

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

Machine Guns

Item number: 24/8/10

Title: 3rd Australian Machine Gun
Company

December 1916



AWM4-24/8/10

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

AUSLISH BATTAL
MACHINE GUN COY.

No.

Date

686

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FRANVILLERS.	1/12/16.		The Co. moved out at 0830 on the line of march for DERNANCOURT and arrived in billets at 1300 - The new's billets were very good, being greatly improved since the Co. last occupied them last month, but the Officers' billet was in a very bad state. There were no stragglers - In the afternoon guns were cleaned, and equipment overhauled -	Map Reference - AMIENS. Sheet 17. 1/100,000. do. do.
DERNANCOURT.	2/12/16.		In the morning the Co. carried out Gun Drill, and also went for a short Route March - In the afternoon, Post Siting, by hand + machine, stopped after, and immediate action.	do. do.
do.	3/12/16.		The Co. moved out at 0850 on the line of march for FRICOURT and arrived at Camp Area at 1200 - Camp Area had been left in a very dirty, unsanitary, state by unit relieved, and in the afternoon Co. was employed in cleaning same up - On arrival the majority of the men were marched back to VIVIER MILL for a bath.	do. do.
FRICOURT.	4/12/16.		The Co. moved out at 0900 to relieve the 12 th A.M.G. Co. at BAZENTIN (S. 156.2.4.) Relief completed by 1300 - The Co. Transport took over Transport Lines of 12 th A.M.G. Co. at POMMIERS REDOBT; part of the Co. Transport had to return to FRICOURT to pick up the baggage of the 3 rd A.L.T.M. B. and did not arrive at BAZENTIN until 1830 in consequence - The 4/O/C and 3 other officers remained position held by the 12 th A.M.G. Co. and arranged relief for tomorrow.	do. do.
BAZENTIN.	5/12/16.		The Co. moved out by Sections to relieve the 13 th A.M.G. Co. in the line - The relief proceeded without incident and was successfully completed by 1700 - There were no casualties.	do. do.
FLERS.	6/12/16.		Work was carried out on positions at N. 25. C. 80.75 and N. 25. C. 95.65. - Dug-outs to be used as new's quarters in FLERS were cleaned out, and 2 new ones located + work commenced on same.	Sheet 57C. (S. 11.) do. do.
do.	7/12/16.		M.G. positions at N. 25. C. completed - Two new positions at N. 31. A. 2.5 + N. 31. A. 2.7. were commenced. Work on old dug-outs in FLERS was continued + those already occupied were improved.	do. do.
do.	8/12/16.		Work was commenced on a dug-out at N. 31. B. 4.8. - Work continued on M.G. positions at N. 31. A. Indirect fire was brought to bear between the hours of 2000 and 2400 on Barley Trench gun N. 14 b. 4.3. to N. 14 b. 3.6. + on N. 14 b. 3.4 + N. 15. C. 3.9. - 2,000 rds. were expended.	" do.
do.	9/12/16.		Work on dug-out at N. 31. B. 4.8. was continued + there is now room for 3 men to sleep in same - M.G. Emplacement at N. 20. c. 15.75 was improved. Indirect fire was brought to bear on some targets during night, and 2,000 rds. were expended.	" do.
do.	10/12/16.		Work was continued on dug-outs at N. 31. B. 4.8 and N. 31. A. 18.70. - Emplacements at N. 25. d. b. 1. were shelled during the day but no damage resulted - Indirect was brought to bear on LUISENHOF FARM + BARLEY TRENCH from N. 14. A. 80.90. to N. 15. C. 30.95. - Three guns were used and 3,500 rds. fired. Two guns were mounted in the vicinity of FLERS for aerial defence.	" do.
do.	11/12/16.		Work was carried on at dug-out at N. 31. B. 4.8. - gun position + trench at N. 31. B. 4.8 were shelled during night, but no damage was done - Indirect fire was brought to bear on BARLEY TRENCH from N. F. C. 7.1. to N. 15. C. 3.9. - Two guns were employed, and 3,000 rds. expended.	" do.
do.	12/12/16.		At 0900 one of our aerial defence guns opened + fired at an enemy plane, 750 rds. were fired + the plane turned abruptly + dived, it was afterwards seen to descend in the German lines - Work was continued on old German dug-outs in FLERS. Indirect fire was carried out during night on LUISENHOF FARM + Road from N. 13 d. 3.6. to N. 7. d. F. 1., also along track from N. 13. B. 7.0. to N. 14. A. 00.10. Two guns were employed, and 3,500 rds. fired.	" do.
do.	13/12/16.		Work was carried on at old German dug-outs in FLERS, three have now been occupied by our men - Indirect fire was brought to bear during night, on Tramway N. 14. A. 05.25 to N. F. C. 3.2., also X Road + trench at N. 14. C. 65.20. - Two guns were used and 2,500 rds. fired.	" do.

A. H. M. A. P.

WAR DIARY

OF

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

AUSTRALIAN
MACHINE GUN COY.
 No.
 Date

686

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FLERS.	14/12/16.		The guns in the front line were relieved during the night without mishap. Indirect fire was brought to bear on Tramway from N. 14. A. 05.25. to N. E. C. 30.22., also on Tramway + Dump at LOISENHOF FARM - 2 guns were employed and 3,000 rds. expended. Enemy replied with about 20 rds. of shrapnel but did no damage.	Map Reference. 57 C. (S. Vr.) Nl
do.	15/12/16.		Dug-out at N. 31. b. 4. 8. was enlarged, 4 cubic feet of earth being removed. Gun positions at N. 25. C. 8. 8. and N. 25. C. 95. 55, also at N. 25. d. 6. 2. were shelled with H.E. and shrapnel, there were no casualties. Indirect was used on X Roads at N. 14. c. 6. 2., on Road from N. 13. d. 58. 60. to N. 13. b. 7. 4., also on Tramway from N. 14. a. 05. 25. to N. E. C. 30. 22. - Three guns were used and 4,000 rds. fired. A new gun was employed in the front line at N. 19. b. 9. 1. the position being erected during the day.	do. al.
do.	16/12/16.		A third anti-aircraft gun was put in position at N. 25. C. 70. 75. - Two indirect fire positions at N. 25. C. 50. 75 and N. 25. C. 70. 75 were strengthened and made shrapnel proof. About 1 cubic yard of spoil was removed from dug-out at N. 31. b. 4. 8. - Six duck boards + 200 sand-bags were carried to front line to improve their positions at N. 19. b. 9. 1. - Indirect fire was brought to bear during the night on X Roads at N. 14. c. 6. 2. on Tramway + dump at LOISENHOF FARM, + also on Tracks from N. 8. c. 65. 05. to N. 14. b. 3. 6. - 3 guns were employed, + 4,500 rds. expended.	do. al.
do.	17/12/16.		Three of our anti-aircraft guns were in action between 0900 and 1200, firing from N. 25. C. 70. 75, N. 31. C. 35. 95. and N. 31. a. 51., 1,100 rds. were fired. 3 planes were turned but they ascended and came back at a greater altitude - at 1500 a H.E. shell penetrated Co. H. Q. + burst inside, one casualty, wounded + partially buried. Work of rebuilding was at once started, 6 cubic yds. of debris being removed, + roof started. Indirect fire was brought to bear, during the night, on Road from N. 13. d. 58. 60. to N. 13. b. 7. 4. also on tramway from N. 14. a. 05. 25. to N. 8. C. 3. 2. Two guns were used, and 2,000 rds. fired.	do. al.
do.	18/12/16.		Re-building of Co. H. Q. continued, inner wall shored up + covered with planks, then filled in with sand-bags (150). Emergency exit, cleared out and improved + steps for same constructed - sleeping shelter for 2 men constructed at left position in front line - The day being very misty fire was brought to bear on the LOISENHOF FARM and Tramway by day, and the Barrage guns fired on train lines both by day + night - Three guns were employed and 3,750 rds. expended.	do. al.
do.	19/12/16.		Two duck-walks were carried to front line at N. 19. b. 6. 4. - Rebuilding of Co. H. Q. continued - Roof strengthened + 2 courses of bricks laid - Dug-out at N. 31. b. 4. 8. enlarged + will now hold 9 men. I.F. brought to bear on X Roads at N. 14. c. 6. 2., Tramway from N. 14. a. 05. 25. + N. 8. c. 2. 2. also Road from N. 13. d. 6. 8. to N. 13. b. 7. 7. - Three guns used + 3,000 rds. fired.	do. al.
do.	20/12/16.		A new I.F. position constructed at N. 25. a. 81. 57. + used during night. 10 baulks of timber 10" x 3" carried from FLERS to dug-out at N. 31. b. 4. 8. and erected there - 24,000 rds. of S.A.A. + 6 boxes of bombs carried from FLERS (where they were salvaged from an old dug-out) to position at N. 31. b. 4. 8. I.F. was brought to bear during night on LIGNY-THILLOY Road from Parley Trench to N. 7. d. 9. 9., on Cross Road between N. 7. b. 7. 0. and N. 8. a. 2. 0., on BARLEY TRENCH from N. 14. b. 2. 4. to N. 14. c. 9. 9., also LOISENHOF FARM - 3 guns used + 3,500 rds. fired.	do. al.
do.	21/12/16.		Between 0900 and 1300 enemy planes were active around FLERS, the 2 guns in the village, also gun at N. 25. C. 77. fired 3,800 rds. at them. On four occasions planes were turned, + some were forced to ascend alto - The dug-out at N. 31. b. 4. 8. was further improved + 6 pieces of timber erected - I.F. was used on BARLEY TRENCH from N. 14. b. 1. 3. to N. 14. d. 9. 9. and from N. E. C. 3. 2. to N. 14. b. 2. 7. also on Tramway from N. 14. a. 1. 5. to N. E. C. 3. 3. - Three guns were employed + 3,000 rds. expended.	do. al.
do.	22/12/16.		Sectional relief was carried out last night without incident. At about 1100 a plane was sighted to N.W. of FLERS, the gun at N. 31. a. 5. 1. fired 100 rds. + plane turned + made off towards German lines - 30,000 rds. of S.A.A. carried from Pade Dump to FLERS for Co. reserve. I.F. brought to bear during night on Cross Tracks at N. 14. c. 6. 2. and X Roads at N. 13. b. 7. 3. - Two guns used + 2,000 rds. fired.	do. al.
do.	23/12/16.		16,000 rds. S.A.A., 13 boxes of Bombs + 15 Rifles were salvaged in + around FLERS. I.F. used on LIGNY-THILLOY Road, Roads between N. 7. b. 7. 0. and N. 8. a. 2. 0., Tramway from N. 14. a. 1. 5. to N. E. C. 3. 3., also on LOISENHOF FARM. Four guns used + 4,500 rds. fired.	do. al.
do.	24/12/16.		6,000 rds. S.A.A., 1 box 1 1/2" VERY lights, 9 boxes MILLS grenades, 8 Rifles + 75 coils barbed wire were salvaged in + around FLERS. I.F. was brought to bear during the night on X Tracks from N. 14. c. 6. 2., Tramway from N. 8. C. 2. 0. to N. 8. C. 5. 7. on BARLEY TRENCH. Three guns were employed, + 3,000 rds. expended.	do. al.

Atkinson

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or

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AUSTRALIAN Army Form. C 2118.

MACHINE GUN COY.

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FLERS.	25/12/16.		New I.F. position constructed at N. 25. b. 0. 9. and used during night. An old dug-out discovered at same location, shaft was cleaned out & stairway repaired & same will now accommodate 4 men. - 2 Lewis guns Magazine + 2 Cannon bags for same were salvaged. I.F. brought to bear, during night, on Road from N. 13. b. 7. 4. to N. 13. b. 7. 7., on BARLEY TRENCH from N. 14. b. 3. 4. to N. 14. d. 9. 9., on Road from BARLEY TRENCH to N. 7. d. 9. 9., on Road from N. 7. b. 7. 0. to N. a. 2. 0., & on X Road at N. 7. b. 6. 5. - Five guns were employed and 5,000 rds. expended. During inter-sectional relief N. 14. 35 Cpl. Thompson F. was wounded by shell-fire.	Map Reference Sheet. 57c. S.W. 1/20, 000 Ad.
do.	26/12/16.		Enemy's planes very active from 0915 to 1335. - Between 1200 + 1230 one gun at N. 31. b. 4. 8. fired 250 rds. at 4 planes, all those turned & went back to their own lines. Gun at N. 31. a. 5. 1. fired 400 rds. at 1 plane, all planes were flying high & did not approach close to FLERS. - 1 Officer + 25 O.R.'s employed loading material for M.G. emplacements on to light Ry. Trucks & transporting to FLERS dump. I.F. was employed during night on Tramway & Dump at LUISENHOF FARM, Tramway from N. 14. c. 2. 8. to N. P. c. 5. 6., Cross Tracks & Tramway between N. 9. c. 1. 5. and N. 9. c. 7. 0., also on Tramway Turn. & Track at N. 5. c. 9. 8. Three guns were employed and 4,000 rds. expended.	- do. Ad.
do.	27/12/16.		Enemy's planes again very active, though some generally kept very high & well away from FLERS. The gun at N. 31. b. 4. 8. engaged at different times 7 planes in all, all of which were either turned or forced to ascend still higher. The A.F. guns in FLERS also fire a few rds. Total expenditure of S.A.A. 1,600 rds. Co. working party in addition to work at LONGUEVAL Sidings, brought up the following from Bde. to FLERS, 6 iron guides, 3 rolls of wire, 60 sheets of iron, & 39 sets of timber for dug-outs. I.F. was brought to bear on Road from BARLEY TRENCH to N. 7. d. 9. 9., LIGNY-THILLOY, LUISENHOF FARM & Cross Tracks at N. 14. c. 6. 2. - Four guns were used and 3,500 rds. were fired.	- do. Ad.
do.	29/12/16.		Enemy's planes were active between 0730 and 1045. They were mostly too high for M.G. fire, but at 0915, 3 planes were observed N.E. of FLERS, two were engaged by our A.F. guns in FLERS & turned towards their own lines, as they returned they were engaged by the gun at N. 31. b. 4. 8. - 1,550 rds. were fired in all. - 1 Off. + 25 O.R.'s were on fatigue & transported the following from Bde. Dump. to FLERS: - 129 pieces of timber, 139 sheets of iron, 12 wedges, 6 windlass barrels, 24 props. During afternoon & evening I.F. was brought to bear on following targets: - Tramway at LUISENHOF FARM, LIGNY-THILLOY Road from N. 14. c. 9. 1. to N. 20. b. 8. 7., BARLEY TRENCH, LIGNY-THILLOY, Tracks & Tramway at N. 9. c. 1. 5. Tramway Turn. & Tracks at N. 5. c. 9. 8. and on Roads between N. 7. b. 7. 0. & N. 5. a. 2. 0. - Five guns were employed and 6,000 rounds expended.	- do. Ad.
do.	29/12/16.		Fatigue party of 1 Off. + 25 O.R.'s worked during day transporting dug-out & M.G. emplacement material from Bde. Dump to FLERS. No enemy planes were seen. All sectional groups changed round during night without incident. I.F. was used during night on enemy's communications & back area, 4 guns were used and 3,000 rounds fired.	- do. Ad.
do.	30/12/16.		At 1200 two 5.9" H.E. shells fell at the A.F. gun position at N. 31. c. 35. 95. - Casualties. 1 N.C.O (Killed) 2 O.R.'s (Wounded) Damage - 4 Belt Boxes destroyed. The usual fatigue of 1 N.C.O + 25 O.R.'s worked transferring material from Bde. DUMP to FLERS. During night I.F. was brought to bear on LIGNY-THILLOY Road, LIGNY-THILLOY, LUISENHOF FARM, & Tracks, Roads & Tramways behind enemy lines. - 5 guns were employed & 7,000 rds. expended.	- do. Ad.
do.	31/12/16.		Usual working party of 1 N.C.O + 25 O.R.'s continued transportation of material, also worked on dug-outs at N. 31. c. 9. 3. I.F. was carried out during night on several targets. - 4 guns were employed & 5,000 rds. expended.	Ad.

Ad. Major
C.O. 3rd Aus. M.G. Coy.