

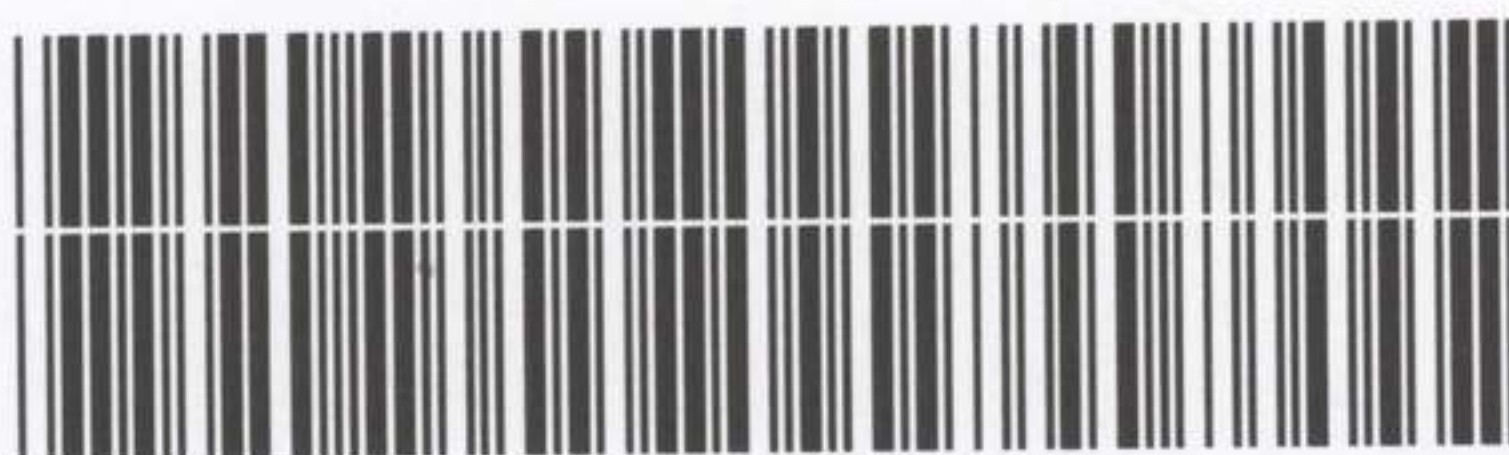
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Machine Guns

Item number: 24/5/2

Title: 5th Australian Machine Gun Battalion

April 1918



AWM4-24/5/2

CONFIDENTIAL.

Original.

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

H E A D Q U A R T E R S , 5 T H 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

1 s t A P R I L T O 3 0 t h A P R I L , 1 9 1 8 .

Signature of Officer compiling

M. Brown/Capt.

Signature of Officer Commanding

H. J. Anderson --Major.

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.
(Erase heading not required.)

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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sheet 57D VAUCHELLES	1/4/18		<p><u>Disposition:</u> Battalion Headquarters attached to Divisional Headquarters at VAUCHELLES.</p> <p>8th Machine Gun Company at VAUCHELLES-LES-AUTHIER and tactically under the command of 8th Australian Infantry Brigade. 14th and 25th Machine Gun Companies at LEALVILLERS and tactically under the command of 14th Aust. Infantry Brigade. 15th Machine Gun Company on the SOMME in the neighbourhood of CORIE, and tactically under the command of the 15th Aust. Infantry Brigade.</p> <p>The Unit is in a state of readiness - ready to move at one hour's notice. All companies, with the exception of the 15th Machine Gun Coy., training and resting in anticipation of being engaged in active operations in the near future.</p>	MB Capt
Sheet 57D VAUCHELLES	2/4/18 to 3/4/18		<p>Disposition as above. Organization and Administration of the Battalion proceeded with.</p>	MB Capt
Sheet 57D VAUCHELLES	4/4/18		<p>Extract from D.R.C. 4/4/18, para. 181. "<u>Machine Gun Battalion Command.</u> Major T.R.MARSDEN, D.S.O., will temporarily command the 5th Australian Machine Gun Battalion with effect from 4/4/18." On Major T.R.MARSDEN, D.S.O., assuming command, Major A.H. WRIGHT took up the duties of Second-in-command of the Battalion. At 3.45 p.m. orders were received from Headquarters, 5th Australian Division, that all Units would stand by ready to move at once. Companies were immediately notified by wire. At 6 p.m. instructions were received</p>	MB Capt

D. D. & L., London, E.C.
(A7883) Wt W8c9/M1672 50.000 4/17 Sch. 52a Forms/C/2118/14

T. J. Marsden
Major
6.0.5 A.M. G. Bn

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.
(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sheet 57D VAUCHELLES	4/4/18 (contd)		<p>notifying embussing places and times. Companies embussed with their various Brigade Groups mentioned above. The 15th M.G. Coy., having proceeded with the 15th Infantry Brigade previously, did not embuss. Embussing times, places and destination of companies as per Companies' Diaries forwarded herewith.</p> <p>Battalion Headquarters embussed at VAUCHELLES at 11 p.m. for BLANGY-TRONVILLE. Transport proceeded by march route on the following day. The trip of Battalion Hd.Qrs. details by bus was uneventful except that the weather was most adverse, and the travelling took place by night and in the early hours of the morning. The distance was about 15 miles and was via AMIENS. On arrival at BLANGY-TRONVILLE it was found that no provision had been made for the arrival of the Division. From about 5 a.m. to about 5 p.m. the day was spent trying to arrange billeting. Eventually we were successful and Battalion Hd.Qrs. was located at BLANGY-TRONVILLE. Disposition of companies as per their diaries forwarded herewith.</p>	
Sheet 62D BLANGY- TRONVILLE	5/4/18		<p>Battalion Order No. 2 issued in reference to the relief of the 3rd Cavalry Division on the following night.</p> <p>Dispositions : Bn.H.Q. at BLANGY-TRONVILLE, 8th M.G.Coy. with 8th A.I. Bde. at BOIS-DE-GENTILLES 14th M.G.Coy. with 14th A.I. Bde at AUBIGNY, 15th M.G.Coy. with 15th AI Bde Group at BONNAY</p>	<p>Appendix "A"</p>

W.B. Capt.
W.B. Capt.
6.0.5. A.M. 9.30

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sheet 62B	5/4/18		25th M.G. Coy. at FOUILLOY in Divisional Reserve.	
ELANEY-	6/4/18		Disposition unchanged. 14th and 25th Companies relieved the guns of the 3rd Cavalry	
TRONVILLE			Division in the line between the main VILLERS-PRETONNEUX and WARFUSEE-ABANCOURT Road to the	
			SOMME. The relief was extremely difficult to effect, as owing to the heavy fighting which	
			had taken place in the area a few days previously, the relieved Division was more or less	
XXXXXXXXXX 7/4/18			disorganized.	MB. Capt.
As above	7/4/18		from 8th M.G. Coy moved XX POIS-de-GENTILLES to AUBIGNY as Divisional Reserve. Otherwise	MB. Capt.
			situation unchanged.	
As above	8/4/18		Disposition as above. Nothing of interest to report	MB. Capt.
As above	9/4/18.		Approval received for Battalion Headquarters to move to FOUILLOY, move complete by 5 p.m.	
			8th Machine Gun Company took over the line on the left front of VILLERS-PRETONNEUX.	MB. Capt.
FOUILLOY. 10/4/18/			Disposition. - Battalion Headquarters at FOUILLOY.	
Sheet 62 d.			8th M.G. Coy. in line Rear H.Q. at AUBIGNY.	
			14th M.G. Coy. " " " " AUBIGNY.	MB. Capt.
			15th M.G. Coy. " " " " COREIE.	
			25th M.G. Coy. " " " " FOUILLOY.	

[Signature] Major
6.0.5th A. M.G. Bn.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sheet 62.D.	10/4/18.		" Machine Gun Instructions issued in conjunction with Divisional Order 199. to Companies	Appendix "B
FOUILLOY. (contd.)			in anticipation of a minor offensive to be carried out on the following night, but were cancelled.	M.B. Capt
as above	11/4/18.		Disposition as above. Five Officers marched in and were taken on strength, all ex O.T.C. except Lieutenant Webb, R. (DCM) rejoining ex sick.	
			Lieut. Webb, R. (DCM) took up the duties of Intelligence Officer of the Battalion.	M.B. Capt
As above.	12/4/18.		Four Companies holding the line as per their Diaries attached.	
	to 15/4/18.		Disposition unchanged. Increased Artillery activity on both sides. Nothing further of interest to report.	M.B. Capt
As above.	16/4/18/		Disposition unchanged. Lieut. M.A. Scouler killed in action.	
As above.	17/4/18.		Disposition unchanged. 8th Machine Gun Company's Company Headquarters in the neighbourhood of VILLERS-ERETONNEAUX, heavily bombarded with Gas of all natures, evidently prior to the Enemy making an attack on VILLERS-ERETONNEUX. Total casualties as a result of the bombardment were 8 Officers and 28 Other Ranks.	M.B. Capt
As above.	18/4/18/		Disposition unchanged. Bombardment of VILLERS-ERETONNEUX still continued until about 11 a.m. .	M.B. Capt

J. Marsden
6. 0. 5th A.M.C. Bn *Major*

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WAR DIARY
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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.
(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FOUILLOY	18/4/18.		Battalion Order No.3 reference relief of 8th Machine Gun Company by 8th Imperial Machine Gun Battalion issued to all concerned. Relief to take place on night 21st/22nd April.	Appendix "C" MRB. Capt.
Sheet 62d. (contd.)				
As above.	19/4/18.		Disposition unchanged. Nothing of interest to report.	
As above.	20/4/18.		Disposition unchanged. The famous German Airman BARON VON RICHTOFEN brought down on our Sector by Machine Gun fire. Battalion Order No.4 issued to all concerned reference the extension of the Divisional Front on the night of 21st/22nd April.	Appendix "D"
			Battalion Headquarters received a direct hit by a 4.2 shell. Casualties were Lieut. R. Webb, DCM. Intelligence Officer, severely wounded and Orderly Room Corporal severely wounded and later died of wounds. Office files, papers and records were badly damaged as the result of the explosion.	MRB. Capt.
Sheet 62d.	21/4/18.		Lieut. F. E. Murphy assumed the duties of Intelligence Officer vice Lieut. R. Webb, DCM. wounded. Battalion Headquarters moved from FOUILLOY to place named in the margin. Battalion Intelligence Summary attached. 8th Machine Gun Company relieved in the line by "C" Company, 8th Machine Gun Battalion. Relief complete and without incident by 11 p.m.	Appendix "E" MRB. Capt.
EUSSEY				
LES				
DAOURS.				

6.0.5" A.M.C. Bn.
Majr.

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WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sheet 62a/ BUSBY	22/4/18.		Disposition - 8th Machine Gun Coy. in Division Reserve at CORBIE.	
LES			14th Machine Gun Coy. in line Right. 15th Machine Gun Coy. in line Left.	
DAOURS			25th Machine Gun Coy. in line Centre.	
H35.c.35.50.			8th Machine Gun Company relieved the 11th Australian Machine Gun Company in the line Left. Right flank resting on the Somme River. Relief complete and without incident.	M.B. Capt
			Battalion Intelligence Summary attached.	Appendix "F"
As above	23/4/18/		Disposition unchanged. - Battalion Intelligence Summary attached.	Appendix "G"
As above.	24/4/18.		Enemy violently bombarded the Villages of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX, FOUILLOY, AUBIGNY and CORBIE with Gas Shells of all calibres and natures. The Rear Headquarters of the various Companies situated in these villages were compelled to evacuate them and establish their Headquarters in the open for the time being, pending the clearing of the villages of the Gas fumes. Owing to the severity of the Gas shelling the transport of the Companies moved down to Battalion Headquarters.	M.B. Capt
			Enemy made an attack on our right Company (14th M.G. Coy.) in the neighbourhood of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX but met with no success, no ground being given by our troops, but as a result of same heavy casualties were inflicted on the attacking Infantry by the	

M. J. Anderson
6.6.51 A.M.S. Ben

WAR DIARY
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will be prepared in manuscript.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sheet 62D.				
Bussy	24/4/18		Right Companies guns. Some ground was given by the troops on our right flank and in	
LES	(Contd.)		consequence VILLERS-BRETONNEUX was occupied by the enemy about 8.a.m. The flank of	
DAOURS.			right Company being in danger owing to the falling back of the troops, a "Refused Flank"	MRB. Capt.
H.35.0.35.50.			was formed. For full details of this operation see 14th Machine Gun Company's Diary.	Appendix "A. A1"
			Battalion Intelligence Summary attached.	Appendix "H"
As above.	25/4/18		Disposition unchanged. Situation becoming normal. Battalion Intelligence Summary	MRB. Capt.
			attached.	Appendix "I"
As above.	26/4/18		Disposition. - 8th M.G.Coy. in line Left. 14th M.G.Coy. in line Right.	
			15th M.G.Coy. in line Left Centre. 25th M.G.Coy. in line Right Centre.	
			8th Machine Gun Company relieved 4 guns of the 24th Australian Machine Gun Company	As per En. Order No.5 attached.
			on night of 26th/27th April. Relief completed satisfactorily. Battalion Intelligence	MRB. Capt.
			Summary attached.	Appendix "J"
As above.	27/4/18.		Much enemy Aerial and Artillery activity throughout the day. Disposition unchanged.	
			Battalion Order No.6 issued to all concerned, reference relief of 14th Machine Gun	Attached.
			Company by the 4th Australian Machine Gun Company. All preparations made for the relief	MRB. Capt.
			to take place on night of 30th April/1st May. Battalion Intelligence Summary attached.	Appendix "K"

MRB. Capt.
L.O. 5" A.M. 9. Ben.
Major

Page 8

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WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sheet 62d/ PUSSY	28/4/18		Disposition unchanged. - Battalion Intelligence Summaries attached. Nothing of	Appendix "L" & "M"
LES	29/4/18.		interest to report.	MR. Cap.
DAOURS.	30/4/18/		14th Australian Machine Gun Company relieved by guns of the 4th Australian Machine	
H. 35.0.35.50.			Gun Company and Guns of the 25th Australian Machine Gun Company. The relief was satisfactory.	
			14th Machine Gun Company on relief moved into Divisional Reserve at AUBIGNY. Remainder of	
			line distributed between the remaining 3 Companies of the Unit as per sketch forwarded	Appendix "O"
			herewith. This sketch shews the position of the Unit's Guns at the close of this month.	MR. Cap.
			14th Machine Gun Company being in Divisional Reserve at AUBIGNY. Battalion Intelligence	Appendix "N"
			Summary attached.	
			<u>RESUME OF THE PERIOD FROM 1st APRIL to 30th APRIL, 1918.</u>	
			Organisation of the Battalion has been rapidly pushed on during the month. The most	
			important has been the formation of the Signal Section, which is practically complete with	
			the exception of some technical stores and transport. The morale of the Unit may be said	MR. Cap.
			to be of a high standard, despite the strenuous period just passed through.	
			All Headquarters including Battalion Headquarters have been disorganised at some period	
			of the month through hostile shelling, Gas and loss of the senior Officers, 2 Company	MR. Cap.

L.O. 5" A.M. S. Bn.

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Army Form C. 2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p>Commanders having been evacuated.</p> <p>A Battalion Signal School which will last from 3 to 4 weeks has been formed with the idea of training additional Signallers who are urgently required under the new organisation.</p> <p>The work done by the 14th Machine Gun Company during the attack by the enemy on VILLERS-PRETONNEUX may be said to be of a high standard, and no doubt saved what may have developed into an awkward situation despite the fact that the right flank was left exposed until a refused flank was formed.</p> <p>No Company has had longer rests than 3 days out of the line. There has been practically no sickness during the period. Most of the evacuations have been caused through Gas which no doubt has taken a heavy toll on the personnel of the Unit - not through lack of care on the part of the troops concerned, but owing to the continual and heavy gas bombardment which the enemy has carried out. Gas has been used by the enemy as offensive weapon much more than at any other period of the year, against this Division.</p>	<p><i>h.B. cat</i></p> <p><i>D. P. Anderson Major</i> <i>6. O. 5th Armd. M. G. Bn.</i></p>

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

HEADQUARTERS, 5TH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION
FOR

APRIL 1918.

LIST OF APPENDICES

No.	Subject.
A.	Battalion Order No. 2.
B.	Machine Gun Instructions issued in conjunction with Divisional Order No. 199.
C.	Battalion Order No. 3.
D.	Battalion Order No. 4.
E.	Intelligence Summary for 20th/21st April, 1918.
F.	Intelligence Summary for 21st/22nd April, 1918.
G.	Intelligence Summary for 22nd/23rd April, 1918.
H.	Intelligence Summary for 23rd/24th April, 1918.
I.	Intelligence Summary for 24th/25th April, 1918.
J.	Intelligence Summary for 25th/26th April, 1918.
K.	Intelligence Summary for 26th/27th April, 1918.
L.	Intelligence Summary for 27th/28th April, 1918.
M.	Intelligence Summary for 28th/29th April, 1918.
N.	Intelligence Summary for 30th April, -1st May, 1918.
O.	Map shewing disposition of Unit's Guns.

These appendices were forwarded with the Original copy of the War Diary.

SECRET

Copy No. 5

11

5th AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION. APPENDIX

BATTALION ORDER No 2.

Headquarters,
5th April 1918.

Reference Map
Sheet 62 D 1/40,000

1. Situation permitting the 5th Aust Division (less 8th Infantry Brigade Group) will relieve the 3rd Cavalry Division in the line from main road in P25.c & d exclusive to the River SOMME.
2. The 15th Aust Inf: Bde. holds the line from the cross roads in P.20.a to the River SOMME -
3. The Machine Guns of the 3rd Cavalry Division in the line will be relieved by the 14th & 25th Machine Gun Coys on the evening of 6.4.18 as under:--

a. 25th Machine Gun Company

2 guns P.19.D
2 " P.25.E
4 " P.25.D

Remaining 8 guns will be held in reserve at a position to be notified later.

- 1 Officer will be in charge of guns at each position and will be responsible that touch is maintained with guns on each flank, particularly with those of neighbouring Brigades -

b. 14th Machine Gun Coy

8 guns P.24.D.
8 " P.24.E.
4 " P.11.D

4. Guides for guns moving to above positions will meet incoming teams at cross roads. P.18.D. at 7 p.m.
5. Company Commanders will be responsible that adequate protection measures are taken when moving up to the line.
6. Demands for S.A.A. are to reach En H. as, daily at 10 a.m. Ammunition as demanded will be delivered to Coy Transport Lines by S.A.A. Section D.A.C
7. All maps and documents appertaining to the Area will be taken over on relief
8. Battalion Head Quarters
ELANGY- TRONVILLE -
9. Acknowledge.

MAJOR.
C.O. 5th AUST: Machine GUN Bn.,

Distribution-

Issued 10 p.m. 5-4-18.,

1. 8th M.G Coy
2. 14th "
3. 15th "
4. 25th "
5. File ✓
6. 5th Division.

270
SECRET.

APPENDIX

12
B

5th AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION.

Copy No.....

Machine Gun Instructions issued in conjunction with Divisional Order No.199.

Ref: Sheet 62 D.
1/40,000

Headquarters.,
10th April 1918.,

B

1. The 5th Australian Division will carry out an attack, on or about 11th April, the objectives being the Red Line shewn on attached map.
2. The Division will attack on a two Brigade frontage, the 14th Inf: Bde on the Right and the 8th Inf: Bde on the Left. The 15th Aust Inf Bde will be in reserve.
The 3rd Aust Div on the left have been asked to render fire assistance and may also make a demonstration.
At present the 175th Brigades of the 58th Div: is on the right and may co-operate by advancing to the red dotted line.
3. The 8th and 14th Machine Gun Coys will cover the advance of the 14th Infantry Brigade and the 15th & 25th the 8th Inf Brigade.
4. Tasks are allotted as follows:-
 - a. All forward guns will move forward in close support of the attacking Infantry and will eventually become forward guns in the consolidation of the new line should the attack be successful.
Every opportunity will be taken to assist the advance of the Infantry by direct overhead fire should the attack be held up or threatened at any point.
 - b. The 8th Machine gun Company with 8 Guns will traverse enemy trenches (shown on attached map) from V.2 Central to P.33. B95. until the Infantry reach the line P.27 Central P.32. Central where these guns will become responsible for the protection of the right flank and will be prepared to form a defensive flank to the right, and deal with counter attack from the direction of MARCELCAVE.
 - c. The 14th M G Co. with 8 guns will search and harrass the BOIS- de- VAIRE - P.14.D. and P.20.E. in the early part of the attack and will then move forward and consolidate in depth in such a way that counter attacks from the direction of WARFUSEE - ABANCOURT can be dealt with.
 - d. The 25th Machine Gun Co with 8 Guns will harrass and search E.de.Hamel P.15. Central in the early part of the attack.- These guns will move forward as soon as possible and establish positions from which the approaches from WARFUSEE & ABANCOURT can be well covered.
 - e. The 15th Machine Gun Co will move 8 Guns as quickly as possible into position at P.4.A. & E. and enfilade E.d.ACCROCHE and the valley between it and E.d. Hamel.
 - f. Each Coy: will hold 4 guns in local reserve.
5. A Battalion dump has been established at En.Headquarters.- FOUILLOY where S.A.A. and Bombs can be drawn.
Reserve Guns, tripods and spare parts may be drawn from this Dump to replace material destroyed.
6. A conference of Coy: Commanders will be held at 6 P.M. to-night at Battalion Headquarters.
7. Acknowledge.

MAJOR.

270
APPENDIX
SECRET.

Copy No. 5

5th AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION ORDER NO. 3.

Ref. Map. 62 D.
1/40,000

1. The 8th M.G. Coy. will be relieved in the Right Sector by "C" Coy. 8th M.G. Bn. on the night 21st/22nd April.
2. Details of relief will be arranged between Coy. Commanders concerned.
3. Maps, aeroplane photographs and documents relating to the Sector will be handed over on relief.
4. On relief the 8th M.G. Coy will move to AUBIGNY unless otherwise ordered.
5. Completion of relief will be wired to Battalion Headquarters.
6. ACKNOWLEDGE.

D. I. Lardner
.....Major.

C.O. 5th Aust. M.G. Bn.,

Copies to -

8th M.G. Co.
14th. "
15th "
25th "
8th Inf. Bde (for information)
14th " "
5th Aust. Div.
✓ W.D.
File.



270

5th Aust. MACHINE GUN BATTN. ORDER No. 4.

APPENDIX D 14

Copy No. 9....

SECRET.Headquarters,
20th April, 1918.Reference
Sheet 62D 1/40,000.

1. The Divisional frontage is being extended to the left on the night 21/22nd April as far as J.24.c.7.0.
The 29th Battn., 8th Aust. Inf. Bde., are relieving a Battalion of 11th Aust. Inf. Bde. with frontage River SOMME to J.24.c.7.0.
2. The 8th M.G. Coy. will relieve the 11th M.G. Coy. in this area on the 22/23rd April, with 12 guns in the line and 4 guns in reserve.
3. No movement of troops will take place N.W. of CORBIE before 8 p.m. Precautions against hostile aircraft will be observed.
4. All maps, aeroplane photographs, and information relating to the area will be taken over on relief.
5. Subject to the terms of this Order, details of relief will be arranged between Company Commanders concerned.
6. Completion of relief will be wired to Battalion Headquarters by code wire.
7. ACKNOWLEDGE.

J. P. Parson
Major,
C.O. 5th Aust. M.G. Battn.

Distribution : -

- No. 1 8th M.G. Coy.
- " 2 14th "
- " 3 15th "
- " 4 25th "
- " 5 3rd M.G. Bn. (for information)
- " 6 8th Inf. Bde. " "
- " 7 11th Inf. Bde. " "
- " 8 5th Aust. Division.
- " 9 W.P. ✓
- " 10 File.

5TH
AUSTRALIAN
M.G. BATTALION.

No

Date

270

5th AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION

S E C R E T.

Order No. 5

Copy No. 7.

Ref. Sheet 62D
1/40,000

Headquarters,
26th April, 1918.

1. The 8th Machine Gun Company will relieve with one Section the four guns of 24th Machine Gun Company at :-
O.34.d.3.3.
O.34.d.5.1.
on 26/27th April.
O.34.d.6.1.
O.34.c.5.9.
2. The guns of the 8th Company will come under the control of G.C. 14th Machine Gun Company as soon as relief is complete.
3. All guns in 15th Infantry Brigade Area are under G.C.C. 15th Infantry Brigade for tactical purposes.
4. On relief, the Section of 24th Machine Gun Company will rejoin its Company unless otherwise ordered - 4th Machine Gun Battalion being notified of completion of relief by 24th Machine Gun Company.
5. Details of relief will be arranged between Section Officers of 8th and 24th Machine Gun Companies.
Completion of relief will be wired through 14th Machine Gun Company to Battalion Headquarters - code word "DIGGER" will be used.
6. ACKNOWLEDGE.

Issued at 10 a.m.

Copies to :

- | | |
|-------|---------------------------------|
| No. 1 | 8th M.G. Coy. |
| " 2 | 14th " |
| " 3 | 15th " |
| " 4 | 25th " |
| " 5 | 15th A.I. Bde (for information) |
| " 6 | 4th M.G. Bn. |
| " 7 | 5th Aust. Div. |
| " 8 | File |
| " 9 | W.I. ✓ |

[Signature]

Major,
G.C. 5th Aust. M.G. Bn.

5th AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION ORDER No. 6.

Copy No. 7.

Ref. Map 62D
1/40,000

SECRET.

Headquarters,
27th Apr 1918.

1. The 4th Division are in all probability taking over a portion of the front of the 5th Australian Division as far North as the Grid line running East and West through X O.23.24 and P.19 central.
2. The 4th Infantry Brigade will in all probability relieve the 15th Infantry Brigade who will revert to the command of the 5th Australian Division on relief.
3. The 4th Machine Gun Company will relieve all guns in the present 15th Brigade area between the Grid line mentioned in para. 1 and the main VILLERS BRETONNEAUX-WARFUSEE-APANCOURT Road. The time of this relief will be notified by wire.
4. The O.C. 14th M.G. Coy. will arrange details of this relief with O.C. 4th Machine Gun Company.
5. The guns of 14th Machine Gun Coy. will, on relief, be withdrawn to AUBIGNY, and will be held in reserve for the defence of the AUBIGNY line.
6. The four guns of the 8th Machine Gun Coy. at present in position South of the Villers Bretonneux Road will be relieved on the 26/29th by guns of the 12th Australian Machine Gun Company.
7. O.C. 14th Machine Gun Coy. will be responsible for this relief. Guns not relieved will not be withdrawn until midnight.
8. On relief these guns will revert to command of 8th Machine Gun Coy.

9. ACKNOWLEDGE.

[Signature] Major,
O.C. 5th M.G. Bn.

Issued at

Copies to :

- No. 1 14th M.G. Coy.
- " 2. 8th "
- " 3 15th "
- " 4 25th "
- " 5 4th M.G. Bn.
- " 6 15th Inf. Bde. (for information)
- " 7 5th Aust. Div.
- " 8 File
- " 9 W.D. ✓

E

5th Aust M G Bn.

21/4/18.

Intelligence Summary.

Period from 6 A.M. 20/4/18 to 6 A.M. 21/4/18.

Operations Harassing fire was maintained on
 Roads at P 14 b 50.00, P 14 b 50.50, P 20 b 60.05.
 also on cross roads at P 15 C 30.55.
 2 identifications Nil. P 15 C 25.35.

Enemy Shelling. Active along SOMME Canal
 between BOUZENCOURT and VAIRE.
 Several gas shells were fired into the
 vicinity of HAMELET during the night.
 Shelling was mainly confined to back
 areas. CORBIE FOUILLOY and HAMELET
 receiving attention with burst of H.V. shells
 during the evening of 21st.

Aerial Activity.

Enemy aeroplanes more active
 than usual. Nine low flying planes pa
 over our lines at NOON, 2 P.M. and between
 3 and 4 P.M. Three of these are reported
 later been brought down in flames by o
 fighting patrols.
 Enemy balloon remained up
 the day!



240

Enemy Movement.

With the exception of isolated individual movement no appreciable movement was observed.

Locations

Unchanged.



INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Period from 6A.M. 21/4/18. to 6A.M. 22/4/18.

OPERATIONS.

Following Harrassing fire was maintained on the following targets:-

BOIS DE VAIRE at P.20.B.10.70. to P21 a 20.70.

Cross roads at P.14.b.90.25.

Fork roads at P.15.c.30.55.

RELIEF.

The 8th Aust. M.G. Coy., was relieved by the C.Coy. of the 8th M.G. Bttn. on the night of 21/22nd inst., without incident.

IDENTIFICATIONS.

Nil.

ENEMY SHELLING.

Enemy artillery active on rear areas during the day. VAIRE was shelled at 7P.M. with 4-2's.

Hostile artillery was not so active on front line system during the period.

ENEMY MACHINE GUNS.

M

Machine Gun activity was below normal.

AERIAL ACTIVITY.

Both sides very active throughout the period. Several bombing Planes passed over our lines during the night.

Enemy aeroplanes patrolled his front line towards dusk.

ENEMY MOVEMENT.

Very little enemy movement was observed during the daylight. Only the usual individual movement was observed.

LOCATIONS.

5th Aust M.G. Bttn. Headquarters from O.10 b80 60. to H.35.c.4050.

ALTERATIONS IN M.G. LOCATIONS.

From P.7.b.70.40 to P.7.a.05.75.

" P.7.b.10.50. to O.12.b.90.40.

" J.34b.08.20. to J.34.a.10.50.

" J.34.a.10.20. to J.34.c.30.48.

MISCELLANEOUS.

One enemy red paper balloon fell in P.7.a.8.7. coming from the direction of BOIS DE VAIRE.

22/4/18.

Major
C.O. 5th. AUST. M.G. BATTN.

War Diary

270
T

APPENDIX 9

20
5th Aust. M.G. Battn.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Period from 6A.M. 22/4/18. to 6A.M. 23/4/18.

OPERATIONS.

Harrassing fire was maintained on following targets:-

Road at P14b.90.25. to P15b.05.95.
Fork Roads at P15b.05.95. to P15c.30.50.

Concentrated fire was maintained on the area P15.c.30.50.

Also on Cross roads at P20.d45.10. and P21.a.35.00.

10000 rounds were expended.

RELIEF.

Battalion front extended North to Northern Divisional boundary.

The 8th Australian M.G.Coy. relieved the 11th. Coy., 3rd. Aust. M.G.Battn., without incident.

IDENTIFICATIONS.

Nil.

Enemy Shelling

Intermittent during the day. BOUZENCOURT VAIRE and HAMELET were shelled at intervals during the day and part of the night. Between 5 and 6 A.M. on 23rd inst., hostile batteries shelled the South East corner of FOUILLY.

ENEMY MACHINE GUNS.

Quieter than usual during the period.

AERIAL ACTIVITY.

Hostile aerial activity was mainly confined to the high ground in the vicinity of BOIS DE VAIRE.

Several attempts were made to cross our lines at 5P.M. but hostile planes were turned back by our A.A. fire.

On the SOMME CANAL sector and vicinity hostile aircraft was inactive during the 24 hours.

Our aircraft met with vigorous A.A.fire when crossing enemy lines.

LOCATIONS.

8th Aust. M.G.Coy.

Forward H.Q. J.29c.30.90.

Rear I.35d.70.50.

Transport. Q.35d.50.80.

VICKERS M.G. LOCATIONS.

On extension of Bn. front.

J29.d.50.90 J.29.d.60.70. J.29.d.55.40. J.29.d.50.15.

J.35.a.40.00. J.35.a.55.20. J.35.a.0.40. J.35.b.10.50.

J.28.b.50.10. J.28.c.60.75. J.28.d.65.85. J.27.d.60.65.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Observation good. Light rain and mist during night of 22/23rd.

23/4/18.

Major
5th Australian M.G.Bn.

5th Aust. M.G. Bttn.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Period from 6A.M. 23/4/18. to 24/4/18.

OPERATIONS.

Harrasing fire was carried out on roads and cross roads in the vicinity of the BOIS DE VAIRE.
8,000 rounds were expended.

IDENTIFICATIONS.

Nil.

ENEMY SHELLING.

Left Brigade Sector. gas bombardment of rear areas by hostile batteries continuous throughout the day 23/4/18.

During the night enemy artillery comparatively quiet on forward areas. At 8.30.P.M. enemy shelled with gas the village of HAMELET, bombardment continuing for 1½ hours. SAILLY LE SEC and forward areas shelled by 77's and 4.2 s from 4 A.M. to 6 A.M.

At 4A.M. enemy opened a heavy bombardment on left Bde. sector which lasted until about 5.30. A.M.

Right Brigade Sector. At 6.20.P.M. FOUILLOY was shelled with 4.2 s and yellow cross. commencing at a rate of about 100 per minute and continuing intermittently up till 9 P.M. At 4.A.M. enemy shelled heavily support and reserve lines. Gas masks were worn continuously from 4A.M. to 5.30 A.M. At 5.30. shelling of support system increased. Shells did not appear to fall as a barrage but indiscriminately.

ENEMY MACHINE GUNS.

Hostile machine Guns made a demonstration on front and support lines of Right Brigade sector at 11P.M. and again at 2.15. A.M. On Left Brigade sector enemy M.G.s quiet.

ENEMY AIRCRAFT.

Right Brigade. Several enemy machines attempted to cross our lines at 7.P.M. but were driven back by our A.A.fire.

Left Brigade. Enemy aircraft active throughout the day. 12 hostile triplanes crossed our lines between 4 and 5 P.M.

LOCATIONS.

Unchanged.

MISCELLANEOUS.

At 4.30.P.M. enemy paper baloon fell in P.13.c 30.80. apparently as a wind indication. No messages or papers were attached.

24/4/18.

Major
C.O. 5TH AUST. M.G. BN.



APPENDIX
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Period from 6a.m. 24/4/18. to 6 a.m 25/4/18.

OPERATIONS.

At 9 a.m on 24/ 4/18, O.C 14th Aust M.G.Coy reported that Brigade on the right appeared to have fallen back, consequent upon enemy attack on VILLERS BRETONNEUX, that village being then in the hands of the enemy. Two guns of his company were immediately moved to O24 a 50 20 and O 17 d 95 30. from Reserve and support positions. English troops were reported then digging in on line O 24 central to O 28 d 90:70. The lines of fire of one reserve gun and one support gun were altered accordingly. The 14th Inf. Bde. front line was reported to be intact.

Four reserve guns and two support guns of 25th AMM G Coy were placed at the disposal of O.C. 14th Coy. for the defence of right flank. These guns were dug in on line O 22-23-36 Central to support formation of a refused flank by the 15th Inf. Bde.

At 12.30p.m. 14th Coy guns engaged a party of the enemy on the left of the village, scattering them.

Eight guns were allotted to G.O.C. 15th Inf. Bde. and advanced with counter attacking troops, and are now established as shown under Locations.

Visual signalling was used by both above mentioned Companies and between rear and forward, and was most successful.

Two German guns were brought into action at P 25 a 85.85. and P 25 a 76.45.

IDENTIFICATION Nil

ENEMY SHELLING.

Intermittent shelling of rear areas with gas and H.E.

One gun was damaged by bombardment on morning of 24th inst

Enemy shelled SOMME CANAL bank at about 3 a.m.

ENEMY MACHINE GUNS.

Swept ground between VILLERS BRETONNEUX and O 22-

O22 -24. 16-17-

ENEMY AIRCRAFT.

Below normal probably owing to mist.

LOCATIONS.

Guns with the counter attacking Bde

No 7 O 30 Central
8 O 30 b 00.25.
9 O 30 b 00.45.
22 O 24 d 00.25.
3 P 25 c 20.80.
4 P 25 a 20. 20.
5 P 25 a 20.00.
6 P 25 a 50.75.

25/4/18.

Major
5th AUST. M.G. BN.

War Diary

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APPENDIX J

5th AUST. MACHINE GUN BN.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Period from 6. a.m. to 6. a.m. 25/4/18. -26/4/18.

OPERATIONS.

The guns of the right Company (14th A.M.G. Coy) fired intermittently throughout the day on enemy troops east of VILLERS BRETONNEUX. At 2.40.p.m. these guns assisted in the dispersion of enemy attack at P.26.a. and P.25.d.

IDENTIFICATION.

Nil.

HOSTILE ARTILLERY.

Left Brigade. North of the SOMME. normal throughout the day.

Bombardment with yellow cross gas shell on both banks of the SOMME. during the night. Strong wind blew gas back over enemy lines.

South of the SOMME, HAMLET and VAIRE were shelled intermittently during the day. VAIRE was subjected to gas shelling at 7.p.m.

Right Brigade sector. Heavy enemy shelling of all ground in the sector to reserve line at 7.p.m.

ENEMY AIRCRAFT.

Left Brigade. North of the SOMME enemy fighting patrol of nine machines over our lines during the afternoon.

South of the SOMME hostile activity was above normal during the day.

Right Brigade. Several low flying machines flew over the sector in the vicinity of the CHALK PITS

MOVEMENT.

Left Bde. Parties in P.10 and Q.2. were engaged by our artillery and dispersed.

Right Bde. Much movement was observed along this sector during the afternoon. Enemy concentrations being dealt with by our guns.

LOCATIONS.

8th Aust.M.G.Coy.	Rear H.Q. and Transport.	at H.36 c 5.5.
14th " " " "	Rear H.Q.	at O.8 b 4.5.
14th " " " "	Transport	at H.34 d 98.35.
15th " " " "	Rear H.Q. and Transport.	at H.35 d 6.9.
25th " " " "	Rear H.Q. and Transport.	at H.34 d 98.5.

Change in gun location.

One gun from P.8 a 5.6. to P.8 a 90.50.

26/4/18.

Major
C.O. 5th AUSTRALIAN M.G.

W. D. [Signature]

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Period from 6 a.m. 26/4/18. to 6 a.m. 27/4/18.

OPERATIONS.

On the Right Bde. sector the front line guns of the 14th A.M.G. Coy., fired on enemy parties during the day. Their support guns played on roads in the vicinity of BOIS DE VAIRE. 8,000 rds., were expended in this shooting.

RELIEF.

Four guns of the 8th A.M.G. Coy. relieved four guns of the 24th A.M.G. Coy, on the night of the 26th inst., without incident.

IDENTIFICATION.

n

NIL.

HOSTILE ARTILLERY.

Left Bde. sector. Shelling was intermittent and scattered throughout the area, apparently on no definite target.

Right Bde. sector. Heavy shelling at odd periods throughout the day and night. At 2.45 a.m. sector was shelled heavily for about 2 hours.

ENEMY AIRCRAFT.

Enemy aircraft was below normal throughout the Battalion sector.

MOVEMENT.

Enemy parties moving in the vicinity of P.20 and P.26. were fired on by our guns.

LOCATIONS.

Dispositions of 6 guns under the Command of O.C. 14th A.M.G. Coy. are as follows.

Gun No	
3	P. 25. a 65.25.
4	P. 25. b 00.30.
7	O. 36. b 30.20.
8	O. 36. b 30.60.
9	O. 30. d 30. 20.
22	O. 30. d 30.60.

The gun numbers above were allotted as above at commencement of present operations and will be adhered to until readjustment is made.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Exceptionally heavy machine gun fire encountered during recent counter operations.

For Major.
O.C. 5th AUSTRALIAN M.G. BN.

27/4/18.

5th AUSTRALIAN M.G. BN.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Period from 6 a.m. 27/4/18. to 6 a.m. 28/4/18.

OPERATIONS.

Our guns on the Right Brigade sector fired from 4.30 a.m. to 5 a.m., on all roads and approaches to BOIS DE VAIRE.

Guns Nos. 5 and 6 working with 60th Battalion engaged enemy advancing to the attack early on the morning of 27th, inst.,. A fresh personnel was placed on all guns in the forward line on this Battalion (60th) front during the day.

Our S.O.S was observed at 6.55 p.m. on the right of MONUMENT.

IDENTIFICATION.

Nil.

HOSTILE ARTILLERY.

Right Brigade sector. Enemy artillery fairly quiet during the period. At 12 midnight a few gas shells being fired into P. 2 c.

FOUILLOY received attention at 7.30 pm., 10 rounds being fired.

Left Brigade sector. Hostile artillery was quiet on the front system. SAILLY LE SEC was shelled at intervals throughout the day and night by 5.9 s and 4.2s.

ENEMY AIRCRAFT.

Activity was slight during the afternoon, low flying hostile machines patrolling enemy front areas.

Left Brigade sector below normal.

MOVEMENT.

Parties of enemy attempting to dig in at P. 20 c. 6.7. and vicinity were fired on by our guns.

ENEMY SIGNALS.

At 5.15 a.m. following on our artillery sheet, Orange cluster was sent up from enemy front line near HAMEL.

This was communicated to rear by 4 similar flares finishing with a rocket bursting into 3 reds. No immediate effect was observed.

LOCATIONS.

Guns 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 22, new loca 25dca50.95 follows.

7 0. 30 c 90.75.

4 P. 25 c 70.90.

8 0. 30 b 20.35.

5 P. 25 b 15.55.

9 0. 30 b 40.50.

6 P. 25 b 30.80.

22 0. 30 b 50.90.

3 0. 30 c 90.75.

28/4/18.

F. J. Murphy
C.O. 5th M.G. Bn.



270

M

5th AUSTRALIAN M. G. BN.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

period from 6 a.m. 28/4/18. to 6 a.m. 29/4/18.

OPERATIONS.

All roads and approaches to BOIS DE VAIRE were subjected to harassing fire during the night.

6,000 rounds were expended.

RE-ADJUSTMENT OF BOUNDARIES.

The 4th Aust. M. G. Bn. took over from the 5th Aust. M. G. Bn., the sector as far North as a line running E and W through O.23-24 and P.19 Central.

IDENTIFICATION.

Nil.

HOSTILE AIRCRAFT.

Right Brigade Sector. At 4 p.m. one hostile machine was driven off by our A.A. machine gun fire. At 5.5 p.m. one enemy machine crossed our lines flying very high. At 5.30 p.m. one hostile machine was driven back from our forward system by our A.A. fire.

Left Brigade Sector. No enemy aerial activity.

HOSTILE ARTILLERY.

Right Brigade Sector. Hostile artillery was quiet during the period with the exception of bursts lasting for a few minutes at 9 p.m. and at 12 midnight.

Left Brigade Sector. Quiet during most of the day. Slight scattered shelling at 10 p.m. A few gas shells and H.E. into HAMELET.

ENEMY MOVEMENT.

Only the normal individual movement was observed during the day.

LOCATIONS.

Unchanged.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Nil.

29/4/18.

78h
Lt
for Major
C.O. 5th AUSTRALIAN M. G. BN.

5TH AUSTRALIAN M.G. BATTALION.	
No.	5/3
Date.	29/4/18

War Diary
fcm

N

5th AUSTRALIAN M. G. BN.INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Period from 6 a.m. 30/4/18. to 6 a.m. 1/5/18.

OPERATIONS.

RELIEF. 8 Guns of the 25th A.M.G.Coy., relieved the 14th A.M.G.Coy., in the line, on the night of 30/1st inst. without incident..

IDENTIFICATION.

Nil.

HOSTILE ARTILLERY.

Shelling was below normal along the whole Battalion front during the period.

HAMELET and the SOMME CARAL in the vicinity of VAIRE, were shelled at odd times. Calibre 77. mm and 4.2."

ENEMY AIRCRAFT.

Aerial activity was below normal.

MOVEMENT.

At 2 p.m. party of enemy observed wiring at P.16. and vicinity. They were dispersed by our artillery.

LOCATIONS.

14th A.M.G.Coy. Advanced H.Q. O. 18 a 0.4. to O. 8 b 4.5.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Enemy S.A.A. dump in the vicinity of SAILLY LAURETTE, Blown up by our artillery at 9.30. p.m.

5TH AUSTRALIAN M.G. BATTALION.	
No	576
Date	1/5/18.

F. E. Murphy
Lt
for Major.
C.O. 5th AUSTRALIAN M. G. BN.

I Report



