

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

Machine Guns

Item number: 24/8/20

Title: 3rd Australian Machine Gun
Company

October 1917



AWM4-24/8/20

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

Triplicate Copy

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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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CHATEAU SEGARD H. 30. a.	1/10/17.		Cpl. L. C. GARDNER, Sgt. V. H. COLLESS, and Pte B. H. C. MILLAR were appointed 2/Lieutenants this day and posted to this Coy. 20 Pack horse from this Coy., 5 from the 21 st A. M. G. Co and 5 from the 7 th A. M. G. Co conveyed S. A. A. to a forward dump, Pack train in charge of Lieut. E. R. REID of this Coy, 120,000 rounds were carried forward - Working party supplied by Battalions was also engaged in construction of Battery positions, Officers and N.C.O's of this Coy., also visited forward area, all these movements took place at night.	Map Ref. Sheet 28 N.W. 1/20,000
do	2/10/17		Batt's fatigue party was again employed in carrying forward material and constructing positions, which were completed and camouflaged this night. Lieut. A. BAKER-FINCH left for leave to U.K.	do
do.	3/10/17		The day was spent in preparing guns and equipment for the line. The Coy. moved up at night to take up positions. The C.O. Capt. D. V. MULHOLLAND being group Commander.	do.
WESTHOCK RIDGE S. 3. d. 3. 0.	4/10/17	}	During this period operations were carried out as per attached Operation Order. On the 7 th Lt. F. FINCH, and 21 D.R.s joined this Co. at Rear H.Q. at CHATEAU SEGARD.	Sheet 28.
do.	10/10/17			
CHATEAU SEGARD	11/10/17		This day was spent in rest, and in clearing guns and equipment etc.	Sheet 28 N.W. 1/20,000
do	12/10/17		The Coy. moved out on line of March for SCOTTISH CAMP and arrived there at 1530.	do.
SCOTTISH CAMP G. 17. d.	12/10/17 to 23/10/17.	}	This period was spent in reorganising and re-equipping the Co. Daily training was carried out between the hours of 8 and 12 in the morning and 2 to 4 in the afternoon. Lectures were delivered by the officers to the N.C.O's every second night. On the 14 th Lt. REID left to attend Veterinary School at ST OMER, Lt GARDNER left to go to ROUEN to inspect Records of the Co. On the 17 th Lt BAKER-FINCH, ret'd to the Co. and Lt BETHUNE left for leave to U.K. On the 23 rd 46 Reinforcements joined the Co. (Cont'd)	do.

WAR DIARY

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
SCOTTISH CAMP G. 17. d.	12/10/17 to 23/10/17		On the 20 th Lt. WARREN visited forward area to reconnoitre routes etc. On the 21 st , 3 officers and 3. I. C. O.s. visited forward area, and on the 22 nd 3 officers and 3. I. C. O.s. visited forward area.	Map Ref. Sheet 28. IV. 11. 1/20,000
do	24/10/17		The Co. moved out in line of march for BELGIAN CHATEAU AREA at 1000 and arrived in bivouac area at 1400. There were no stragglers, Lunch shelter were drawn from AREA COMM ² and shelters erected.	do.
BELGIAN CHATEAU. H. 23. d. 7. 9.	25/10/17		The Co. took over dugouts, and shelters from the 24 th A. M. G. Co. The day was spent in improving the bivouac, erection of cook house, stables etc.	do.
do	26/10/17 to 31/10/17		During this period training was carried out daily from 10-12 in the morning and 2 and 3 in the afternoon, special attention being given to the reinforcements who proved very satisfactory, and who besides being of a fair physique had a good knowledge of the gun. The Camp was also improved daily, a bridge being built to the transport lines, duckwalk tracks laid etc etc. On the 27 th Lt. Hogg left from leave to PARIS. On the 31 st Lt. the C. O. visited the forward area and the guns of the 21 st A. M. G. Co.	
<p>The following documents are attached:-</p> <p>Report of operations 3/10/17 to 10/10/17.</p> <p>List of Casualties.</p> <p>Recommendations for Awards.</p>				

John Innes
C. O. 3rd B. 171. G. Co

(A7092). Wt. W12839/M1293. 750,000. 1/17. D. D. & L., Ltd. Forms/C.2118/14.

Report on OperationsFrom 4.10.17To 10.10.17By O.C. P.O.P. Machine Gun Barrage Group

At 21.00 on 3.10.17 Four batteries of Machine Guns, each battery of six guns:

1 Battery from 21 st AMG Coy
1 " " 12 th AMG Coy
2 " " 3 rd AMG Coy

proceeded from CHATEAU BELGE area to positions previously prepared in line on edge of ALBANIA wood running from

to for barrage work in connection with attack on morning of 4.10.17

All went well until 24.00 (one hour after the positions had been reached) when the enemy placed a heavy 5.9 shell barrage along the ridge upon which we had chosen our positions.

The left battery belonging to 3rd AMG Coy came under this attack and was forced to fall back temporarily (Casualties 2 Killed 6 wounded). When the shelling ceased these positions were re dug and guns replaced.

4.10.17 At zero hour 3 hours All guns were reported laid and ready for action to the DM.G.O 1st Aust. Div.

At zero hour + 7 minutes barrages were put down in accordance with barrage table issued, and all guns ceased firing at zero + 4 hours 50 minutes.

Total ammunition expended during advance 212,000 rounds.

All guns were then cleaned and relaid. At 12.00 I reconnoitred new positions 200 yards in advance and by 16.00 had all guns

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in new positions.

About 18.00 an S.O.S rocket was observed on our direct front and fire opened in 20 seconds S.O.S rockets continued to be fired for some short period and after firing at barrage rate for half an hour I ordered harrassing fire and all was quiet in another half an hour and guns ceased firing

Ammunition expended 40,000 rounds

Casualties to date 5 Killed 24 wounded

5-10-17 Enemy 5.9 batteries very active

At 11.00 day S.O.S flare observed on right half of our barrage area and fire opened in 30 seconds

Ammunition expended 17,000 rounds

At 12.00 I reconnoitered new positions 200 and 300 yards respectively in advance of positions then occupied, and by 16.00 had batteries in these positions in echelon, and laid on barrage line as ordered

At 18.45 the S.O.S rocket was observed on our front and fire immediately opened
Ammunition expended 20,000 rounds

Casualties to date 5 Killed 27 wounded

6-10-17 08.00 battery from 12th AMGCy relieved

All day the enemy shelled the forward area principally with 5.9 H.E. shells and in response to our S.O.S rockets about 18.30 we fired on barrage line expending 42,000 rounds

Casualties to date 6 Killed 28 wounded

7-10-17 No S.O.S signals observed on our front

One gun blown out by shell fire

Casualties to date 6 Killed 32 wounded

8.10.17¹³⁵ In response to message from D.M.G.O. I reconnoitred Crater and trenches in its immediate vicinity for M.G. positions from which direct covering fire could be brought to bear on ridge about

At 15.00 I sent a section forward to take up these positions. Guns were in position two hours later and ready for next morning's attack. In the meantime these guns which were withdrawn from the S.O.S. line were replaced by a section of guns from 21st AM G Coy reserve guns.

About 19.00 the S.O.S. signal was responded to by expending 12,000 rounds.

Casualties to date 6 Killed 32 wounded

9.10.17 At 05.20 the new attack started at zero hour + 10 the four mobile guns in crater positions opened fire on forward ridge positions bringing covering fire to bear and fired until zero + 2 hours.

One gun was blown out after 1½ hours continuous firing.

Ammunition expended 30,000 rounds.

All crews and remaining 3 guns returned to S.O.S. line and took up positions temporarily occupied by reserve guns from 21st AM G Coy which were then sent to the rear.

About 14.00 in response to telephone message from D.M.G.O. harassing fire was brought to bear on barrage line for 4 hours to silence enemy machine guns which were firing on captured ridge on left of sector. 20,000 rounds were expended by S.O.S. guns.

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Casualties to date

10. 10. 17 Relieved at 12.00 by 15th AM Coy

Casualties to date

1 Gun per battery besides firing on
P.O.S. line was also told off for AA
work

Total Ammunition expended on enemy
Aircraft 12,000 rounds

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3rd Australian Machine Gun Company.SummaryofBasualtis Operation4-10-17 To 10-10-17.OFFICERS

KILLED	WOUNDED	MISSING
NIL	Lieut. J.F. KERR.	NIL

OTHER RANKS.

KILLED	WOUNDED	MISSING
7.	33.	2.

(5)

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THIRD Brigade. FIRST Division. 1st ANZAC Corps. 10/19/19 Date of Recommendation.

Schedule No. (to be left blank)	Unit	Regtl. No.	Rank and Name (Christian names must be stated)	Action for which commended (Date and place of action must be stated)	Recommended by	Honour or Reward	(To be left blank)
	3 rd INF M G Coy	276	PRIVATE. COOPER. CHARLES WILLIAM	<p>For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. This man did valuable work during period 9/1/19 to 10/1/19 at BROOSEINDE RIDGE and although twice wounded and the sole survivor of his gun team on the morning of 9/1/19 he kept his gun in action in response to S.O.S. signals and remained in position until relieved on 10/1/19</p>	M. J. [Signature]	Military Medal	

APPENDIX

THIRD Brigade. FIRST Division. 1st ANZAC Corps. 10/10/17 Date of Recommendation.

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Schedule No. (to be left blank)	Unit	Regtl. No.	Rank and Name (Christian names must be stated)	Action for which commended (Date and place of action must be stated)	Recommended by	Honour or Reward	(To be left blank)
	3rd AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY M.G. COY.	3976	PRIVATE HUTTON. KENNETH JAMES	For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. Though struck by a shell which wounded the barrel of his gun towards morning 10/10/17 at BROODSEINBE RIDGE he refused to leave his gun though badly shaken as this would have meant his gun being thrown out of action and carried off until rescued on 10/10/17	M. J. H. [Signature]	Military Medal	

APPENDIX

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THIRD

Brigade.

FIRST

Division.

1st ANZAC

Corps.

10/14/17

Date of Recommendation.

Schedule No. (to be left blank)	Unit	Regtl. No.	Rank and Name (Christian names must be stated)	Action for which commended (Date and place of action must be stated)	Recommended by	Honour or Reward	(To be left blank)
	3 rd HUST M G Coy	5342	LANCE CORPORAL BROWN ADOLPHUS PERCY	<p>For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty.</p> <p>Though very severely shelled in his particular position in the S.O.S. Machine Gun barrage group every day he refused to abandon his gun and fired it with great rapidity when the S.O.S. signal went up. During the period 2/10/17 to 10/10/17 at BROODSEINDE RIDGE a piece of H.E. shell casing ruffled his hair causing rather badly while firing in response to an S.O.S. signal, but he persistently remained at his gun.</p> <p>Under the heaviest fire this man always maintained his cheerful disposition and is of the greatest assistance in keeping up the spirits of his section in a tight corner.</p>	M. Mulholland Capt Co.	Military Medal	

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THIRD

Brigade.

FIRST

Division.

1st ANZAC

Corps.

10/10/17

Date of Recommendation.

Schedule No. (to be left blank)	Unit	Regtl. No.	Rank and Name (Christian names must be stated)	Action for which commended (Date and place of action must be stated)	Recommended by	Honour or Reward	(To be left blank)
107	3rd HUST 1st G Coy	2167	PRIVATE 1st BATT ALBERT GEORGE BART.	For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. Besides doing excellent work with the S.O.S. machine gun barrage group during the period 2/10/17 to 8/10/17, he acted in a very gallant manner in the second BROODSEINDE RIDGE engagement by giving successful covering fire to troops moving on our left. After firing continuously for one and a half hours his gun was blown out by shell fire. Although badly shaken he attached himself to the neighbouring gun crew and	M. S. W. H. ...	Military Medal	

APPENDIX

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TAIRD Brigade. FIRST Division. 1st ANZAC Corps. 10/11/19 Date of Recommendation.

Schedule No. (to be left blank)	Unit	Regtl. No.	Rank and Name (Christian names must be stated)	Action for which commended (Date and place of action must be stated)	Recommended by	Honour or Reward	(To be left blank)
	3 MUS M/G Col.	767	PRIVATE H. E. EWHAN ALBERT GEORGE SMT	Continued kept the remaining gun crew's spirits up in a wonderful manner until all guns were relieved later in the day.	M. M. Mulholland Capt C. O. 3 rd A. M. G. Co	Military Medal	

THIRD

Brigade.

FIRST

Division.

1ST ANZAC

Corps.

14/10/19

Date of Recommendation.

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Schedule No. (to be left blank)	Unit	Regtl. No.	Rank and Name (Christian names must be stated)	Action for which commended (Date and place of action must be stated)	Recommended by	Honour or Reward	(To be left blank)
	3 RD AUSTR. M G Co.	420	SGT. BELLINGER ALBERT ALBERT FELIX (M.M)	<p>In conspicuous gallantry and determination to enter, throughout the whole period 9/10/19 to 14/10/19 at BROODSEINDE RIDGE successfully kept his guns continually in action. Besides doing excellent work with the S.O.S. M.G. barrage group under extremely heavy shell fire he was responsible for the successful covering fire given to troops advance- ing on our left on morning of 9/10/19 although badly shaken by shell fire he</p>	<p>Michaelmond Capt C.O.</p>	<p>Bar to Meritany Medal</p>	

APPENDIX

T.M.D.

Brigade.

FIRST

Division.

1ST ANZAC

Corps.

10/10/14

Date of Recommendation.

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Schedule No. (to be left blank)	Unit	Regtl. No.	Rank and Name (Christian names must be stated)	Action for which commended (Date and place of action must be stated)	Recommended by	Honour or Reward	(To be left blank)
	<i>3rd AUSTR M/G Coy</i>	<i>420</i>	<i>SGT BELLINGER ALBERT FELIX (M.M.)</i>	<i>Continued worked throughout the whole period with great coolness and set a magnif- icent example to his men</i>	<i>M. M. Holland Capt. Co.</i>	<i>Bar to Military Medal</i>	

THIRD

Brigade.

FIRST

Division.

1ST ANZAC

Corps.

10/10/17

Date of Recommendation.

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Schedule No. (to be left blank)	Unit	Regtl. No.	Rank and Name (Christian names must be stated)	Action for which commended (Date and place of action must be stated)	Recommended by	Honour or Reward	(To be left blank)
	3 RD AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE M G Coy.	10	C.S.M. EDGAR WILLIAM	For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during the engagements at BROODSIDE RIDGE between 27/10/17 and 1/11/17 it was through his astuteness and disregard of enemy heavy shell fire that the S.O.S. Machine Gun barrage group was able to harass the enemy so successfully in his many counter attacks against positions recently captured by our forces. Besides being responsible for the maintenance of ammunition reserves at batteries exposed he maintained contact through the heavy shell fire night after night.	W. M. McCallum Capt. Co.	Distinguished Conduct Medal	

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Brigade. FIRST Division. 1st INF BATTAL Corps. 10/10/17 Date of Recommendation. 15

Schedule No. (to be left blank)	Unit	Regtl. No.	Rank and Name (Christian names must be stated)	Action for which commended (Date and place of action must be stated)	Recommended by	Honour or Reward	(To be left blank)
	3 RUST M G Coy	10	C S M EDGAR. WILLIAM	(Continued) and set a magnificent example to every man in the machine gun group.	M Nicholls. Capt. Coo	Distinguished Conduct Medal	

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Brigade. 1st Division. 1st ANZAC Corps. 10/10/17 Date of Recommendation.

Schedule No. (to be left blank)	Unit	Regtl. No.	Rank and Name (Christian names must be stated)	Action for which commended (Date and place of action must be stated)	Recommended by	Honour or Reward	(To be left blank)
	3 rd HUSB. M/G COY	LIEDT	SCOTT EDWARD JOHN	<p>For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty.</p> <p>By his untiring energy, fearlessness and initiative during the engagements between 3/10/17 and 10/10/17 at BROODSEINDE ridge controlled his battery of Vickers Machine Guns with the greatest skill.</p> <p>As the action progressed he went forward although slightly wounded through heavy shell fire reconnected his positions and in record time changed his battery positions without the loss of a man throughout the period he was always with his guns and set a wonderful example to his men.</p>	Mushallman Capt. Co.	Military Cross	



APPENDIX

