

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

Machine Guns

**Item number:** 24/8/25

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

March 1918



AWM4-24/8/25



**CONFIDENTIAL.**

ORIGINAL.  
~~DUPLICATE.~~  
~~TRIPLICATE.~~

Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

OF

*3<sup>rd</sup> Australian Machine Gun Coy.*

FOR

*March 1918.*

Signature of Officer compiling

*J. B. Hoge Lt*

Signature of Officer Commanding

*Murphy*  
Captain.



304  
**AUSTRALIAN  
 MACHINE GUN COY.**  
 No.....  
 Date.....

Army Form C. 2118. **41**

**WAR DIARY**

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

(Erase heading not required.)

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
FRANCE TOURNAI CAMP. N. 10. B. 70. 40.	1/3/18		Cleaned guns + ammunition + overhauled gear generally in preparation for the move into the line - LIEUT STEPHENS returned from the 3rd Squadron A.F.C. BAILLEUL having completed course of instruction.	SHEET 1:40,000 28 J.G.H.
do	2/3/18	1000 1130          1900	C.O. proceeded to forward area - Coy moved by route back to BRANDENBURG SIDING and entrained on left railway arriving at SPOIL BANK at 1430 - the following are the dispositions of the sections on relief - No 1 section LIEUT BETHUNE MC. relieved D BATTY at BUFF BANK O 5 B central "          STEPHENS No 2     "          LIEUT BAKER-FINCH     "          A     "     "     O. 10. B. 70. 90. No 3     "          LIEUT HOGE M.C.     "          C     "     "     I. 36. A. 30. 10. "          CORNWELL No 4     "          "          WARREN. MC     "          B     "     "     I. 35. D. 50. 30. "          BARDNER Coy H.2.S established in SPOIL BANK near NORFOLK BRIDGE I 34 C 00.10 Rear H.2.S at BAROSSA CAMP O 13 B 9.5.     + Troop lines at ESSEX CAMP. O 14 A 70 30 Relief complete without incident -	HOLLERKE 1/19000 -  J.G. Hoops

(A7092) Wt. W12899/M1293-75 .0.0. 1/17. D. D. & L., Ltd. Forms/C.2118/14.



3rd  
AUSTRALIAN  
MACHINE GUN COY.  
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WAR DIARY

OR

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Sheet 28 1/40,000.	3/3/18		<p>LIEUT C.W. SNOWLING DCM rejoined from supernumerary list - C.O. + SIC reconnoitered all fire &amp; forward area - the gun positions were not considered sighted to the best of their tactical qualifications and advantages - the left flank was not protected by our own M.G. defensive fire no arrangements were made to move "C" Batts further forward to gain a field of fire - also "A" Batts was not considered tactically employed until two guns were moved forward in order to bring direct fire on our outpost line &amp; support area - The general situation is acceptably quiet &amp; the movement of enemy greatly below normal. Our approaches to forward areas are through well sited communication trenches, which is necessary on account of the high ground we hold, overlooking the enemy position.</p>	J.G.
do	4/3/18		<p>Situation very quiet - C.O. + G.O.C 2nd Bde reconnoitered forward "left" area with a view of altering the dispositions &amp; strengthening our defense - LIEUT ER. REID (T.O) to hospital pick -</p>	J.G.
do	5/3/18		<p>LIEUT SCOTT. MC.MM for leave to U.K.</p>	J.G.
do	6/2/18		<p>LIEUT G.E. JAMIESON MS. for England (wounded)</p>	J.G. J.G. Hoop
do	8/3/18		<p>LIEUT F. ARCHER for Paris leave.</p>	J.G.
do	9/3/18		<p>LIEUT EM. ROYCE F.D.H.2. on special Art Aircraft duty.</p>	J.G.

(A7092) Wt W12839/M1293 75 .0 0. 1/17. D. D. & L., Ltd. Forms/C.2118/14.



3rd  
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sheet 28 4/29/00	10/2/18		<p>All section relief with the exception of "A" Batty who preferred to stay in -</p> <p>LIEUT SNELLING DEM. relieved LIEUT STEPHENS - LIEUT MILLER relieved LIEUT CORNWELL</p> <p>LIEUT ARCHER relieved LIEUT GARDINER &amp; LIEUT JAMESON reported to "A" Batty.</p>	Jb. 76.
11	12/3/18		<p>LIEUT E.S. SCOTT MC.MM. appointed T.O. in place LIEUT REID to hospital.</p> <p>The foregoing 10 days have been devoted to the reorganization of the defence scheme &amp; the disposition of the unit is as follows -</p> <p><u>A Batty</u> - 2 guns S.O.S. work 0 10 B 70.90</p> <p>1 " direct fire 0 5 C 99.25.</p> <p>1 " " 0 5 C 78 12</p> <p><u>B Batty</u> 4 guns S.O.S. work 1 35 D 50 30</p> <p><u>LATE C BATT</u> was</p> <p><u>S 1</u> 2 guns { 1 J 31 C 14 10  2 J 31 C 40 30 } Direct fire guns</p> <p><u>S 2</u> 2 guns { 3 J 31 C 58 60  4 J 31 C 60 90 }</p> <p><u>D Batty</u> 1 gun 0.5.B. 20.50.  0.5.B. 60.60.  0.5.B. 70.65.  0.5.B. 60.70. } Direct fire but also laid on S.O.S. gun in case of a night attack.</p>	Jb. 76.

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WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sheet 28 1/50,000	13/3/18	midnight	Lt F. PLATHAM to P and BT School ST POL	
"	14/3/18	10	During enemy raid on outposts in HOLLEBEKE, which was completely repulsed and 12 Germans captured, gun crew at 05099.25 were made casualties, 1 man being killed and the remaining three wounded. Gun was destroyed.	Jb. Jb.
"	16/3/18		Nothing to record - Enemy is showing signs of activity, shelling and machine gun fire has increased considerably - Patrols in no man's land are reported active, allied aircraft appear to have aerial supremacy.	Jb. Jb.
"	17/3/18	10pm	Enemy heavily bombarded the Support and Rear Area with 4.2's, 77mm's and gas shells, more especially the latter, the bombardment lasted for 2 1/2 hours causing considerable annoyance to our working parties, - 1 other rank gassed.	Jb. Jb.
"	18/3/18	7pm	Enemy still fairly active - intermittent shelling throughout the day of forward area with 5.9's 4.2's and 77mm's. No 3 Section Gun Crew at Jarrocks Farm relieved by No 4 Section.	Jb. Jb.
"	19/3/18	9am	No 4 Section relieved remaining 3 gun crews of No 3 Section without incident. This brings No 4 Section to front-line and No 3 Section to Battle Wood. Enemy Machine Guns very active in forward area at night but his Artillery much quieter throughout the day.	Jb. Jb.
"	20/3/18		Relief of personnel in all Sections completed without incident. Hostile Artillery quiet generally but Machine guns very active in forward area throughout the night, making work in no man's land difficult.	Jb. Jb.
"	22/3/18		Enemy Artillery activity slightly increased. Lt A Baker Finch relieved by Lt J C Hoge at Coy HQ. At night No 3 Section at B Battery apparently were causing the enemy trouble with harassing fire, for an enemy aeroplane came over three times between 8 & 10 pm, picked up the flash of the guns and soon afterwards 20, 5.9 shells and 55, 77mm shells land close to Battery position but did no harm to guns or personnel. Enemy Flares of various colours very numerous during night.	Jb. Jb.
"	23/3/18	11pm	Nothing of interest. Hostile Artillery very quiet. Hostile French Motors active on our outposts.	Jb. Jb.
"	24/3/18		Nothing unusual occurred. Enemy shelled JARROCKS FARM intermittently throughout the day with about 200, 5.9's. Enemy flares again numerous at night. Hostile Machine Guns less active.	Jb. Jb.
"	25/3/18		Very quiet generally.	Jb. Jb.
"	26/3/18		Very quiet generally. One daring hostile aeroplane flew very low over our trenches and forward area, three times during the hour before dusk and escaped undamaged.	Jb. Jb.
"	27/3/18		One man wounded during enemy bombardment of forward area, which last for 15 minutes. Hostile artillery for the remainder of the day very quiet and our more active.	Jb. Jb.

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Shat 28 1/40000	28/3/18 16 31/3/18		<i>Decreased activity on part of the enemy in all arms, Our activity towards enemy being greater throughout this period</i>	<i>J. B. H.</i>
				<i>Amuchstrong Captain c/o 3rd Aust. M Gun Co</i>



*Original*

18,000-12/17-872

41

# WAR DIARY

OF

*3<sup>rd</sup>* Australian Machine Gun Coy.

FOR

March 1918

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.

Subject.

1.

*Intelligence Report.*



# I Appendix WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY (Title heading not required.)

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			<p>Appendix 1. Throughout the period commencing 1<sup>st</sup> inst. we expended <del>the</del> an average of 10,000 rounds SAA daily in harassing fire on enemy roads, approaches, and machine gun and trench mortar positions. Also we averaged a daily expenditure of 1000 rounds SAA on hostile aeroplanes.</p>	<p>J.L.H.</p>

3rd  
AUSTRALIAN  
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app. I.



Special Orders to No 1 Section 13/3/18

- (1) This position will be held, and the section will remain here until relieved
- (2) The enemy cannot be allowed to interfere with this programme
- (3) If the section cannot remain here alive, it will remain here dead, but in any case it will remain here
- (4) Should any man, through shell shock or other cause, attempt to surrender, he will remain here dead.
- (5) Should all guns be blown out, the section will use Mills grenades and other novelties
- (6) Finally, the position as stated, will be held

Y.P. Bethune II  
O/c No 1 Section

D.R.L. No 709.



380 M. G. boy.

23RL 709