp

D. D. & L., London, E.C. (A7883) Wt W809/M1672 250,000 4/17 Sch 52a Forms/C/2118/14

Majr
6.0.5th Aust. M.G. Bn

Sheet No 2

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WAR DIARY of H. 2. 5th Aust. M.G. Bn.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.) Period from 16th March to 31st March 1918.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
B.I. S. BAILLEUX Sheet 28. S.W.2. M. 35. d. 80. 40 ORANOUTRE	16/ 3/ 18.		<p>for the time being, pending the arrival of 28 ranks "B" class personnel from the Base, to help to form Batta. H. 2. Staff.</p> <p>At the time of formation, the 4 companies of the Batta. were engaged in active operations in the line, (as per companies Diaries forwarded herewith,) working under their respective Brigades.</p> <p>On formation the complete administration of the Batta. was taken over, the Guns being tactically controlled by the C.O. of the Batta., working under instructions from D.H. 2. and in conjunction with the Brigade commanders.</p> <p>It is not proposed to record events happening in the companies, as these Diaries are being forwarded complete, and it is thought that if consolidation was attempted, much valuable Data & information would be lost, and also at most times it would be impossible to keep complete records, as companies of the Batta., are now often detached, with Brigades of the Division for special tasks.</p>	<p><i>M.B. Carter</i></p> <p><i>J.P. ...</i></p> <p>Major A.M.G. Bn</p>

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WAR DIARY of H. 2. 5th Aust. M. S. Batta Army Form C. 2118.

or
~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required.) Period from 16th March to 31st March 1918.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
B. I. F. BAILLEUL Sheet 28. S.W. 2.			Disposition—Boys still holding line as per their Diaries forwarded herewith.	
M. 35. d. 80. 4 ^o D. DRANOUTRE	17.3.18 to 23.3.18		Organization and Administration of the Batta proceeded with. Much shelling of our Back Area.—KEMMEL. DRANOUTRE. BAILLEUL. but not much material damage done, in proportion to Number of Shells expended	M.B. Capt.
	24.3.18 to 25.3.18		The 4 Machine Gun companies of the Batta were relieved by Guns of the 1 st and 2 nd Aust. Machine Gun Battns. Notification of the relief was only received 3 hours prior to commencement of same and in consequence arrangements had to be made rather hurriedly but despite that the relief was most successful. On completion of relief the Batta came into Corps Reserve.	M.B. Capt.
	26 3 18.		The Batta proceeded by march route to the GODWAERSVELDE Area. The 6 companies were placed under the command of the various Brigade Groups of the Division, for the purpose of the move, Batta. H. 2. moved with the 8 th Aust. Inf Bde Group. The move was complete by 7 pm and the weather throughout the move was most excellent.	M.B. Capt.

D. D. & L., London, E.C.
(A7883) Wt W809/M:672 :50,000 4/17 Sch. 52a Forms/C/2118/14

[Signature]
6.0.5 A.M. G. B. *[Signature]*

Sheet No 4

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WAR DIARY of H. 2. 5th Aust. M. G. Batta. Army Form C. 2118.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.) Period from 16th March to 31st March 1918.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
As before	26. 3/18		The journey was about 14 miles, and it was found to be very tiring on the troops, considering the period they had been engaged in. Lunch was served.	M.B. Capt.
Sheet 27 B 18. GODWAERSVELDE.	27. 3/18		Batta resting with the exception of the 8 th , 14 th and 15 th M.G. companies. 8 th M.G. Co. entrained at GODWAERSVELDE for DOULLENS at 11 am and arrived at 5.30 pm and then marched 12 miles to Billeb. 15 th M.G. Co. entrained at CAESTRE and detrained at DOULLENS at 7 pm and then marched to Billeb at ACHEUX.	M.B. Capt.
As above	28. 3/18		14 th M.G. Co. entrained at RENINGHELST at 8.30 am for DOULLENS. arriving at 9.30 pm and then marched to Billeb at LEALVILLERS (25375). Batta. B. 2's and 25 th M.G. Co. entrained at GODWAERSVELDE for the DOULLENS Area, at 8 am. Arrived arriving 11.30 pm at MONDICOURT. It was then found that our destination had been overrun, and in consequence, personnel and transport, had to detrain, and march to LEALVILLE R.S. arrived there about 3.30 am 29.4.18. Weather was most adverse rain falling throughout the whole period.	M.B. Capt.

[Signature]
M.A.P.
6.0.5.A.M.G.R.

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WAR DIARY of A. 2. 5th Aust. M. G. Bn

Army Form C. 2118.

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.) Period from 16. 3. 18 to 31. 3. 18.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
As before (continued)	28.3.18.		On arrival it was found that the village had been evacuated by the civilian population, evidently in a great hurry, as most of their private belongings had not been removed.	
Sheet 57 D.D.	29		Companies allotted to Bde. Groups as follows for tactical purposes.	
O. 17. d. 9510	3		G.S.O. 3. 5 th Aust. Div visited Bn. H. 2. at 9 am and arranged for Headquarters	
	18		to move to D. H. 2. at VAUCHELLES a distance of 5 miles, move was	MB. Capt.
	10		complete by 3 pm and Headquarters established.	
	3		Disposition of Battalion:	
	18.		Battn. H. 2. at D. H. 2. VAUCHELLES.	
			14 th and 25 th Aust. M. G. Coys at LEATVILLERS under the orders of 14 th A. I. Bde.	
			15 th A. M. G. Co. at BONNAY under the orders of 15 th A. I. Bde.	
			8 th A. M. G. Co. at VAUCHELLES under AUTHIER under orders of 8 th A. Inf Bde.	
			15 th Aust. M. G. Co. engaged in defending Bridge heads on the SOMME River in the neighbourhood of CORBIE.	
Sheet 57 D.D.	31		Disposition unchanged. All troops ready to move at one hour	MB. Capt.
VAUCHELLES	3		notice. Organization & Training being proceeded with.	
	18			

Map
6.0.5th A.M.G. Bn

Sheet No 6

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WAR DIARY of H. 2. 5th Aust. M.G. Batta. Army Form C. 2118.

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.) Period from 16.3.18 to 31st March 18.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sheet 57.D. VAUCHELLIES.	$\frac{31}{3}$ 18.		<p>Resumé of the period from 16.3.18 to 31.3.18.</p> <p>The Battalion may be said to be fairly well reorganised, considering the huge handicaps, it has been forced to labour under:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Absence of communications (Signal Section in process of formation)2. Frequent moves during the period3. Companies detached with Bdes, and attached to other Divisions. <i>N.B. Capt.</i>4. Strength about 200 or more below establishment5. Transport and Technical Stores much below establishment. <p>The above deficiencies have been asked for and are expected to arrive within the next few weeks.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>[Signature]</i> Majr C.O. 5th Aust. M.G. Batta.</p>	