

AWM4

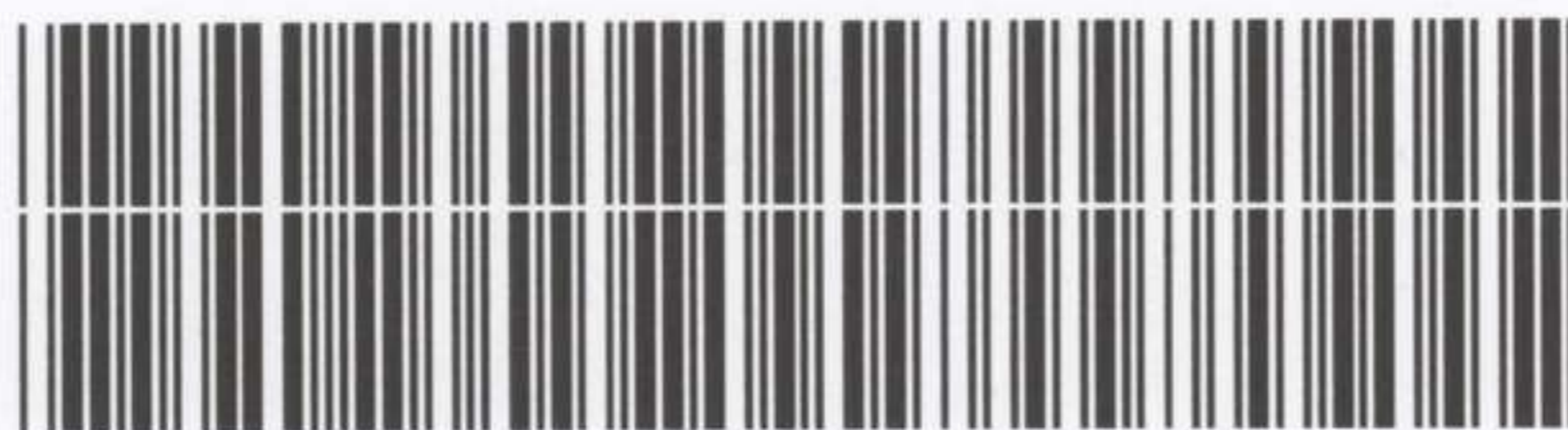
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War**

Machine Guns

Item number: 24/8/12

**Title: 3rd Australian Machine Gun
Company**

February 1917



AWM4-24/8/12

WAR DIARY

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.

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688

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MILLENCOURT.	1/2/17		Morning - gun drill. Lecture - Method of fire. Afternoon Coy Sports. Football. Etc.	ALBERT. Sheet 1/40,000
do	2/2/17		Morning - Range Discipline; Lecture & practice. Section in attack. Casualties & stoppages. Afternoon Route March	do
do.	3/2/17		The Coy moved off at 0900 on line of march for Fricourt (with pioneer camp) arrived at Camp at 1300. Transport arrived late owing to bad roads & lock by relieving units. Intervals maintained on march 200 yds between transport and moving troops.	
FRICOURT. Sq 2	4/2/17		Morning packing G.S. limbers & wagons. Tactical Handling. Lecture on Characteristics of M.G. Afternoon was directed to Cleaning Camps.	ALBERT MAP Sheet 1/40,000
do	5/2/17		Morning was on Route March also discipline, Recognition of targets & I.D. afternoon Lecture on Range Cards, preparation of same. Points before, during and after firing.	do
do	6/2/17		Morning Weekly Section Drill - saluting. Post-firing. Immediate action & prolonged stoppages. Afternoon - Indirect fire. with spirit level, greticle, Map & Compass.	do
do	7/2/17		Morning - Squad Drill. Afternoon, Route, March. Tactical Handling.	do
do	8/2/17		Morning - Physical Exercises, Squad Drill, Points. B. G. firing, Route March	do
do	9/2/17		Morning - cleaning Camp, Gas helmet practice, Afternoon - Squad Drill, Physical Exercises	do
do	11/2/17		Morning - Physical Exercises, Gun drill. Afternoon cleaning of guns & overhauling. Checking of equipment by C.O.	do
do	10/2/17		a party of 40 men moved off to High Wood & carried 14,000 Rds S.A.A. to Coy Reserve in line. remainder of CO. cleaned camp. - repacking of limbers. Gas helmet drill. Cleaning guns equipment.	do

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FRICOURT. Sq. 2.	11/2/17		The Company moved off at 1200. on line of march for High-wood & then at 1700 moved in groups of 10 to positions in front line. Indirect fire position & a. a. position at Long Drop. Interests maintained on march & order between sections. There were no stragglers. This Coy relieved the 1st M. M. Co. without incident. Relief complete at 2400.	ALBERT Map Sheet 1/41, 100.
Near Eaucourt & Abbaye.	12/2/17		M. G. emplacements were improved & front line reexamined. Notho posts placed & guns in position. 300 Rds were expended on a. a. but without result.	do
M. 29. d. 1. 1. do	12/2/17		Indirect fire from four guns was brought to bear on four targets. 2,500 Rounds were expended. Targets. Yellow Cut. M. 7. c. 0.5 to M. 7. c. 10.10. Lane from M. 13. a. 1. 5. to M. 13. a. 9. 1. Matt Lanch M. 12. a. 2. 2. to M. 12. a. 7. 5. 0. M. 12. b. 4. 8. to M. 12. c. 9. 5.	do
do	14/2/17		Indirect fire from 5 guns was brought to bear on 5 targets. 6,000 Rounds were expended. Targets. Rye Trench from M. 7. c. 0.5 to M. 7. d. 15. Cross Roads & Quarry Machine Gun M. 3. a. 00. 35. M. 7. a. 40. 85. Wheat Lanch. M. 12. d. 1. 3. to M. 12. d. 10. 4. Road from M. 7. a. 40. 85. to M. 7. a. 10. 65. Le. Banque Suietoh M. 12. c. 0. 4. to M. 12. c. 1. 3.	do
do	15/2/17		During the night our V. M. G.s fired 7,500 Rds indirectly upon selected targets. During the day our a. a. guns fired 800 Rds on enemy planes. 7 Hostile planes were fired at. Targets. M. 18. a. 2. 1. to M. 18. b. 10. 55. Yellow Cut from M. 18. b. 8. 0. to M. 13. a. 1. 6. Blue Cut from M. 12. a. 8. 4. to M. 12. d. 90. 85. Wheat Trench from M. 12. a. 0. 5. to M. 12. a. 10. 4. Linget Road from M. 7. c. 90. 85. to M. 7. b. 35. 25.	do
do	16/2/17		Hostile aircraft were very active sometimes flying low & were fired at on by our A. A. V. M. G.s. at 1200 a hostile plane was evidently forced landing in the direction of BAPAUME. 500 Rounds were expended on A. A. fire at 7 planes. Indirect fire was brought to bear on 3 targets from 3 guns. Targets. Linget Road. M. 7. c. 90. 85. to M. 7. b. 26. 25 Rye Trench M. 12. d. 0. 5. to M. 12. d. 10. 4. M. 7. c. 0. 5. to M. 7. d. 1. 5. 3,000 Rds S. A. A. Expended.	do
do	17/2/17		6,000 Rds S. A. A. were fired indirectly upon 4 targets in rear of the enemy lines. A new A. A. position was built at M. 29. b. 30. 00. Targets. Yellow Cut from M. 18. b. 70. 90. to M. 13. a. 10. 5. 5. Le Banque Suietoh M. 4. d. 8. 3. to M. 12. c. 9. 3. Rye Trench M. 12. d. 9. 3. to M. 12. d. 1. 4. M. 7. c. 0. 5. to M. 7. d. 1. 5.	do

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ENCOURT L' Abba 46. M. 24. d. 1-1.	18/2/17		2 T.M.G. emplacements in front line reconstructed. One T.M.G. searched for a working party which was heard at 0220. evidently driving wooden stakes. The noise was not repeated. During the night our V.M.C. fired 6,000 Rounds S.A.A. indirectly upon 4 targets in rear of enemy lines. Targets. M. 7. c. 0.5. to M. 7. d. 1.5. Rye Lanch M. 12. a. 0.3. to M. 12. a. 10.4. Le Banque Switch M. 11. d. 8.3. to M. 12. c. 9.3. Yellow Cut M. 18. d. 7.9. to M. 12. d. 10.55. No of Rds fired 6,000.	ALBERT MAP Sheet 1/40,000.
do	19/2/17		All preparations were made for attack on the M. 14.02, belts were cleared, dived & emplacements renewed in some cases. 20,000 Rds S.A.A. carried to all gun positions during day night. Indirect fire was brought to bear on 4 selected targets in rear of enemy lines during night. 6,000 Rds S.A.A. was expended. Targets. M. 17. a. 9.55. to M. 18. a. 1.5. M. 7. c. 0.5 to M. 7. d. 1.5. Rye from M. 17. c. 0.5 to M. 11. c. 7.5. 4 guns were employed.	do
do	20/2/17		Indirect fire was brought to bear on 4 targets in rear of enemy's lines, 8,000 Rounds S.A.A. being expended. 4 guns were employed. Targets, wheat Lanch M. 12. c. 7.0.35 to M. 12. a. 9.0.25. Barrage from M. 18. a. 0.7. to M. 13. a. 0.7. M. 18. a. 0.8 to M. 13. a. 0.0.	do
do	21/2/17		6,000 Rds S.A.A. were expended in indirect fire onto four targets. Another indirect fire position was built at M. 29. d. 07-17. Targets Yellow Cut M. 18. d. 8.8. to M. 13. a. 1.6. Lanch M. 18. a. 21. to M. 18. b. 1.8. Vertical Search of Yellow Cut. Le Banque Switch from M. 11. d. 8.3. to M. 12. c. 0.5. 4 guns were employed.	do
do	22/2/17		Relief of Right Forward groups in line was carried out by 1800. without incident. V.M.G. emplacements at M. 24. b. 25.00. rebuilt, this had collapsed owing to the thaw. 5,000 Rds were expended in indirect fire onto 4 selected targets in rear of enemy's lines. 4 guns were employed. Targets. M. 11. c. 7.6. to M. 11. a. 65.40. Count Road M. 11. a. 75.30. to M. 11. b. 70.55. Road from M. 11. b. 55.40. to M. 12. a. 4.5.	do
do	23/2/17		6,000 Rounds S.A.A. were expended in indirect fire onto 4 targets in rear of the enemy's lines. 4 guns were employed. Targets. Vertical Search of Road M. 17. a. 8.8. to M. 11. c. 7.5. Travers Lanch from M. 19. a. 2.1. to M. 18. b. 10.85. Travers of Le Banque Switch from M. 12. c. 00.35. to M. 12. d. 00.30. Vertical Search of Yellow Cut from M. 28. d. 55.50. to M. 13. a. 10.65.	do
do	24/2/17		3 new T.M.G. emplacements completed for i.o. fire at M. 30. b. 1.8. - M. 30. b. 15.05. M. 30. b. 25.12. 2 T.M.G. moved forward in the advance on the M. 14.02 & took up positions by 1800. Indirect fire was maintained during the whole of the night from M. 11. d. 30.40 to M. 12. c. 70.60. M. 7. c. 50.40. 10,000 Rds were expended.	do

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Near Eaucourt L'Abbaye 17.29. 11.1.1.	24/2/17		Dressing the special men were told off to clean care for belts, and great attention was paid to cleaning drying & fitting same. In the early part of the day a reconnaissance party went out eventually 4 guns were moved to Bank French. completion at 2.00. all positions were thoroughly consolidated. 2 other guns moved forward to front line under heavy shell fire & consolidated.	ALBERT Map Shot 1/4 scope.
do	26/2/17		12 pack animals and personnel for same moved from Eaucourt to PROBER Camp. Movement completed by 11.00. a carrying party took ammunition to advanced gun emplacements during day. 2 of our V.M.Gs. cooperated with the Artillery and placed a barrage of fire beyond Le Bourgne for 2 hours from 13.00 to 15.00. 10000 Rds S.A. 17. were expended. Hostile planes were active during the day. 2,500 Rds were expended, several enemy planes being driven back.	do.
do.	27/2/17		This Coy was relieved by the 1st A.M. G.C. Relief complete by 18.00 & co moved to SITE. 4. Camp. BASE MAMMETZ. Relief was without incident except that the relief coming out of the line was heavily shelled.	do.
MAMMETZ. S. 8. 01. 6.	28/2/17.		cleaning Camp & guns in morning. afternoon. cleaning equipment. a. a. gun position made at Camp.	