

AWM4

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

Machine Guns

Item number: 24/5/7

Title: 5th Australian Machine Gun Battalion

September 1918



AWM4-24/5/7

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270

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

5th Australian Machine Gun Battalion

FOR

September

1918

*Alfred...
was a...
major*

Signature of Officer compiling

Alfred... Lieut.

Signature of Officer Commanding

*Alan H. Wright
major*

sc

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WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sheet 62C 1/40,000 M.17.b.7.7.	1-9-18		<p><u>DISPOSITIONS.</u> Battalion Headquarters is situated as at last day of last month's War Diary at M.17.b.7.7. During the morning the 8th M.G. Company moved forward, Advanced Headquarters being established N.10.b.2.8., sections operating with Battalions of the 8th A.I. Brigade and Rear Headquarters N.14.b.5.0. The 14th M.G. Company remains with the 14th A.I. Brigade with Advanced Headquarters at H.17.d.9.0. and Rear Headquarters at N.14.b.8.7. The 15th Company is in Reserve with Headquarters at N.8.b.3.7. The 25th Company is operating with the 15th A.I. Brigade with Advanced Headquarters at O.13.b.9.9. and Rear Headquarters M.18.c.8.7.</p> <p><u>SITUATION.</u> The battle for the occupation of PERONNE commenced, the 14th A.I. Brigade with the 14th M.G. Company managing to occupy the N.E. corner of that village. The 15th A.I. Brigade managed to cross the Canal at I.33.d.4.9. but the tactical situation compelled them to retire to the western bank once again.</p> <p>The 2nd Australian Division were ejected from MONT ST. QUENTIN on our left flank, but by an immediate counter-attack, it was retaken.</p> <p>Battalion Intelligence Summary attached.</p>	Remarks and references to Appendices
As above.	2-3-18.		<p><u>WEATHER.</u> Fine but threatening. Cold during the night.</p> <p><u>DISPOSITIONS.</u> The 25th M.G. Company relieved the 14th M.G. Company in the line North of PERONNE, the 14th M.G. Company taking up support positions with the 14th Brigade. The 8th M.G. Company were ordered to be ready to move at 3 a.m. on the 3rd instant.</p> <p><u>SITUATION.</u> Very heavy fighting took place around ST. DENIS and the north-eastern corner of PERONNE, the 14th Brigade and 14th M.G. Company suffering heavy casualties from machine gun fire. PERONNE was heavily shelled by the enemy throughout the day. During the day the 15th A.I. Brigade crossed the River SOMME and established a line along the South-Eastern edge of the village and running north to the East of ST. DENIS.</p>	App 1. <i>mf.</i>

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250

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
M.17.b.7.7	2-9-18.		<p>The 25th M.G. Company operating with the 15th Brigade, established guns in this line, six guns being allotted to the 59th and 60th Battalions to relieve the 14th Brigade and 14th M.G. Company. The mopping up of PERONNE and ST. DENIS was completed.</p> <p>Battalion Intelligence Summary attached.</p> <p>Administrative Instructions No. 4 attached.</p> <p>Battalion Intelligence Summary No. 2 attached.</p> <p>Order of Battle Chart attached.</p> <p><u>WEATHER.</u> Cold, with occasional showers. Visibility good.</p>	<p>App.2. App.3. App.4. App.5.</p> <p><i>Wf.</i></p>
As above.	3-9-18.		<p><u>DISPOSITIONS.</u> The 14th M.G. Company became Divisional Reserve with Headquarters at N.14.b.3.7. The 8th M.G. Company moved forward with the 8th Brigade in support to the 15th Brigade and Headquarters were established at I.26.a.5.0. The 15th Brigade advanced, the 25th M.G. Company moving to conform with the Brigade and Headquarters were established at I.26.b.3.7</p> <p><u>SITUATION.</u> The 15th Brigade advanced at points closely supported by machine guns. Our guns engaged moving targets with good effect during the day.</p> <p>Battalion Intelligence Summary attached.</p> <p>Battalion Intelligence Summary, Part II, attached.</p> <p><u>WEATHER.</u> Fine generally, with a few showers towards evening. Visibility good.</p>	<p>App.6. App.7.</p> <p><i>Wf.</i></p>
As above.	4-9-18.		<p><u>DISPOSITIONS.</u> Headquarters unchanged. Sections conformed with the movements of Infantry Battalions as required to re-adjust the Divisional boundary.</p> <p><u>SITUATION.</u> The 8th Brigade relieved part of the 2nd Australian Division on the left of PERONNE during the night. The line was strengthened and machine guns engaged any movement on the part of the enemy.</p> <p>Battalion Intelligence Summary attached.</p> <p><u>WEATHER.</u> Fine but overcast.</p>	<p>App.8.</p> <p><i>Wf.</i></p> <p><i>Wf.</i></p>

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270

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M.17.b.7.7.	5-9-18.		<p><u>DISPOSITIONS.</u> Unchanged.</p> <p><u>SITUATION.</u> The 15th A.I. Brigade advanced early in the morning and captured FLAMICOURT. The enemy began a general retirement, our troops following closely. During the afternoon the 8th Brigade captured BUSSU and the 3rd Australian Division passed through the lines of the 15th Brigade. Orders were issued reference the 8th Brigade, taking over the line South of the 15th Brigade. Machine Gun Sections operated closely with Infantry Battalions. Battalion Order No. 43 issued. Situation Wires attached. Battalion Intelligence Summary attached.</p> <p><u>WEATHER.</u> Fine and warm.</p>	<p>App. 9. App. 10 - 13. App. 14.</p> <p><i>bf</i></p>
As above.	6-9-18.		<p><u>DISPOSITIONS.</u> The 8th M.G. Company co-operating with the 8th A.I. Brigade established Headquarters at O.21.b. Central. The 15th M.G. Company with the 14th Brigade moved to O.21.b.3.2. The 14th M.G. Company in Reserve moved to O.23.a.0.4. and the 25th M.G. Company on relief moved to their Rear Headquarters at M.18.c.8.7. to rest.</p> <p><u>SITUATION.</u> The enemy continued to retire. The 8th Brigade advanced as far as the General line CARTIGNY - MONS -en-CHAUSSEE, when the advance was continued by the 32nd Division, B.E.F., on our right and the 3rd Australian Division on our left. The 8th and 15th M.G. Companies remained Mobile Reserves for the 8th and 14th Brigades. Battalion Intelligence Summary attached.</p> <p><u>WEATHER.</u> Fine and clear. Observation good.</p>	<p>App. 15.</p> <p><i>bf</i></p>
As above.	7-9-18.		<p><u>DISPOSITIONS.</u> The 8th M.G. Company advanced their Headquarters to Q.14.d.2.4. and the 15th M.G. Company moved to P.21.d.3.9. The 25th M.G. Company in reserve moved to O.22.c.3.7. Movement Order attached.</p>	<p>App. 16.</p> <p><i>bf</i></p>

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280

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M.17.b.7.7.	7-9-18.		<p><u>SITUATION.</u> The retirement of the enemy continued, our troops advancing to a line running approximately along the North and South grid between Q.6 and R.1. The 8th M.G. Company with the Advance Guard moved as Mobile Reserve to the 8th Brigade, the 15th M.G. Company conforming to the movements of the 14th Brigade in support.</p> <p>List of Locations of Companies attached. Battalion Intelligence Summary attached. Report on Recent Operations attached.</p> <p><u>WEATHER.</u> Fine and warm. Visibility good.</p>	App.17. App.18. App.19. <i>WJ</i>
As above.	8-9-18.		<p><u>DISPOSITIONS.</u> Unchanged.</p> <p><u>SITUATION.</u> The situation remained the same as on the close of the previous day. Enemy shelling was heavier than on previous days and more resistance encountered. Low flying E.A. were active and were engaged by Vickers guns mounted on the rear portions of limbers while on the move. Ammunition expended in A.A. fire 2000 rounds.</p> <p>Battalion Intelligence Summary attached.</p> <p><u>WEATHER.</u> Wet. Visibility poor.</p>	App.20. <i>WJ</i>
As above.	9-9-18.		<p><u>DISPOSITIONS.</u> The 15th M.G. Company was relieved by the 13th Australian M.G. Company and withdrew to the Divisional Concentration Area with Headquarters at O.21.d.2.4.</p> <p><u>SITUATION.</u> The light horse patrols were active and our line advanced further. <u>HESEBECOURT</u> and <u>SOYECOURT</u> are now occupied by our Infantry.</p> <p>Battalion Intelligence Summary attached. List of Dispositions of Guns attached. Battalion Order No. 43A attached. Administrative Instructions No. 5 attached.</p> <p><u>WEATHER.</u> Fine until 4 p.m. Heavy rain afterwards. Visibility good.</p>	App.21. App.22. App.23. App.24. <i>WJ</i>

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270

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M.17.b.7.7.	10-9-18.		<p><u>DISPOSITIONS.</u> The 8th M.G. Company was relieved by the 13th Australian M.G. Company in the line and withdrew to the Divisional Concentration Area, establishing Headquarters at O.21.d.9.1.</p> <p><u>SITUATION.</u> Unchanged. Battalion Intelligence Summary attached. 1st Addendum to Administrative Memorandum, dated 9-9-18, attached.</p> <p><u>WEATHER.</u> Heavy showers with a strong southerly wind all day. Clear at night.</p>	<p>App.25. App.26. <i>mf.</i></p>
As above.	11-9-18.		<p><u>DISPOSITIONS.</u> Unchanged. The men were rested after their strenuous tour of duty in the line. Training Memorandum issued and attached.</p> <p><u>WEATHER.</u> Showery, but clearing up during the latter part of the morning. Visibility good.</p>	<p>App.27. <i>mf.</i></p>
As above. O.28.a.1.5.	12-9-18. 11 a.m.		<p><u>DISPOSITIONS.</u> Battalion Headquarters closed at M.17.b.7.7. at 8 a.m. and re-opened at O.28.a.1.5. at 11 a.m. Companies were then situated as follows.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">8th M.G. Company. O.27.b.6.5. 14th M.G. Company. O.23.a.0.4. 15th M.G. Company. O.27.b.1.7. 25th M.G. Company. O.22.c.3.7.</p> <p>The men were rested, acting under instructions from Division.</p> <p><u>WEATHER.</u> Heavy rain during the morning and showery all afternoon and night.</p>	<p><i>mf.</i></p>
O.28.a.1.5.	13-9-18.		<p><u>DISPOSITIONS.</u> Unchanged. The men carried out improvements to their shelters, making them waterproof in view of a prolonged stay in this area, and in the meanwhile, they were rested.</p> <p><u>WEATHER.</u> Fine. Visibility good.</p>	<p><i>mf.</i></p>

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5

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O.28.a.1.5.	14-9-18.		<p><u>DISPOSITIONS.</u> Unchanged.</p> <p><u>SITUATION.</u> Instructions were received that the Battalion was to be placed at the disposal of the C.O., 4th Australian M.G. Battalion, and preliminary instructions were issued to Company Commanders concerning future operations. During the afternoon, inter-company cricket and football matches were played, creating keen interest among the men.</p> <p><u>WEATHER.</u> Fine.</p>	<p>mf</p>
As above.	15-9-18.		<p><u>DISPOSITIONS.</u> Unchanged.</p> <p><u>SITUATION.</u> Company Commanders carried out a preliminary reconnaissance of battery positions during the day, and at evening, instructions were issued at a Conference held by the C.O. reference operations. Battle Instruction I and Secret Map A, re operations, issued.</p> <p><u>WEATHER.</u> Fine and hot.</p>	<p>App.28. and 29. mf</p>
As above.	16-9-18.		<p><u>DISPOSITIONS.</u> Unchanged.</p> <p><u>SITUATION.</u> Preparations were completed for the operation and everything in readiness to move forward to battery positions. Battle Instruction 2 issued, reference rate of fire.</p> <p><u>WEATHER.</u> Fine and hot.</p>	<p>App.30. mf</p>

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270

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O.28.a.1.5. R.2.c.4.2.	17-9-18.	8 p.m.	<p><u>DISPOSITIONS.</u> Advanced Battalion Headquarters were established at R.2.c.4.2. at 4 p.m. together with the 4th Australian M.G. Battalion Headquarters. Companies moved forward at 2 p.m. and at 8 p.m. were in Battery positions with Company Battle Headquarters established as follows.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">8th M.G. Company. R.15.c.4.4. 14th M.G. Company. R.2.b.6.3. 15th M.G. Company. L.26.d.60.25. 25th M.G. Company. R.8.b.6.4.</p> <p><u>SITUATION.</u> In accordance with orders received, the 5th Australian M.G. Battalion was to assist the 4th Australian M.G. Battalion in the operations. Battery positions shown on attached map were taken up and guns laid preparatory to the attack for indirect overhead fire. The Commanding Officer was taken a P.O.W. (See Resume)</p> <p><u>WEATHER.</u> Fine during the day, but heavy rain at night.</p>	App.31. <i>Hf.</i>
R.2.c.4.2.	18-9-18.		<p><u>DISPOSITIONS.</u> Unchanged.</p> <p><u>SITUATION.</u> At 5.20 a.m. (Zero hour) the attack commenced, the Infantry advancing before the enemy barrage developed. Our machine guns placed a heavy barrage on areas shown on Map "A" (see App.29). Ammunition expended 144,500 rounds.</p> <p>As a result of our firing, prisoners state that the barrage was extremely accurate and heavy, causing numerous casualties, and making them keep low. Consequently a large number of prisoners were taken with but very slight loss to the advancing Infantry.</p> <p>All objectives as shown on Map (App.29) were taken by our Corps, and owing to the right flank not being secure, one section of 4 guns moved forward to R.11.b. to form a protective flank to the support Brigade. At 11 p.m. the attack continued and the final objective was consolidated.</p> <p>Battalion Intelligence Summary attached. Operation Wires for 17th/18th-9-18 attached.</p> <p><u>WEATHER.</u> Rained heavily previous to the attack. Fine the remainder of the day. Visibility poor.</p>	App.32. App.33. <i>Hf. to 39</i>

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7

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R.2.c.4.2.	19-9-18.		<u>DISPOSITIONS.</u> At 3.30 p.m. a warning order was received from the 4th Australian M.G. Battalion and Battalion Headquarters and Companies moved to their respective Rear Headquarters.	
O.28.a.1.5.	8 P.M.		Dispositions of Headquarters as previous to 4 p.m. 17-9-18. Move wire, Warning wire and confirming wire attached.	App.40 - 43.
			<u>SITUATION.</u> The enemy bombed part of our line, but the situation was restored by an immediate counter attack.	
			<u>WEATHER.</u> Heavy showers fell periodically throughout the period. Visibility fair.	<i>ff</i>
O.28.a.1.5.	20-9-18.		<u>DISPOSITIONS.</u> Unchanged. Report on Operations 18th/19th Sept. attached. The men were rested and bathed after their tour of duty in the line and limbers were repacked.	App.44.
			<u>WEATHER.</u> Fine and warm. Visibility good.	<i>ff</i>
As above.	21-9-18.		<u>DISPOSITIONS.</u> Unchanged. During the day, football and cricket matches were indulged in between Companies to the great interest of all personnel of the Unit.	
			<u>WEATHER.</u> Fine and cool. Visibility fair.	<i>ff</i>
As above.	22-9-18.		<u>DISPOSITIONS.</u> Unchanged. The men were rested and during the day partook in football and cricket matches.	
			<u>WEATHER.</u> Showery during the afternoon. Visibility good.	<i>ff</i>

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270

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O.28.a.1.5.	23-9-18.		<p><u>DISPOSITIONS.</u> Unchanged.</p> <p>During the morning, gas drill and gun drill training was carried out by Companies, and in the afternoon an inter-company football match was organised, and keen excitement prevailed during the whole game.</p> <p><u>WEATHER.</u> Dull and inclined to be showery. Visibility good.</p>	<p>nf.</p>
As above.	24-9-18.		<p><u>DISPOSITIONS.</u> Unchanged.</p> <p>Strenuous training was carried out during the morning and the afternoon was allotted to sports.</p> <p><u>WEATHER.</u> Fine and warm. Visibility good.</p>	<p>nf.</p>
As above.	25-9-18.		<p><u>DISPOSITIONS.</u> Unchanged.</p> <p>During the morning training was carried out, special attention being paid to gas drill. The C.O. lectured Officers and N.C.Os. of the Unit, the subject being "General Remarks". The remainder of the afternoon was allotted to Sports.</p> <p><u>WEATHER.</u> Dull and threatening. Visibility poor.</p>	<p>nf.</p>
As above.	26-9-18.		<p><u>DISPOSITIONS.</u> Unchanged.</p> <p>Training was carried out during the morning, inter-company football matches being played during the afternoon. At 6.30 p.m. the Divisional Concert Party gave their first programme to this Unit in the Lecture Hut, and were received with loud applause. The party has been loaned to us for two days and are to give three performances to ensure that all the men may see the show.</p> <p>9 p.m. The C.O. held a Conference of Company Commanders as a result of his attendance at a Conference held by the Divisional Commander, reference future operations.</p> <p>Machine Gun Instructions. Series "E" No. 1 attached.</p>	<p>nf.</p> <p>App. 45.</p>

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O.28.a.1.5.	26-9-18.		<u>WEATHER.</u> Fine and warm. Visibility good.	<i>W</i>
As above,	27-9-18.		Machine Gun Instructions, Series "E" No. 2 issued relating to the proposed operations which this Unit is to take part in, in the near future. Wire No. M.G.A. 87 sent to 8th A.I. Brigade allotting 25th M.G. Company and two sections of 8th M.G. Company for duty in Brigade Group. Wire No. M.G.A. 92 sent to 8th and 14th M.G. Companies and Battalion Headquarters moving them from present location to HERVILLY Area. 15th and 25th M.G. Companies move with 15th and 8th Australian Infantry Brigade Groups respectively to the HERVILLY Area earlier in the day. Wire No. M.G.A. 94 sent to 5th Australian Division, re change of location.	App.46. App.47. App.48. App.49
			<u>DISPOSITION.</u> 1000. Battalion Headquarters. HERVILLY. Two Sections 8th M.G. Company.) 25th M.G. Company.) 8th A.I. Brigade Group, HERVILLY Area. 14th M.G. Company.) 8th M.G. Company less 2 Sections) Divisional Reserve, HERVILLY. 15th M.G. Company with 15th A.I. Brigade Group, HERVILLY Area.	<i>ack</i>
Sheet 62c. 1/40,000. HERVILLY.	28-9-18.		Day spent in final preparations for operation on the Hindenberg Line taking place tomorrow. Much hostile aerial activity over the area during the night. Close touch maintained with 5th Australian Division, 8th, 14th and 15th Aust. Infantry Brigades and four Machine Gun Companies of this Unit. C.O. held conference at Battalion Headquarters, 2130 and issued final verbal instructions to all concerned. Wire No. M.G.A. 103 sent to four Machine Gun Companies notifying zero hour.	<i>ack</i> App.50.
See App.51.	29-9-18.		Wire No. M.G.A. 104 sent to 5th Australian Division showing locations for to-day. Advanced Battalion Headquarters consisting of C.O., Adjutant, 6 Signallers and one clerk established in quarry, adjacent to 14th Aust. Infantry Brigade Headquarters. Sheet 62c. 1/40,000: L.3.b.2.8. Attack on Hindenberg Line commenced as previously notified. Order of Battle from right to left 25th M.G. Company, 2 sections 8th M.G. Company attached to 8th A.I. Brigade Group. 15th M.G. Company attached to 15th A.I. Brigade Group. 14th M.G. Company and 8th M.G. Company less two Sections, Divisional Reserve.	App.51. <i>ack</i>

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10

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	29-9-18.		<p>Divisional Reserve during day of 29th situated Railway Trench, WIANCOURT 1/20,000 G.7.d.4.5. Owing to the rapidity of the advance in the initial stages of the attack and the failure of the Divisional Signal service to maintain communication, reports were not received from Companies as frequently as could be desired, but certain information was received from outside sources and telephonic conversations which indicated that our troops had penetrated the Hindenberg Line to the extent of about 2500 yards on the Divisional front.</p> <p>The objectives laid down on the task map issued to all concerned were not reached to time, due to the following reasons:-</p> <p>(1) Failure of assaulting troops (Americans) to mop up as they passed through, thus making it impossible for the troops following up for the second phase to move to their start line as rapidly as desired.</p> <p>(2) Failure of the left division (American) to capture their first objective and in consequence did not permit of the right Division of the Australian Corps pushing forward to their final objectives.</p>	<i>ach</i>
B.H.Q. no change. Companies as per their War Diaries forwarded herewith.	30-9-18.		<p>The advance was continued as per Companies' Diaries forwarded herewith. Not much advance was made owing to the situation still being rather obscure on the left.</p> <p>A visual signalling station was established between the Divisional Reserve Companies and Advanced Battalion Headquarters and proved to be successful after a few minor alterations were made, except during the hours of the morning mist.</p> <p>The reports of Company Commanders on the operations which deal more fully with the details are attached herewith.</p>	App. 52. <i>ach</i>

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 270

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices																																																												
			<p>RESUME OF PERIOD 1st SEPTEMBER 1918 to 30th SEPTEMBER, 1918.</p> <p><u>STRENGTH.</u></p> <p>The strength of the Unit at the commencement of the month was 51 Officers. 870 O/Ranks. The strength of the Unit at the conclusion of the month is 47 Officers. 769 O/Ranks.</p> <p><u>INCREASE.</u> Drafts were received as follows:-</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Ex Hospital.</td> <td>-</td> <td>57.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ex M.G.B.D.</td> <td>-</td> <td>43.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Transferred from Other Units.</td> <td>-</td> <td>3.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ex O.T.C.</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ex Schools.</td> <td>2</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ex Leave.</td> <td>16</td> <td>50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other sources.</td> <td>-</td> <td>4.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Increase.</td> <td>22</td> <td>165.</td> </tr> </table> <p><u>DECREASE.</u></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Taken Prisoner of War.</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Killed in Action.</td> <td>1</td> <td>8.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wounded.</td> <td>2</td> <td>130.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sick to Hospital.</td> <td>-</td> <td>31.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Courses.</td> <td>3</td> <td>8.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Leave to U.K.</td> <td>14</td> <td>74.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Transferred to other units.</td> <td>-</td> <td>1.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>To M.G.T.D., England.</td> <td>1</td> <td>4.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Returned to Base.</td> <td>1</td> <td>3.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Transport Duty and furlough to Australia.</td> <td>1</td> <td>3.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other Sources.</td> <td>1</td> <td>4.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Decrease.</td> <td>25</td> <td>266.</td> </tr> </table>	Ex Hospital.	-	57.	Ex M.G.B.D.	-	43.	Transferred from Other Units.	-	3.	Ex O.T.C.	4	-	Ex Schools.	2	8	Ex Leave.	16	50	Other sources.	-	4.	Total Increase.	22	165.	Taken Prisoner of War.	1	-	Killed in Action.	1	8.	Wounded.	2	130.	Sick to Hospital.	-	31.	Courses.	3	8.	Leave to U.K.	14	74.	Transferred to other units.	-	1.	To M.G.T.D., England.	1	4.	Returned to Base.	1	3.	Transport Duty and furlough to Australia.	1	3.	Other Sources.	1	4.	Total Decrease.	25	266.	<p>ach</p> <p>12</p>
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D. D. & L., London, E.C.
 (Ato266) Wt W5300/P713 750,000 2/18 Sch. 52 Forms/C2118/16.

Alvan H. Wright
 Major.
 G.O. 5th Aust. M.G. Battalion.

Confidential Original

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.

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

(Erase heading not required.)

270

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p><u>RESUME. (Contd.)</u></p> <p><u>SCHOOLS OF INSTRUCTION, ETC.</u></p> <p>Lieut. LILLECRAPP and Lieut J. SCOTT and 4 N.C.Os. proceeded to G.H.Q. Machine Gun Course, CAMIERS on 22-9-18.</p> <p>One other rank to G.H.Q. Draughtsman's Course, CAMIERS, on 29-9-18 and one other rank to Vet. School at No. 7 and No. 8 Veterinary Hospital for course on Horse management 27-9-18.</p> <p><u>OPERATIONS.</u> During the month the Unit was engaged in particularly heavy fighting resulting in the capture of PERONNE. This was a continuation of last months heavy work as well as heavy fighting.</p> <p>At all times the Infantry to whom the machine guns were attached expressed greatest satisfaction with the work done.</p> <p>Later in the month when the Unit was co-operating with 4th Australian Division the lack of sufficient gun numbers was keenly felt, thus demonstrating that machine gun teams must be at all times full strength. It is regretted to have to record that during this operation Lieut.-Col. T.R. MARSDEN was taken prisoner. Whilst making a reconnaissance of the battery positions the Colonel, led astray by a front line incorrectly marked on the map, walked into an enemy post and was taken prisoner.</p> <p>Again in the operations which breached the Hindenberg Line the necessity for "pack" transport being close up was clearly demonstrated. Without this means the guns would never have been transported through the thick wire and muddy roads of that area.</p> <p>The casualties at PERONNE and again on the HINDENBERG LINE were particularly heavy. This has been a month of extremely heavy fighting but working up to a crowning success in the final thrust through the defences of the HINDENBERG LINE.</p> <p><u>CONCLUSION.</u> It is pleasing to note that there has been very little or no sickness during the month. This reflects credit on the medical arrangements as well as being a proof of the fine physique of the personnel of the Battalion.</p> <p>The rations during the period have been good with the exception of the fresh vegetable ration, to the lack of which is attributed a high percentage of the minor ailments.</p>	<p><i>ad</i></p> <p>13</p>

Alan H. Wright

Major.

WAR DIARY

270
Confidential Original

OF

5TH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION.

FOR

SEPTEMBER

1918.

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
✓ 1	Battalion Intelligence Summary.
✓ 2	" " " "
✓ 3	Administrative Instructions No. 4.
✓ 4	Battalion Intelligence Summary No. 2.
✓ 5	Battle Order Chart.
✓ 6	Battalion Intelligence Summary.
✓ 7	" " " " Part II
✓ 8	" " " "
✓ 9	Battalion Order No. 43.
✓ 10 - 13	Situation wires.
✓ 14	Battalion Intelligence Summary.
✓ 15	" " " "
✓ 16	Move order.
✓ 17	Locations of Companies.
✓ 18	Battalion Intelligence Summary.
✓ 19	Report on Recent Operations.
✓ 20	Battalion Intelligence Summary.
✓ 21	" " " "
✓ 22	Disposition of Guns.
✓ 23	Battalion Order 43A.
✓ 24	Administrative Instructions No. 5.
✓ 25	Battalion Intelligence Summary.
✓ 26	1st Addendum to Administrative Instruction No. 5.
✓ 27	Training Memorandum.
✓ 28	Battle Instructions I.
✓ 29	Secret Map "A".
✓ 30	Battle Instructions II.
✓ 31	Disposition Map.
✓ 32	Battalion Intelligence Summary.
✓ 33 - 39	Operation wires.
✓ 40 - 43	Move wires re relief, etc.
✓ 44	Report on Operations 18th September 1918.
✓ 45	Machine Gun Instructions, Series "E" No. 1.
✓ 46	Machine Gun Instructions Series "E" No. 2.
47	Wire No. M.G.A. 87, ref. orders to more.
48	Wire No. M.G.A. 92 " " " "
49	Wire No. M.G.A. 94, ref. change location.
50	Wire No. M.G.A. 103, ref. notifying zero hour.
51	Wire No. M.G.A. 104, ref. notifying locations.
52	Reports of Coy. Commanders on operations.

Maunt H. Wright

Major.

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

270
5TH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

1. 15
APPENDIX

For period of 24 hours ending 6 a.m. 2-9-18.

OPERATIONS.

Machine Gun Sections are operating with Battalions in the forward areas, acting under the instructions of Infantry Battalion Commanders under the supervision of their Section Officers.

IDENTIFICATIONS.

N I L.

HOSTILE ARTILLERY.

Very active until 11 a.m. on BAREUX and vicinity with 4.2's and 5.9's.

At 9 a.m. a large mine exploded in PERONNE.

At 10.45 a.m. 5 77's in N.14.b. and at intervals during the day.

MONT ST QUENTIN and outskirts of PERONNE were heavily shelled during the day.

HOSTILE M.G.

Very active against our attacking Infantry during the day.

HOSTILE AIRCRAFT.

Enemy planes were active behind their own lines, one flight of 7 crossing our lines at 1 p.m. and again at 8 p.m.

During the night E.A. were active and dropped bombs in our Reserve areas.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Our aircraft was active all day, and especially at 8 p.m.



Wm Jester
Lieut.
For Lieut.-Colonel.
C.O. 5th Aust. M.G. Bn.

270

APPENDIX 2

5TH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

For period of 24 hours ending 6 a.m. 3-9-18.

OPERATIONS.

Relief :-

The 25th M.G. Company operating with the 15th Aust. Inf. Bde., relieved the 14th M.G. Company operating with the 14th Aust. Inf. Bde.

Machine Gun Sections operating with the 15th Brigade moved across the canal during the day and were established in the line running through PERONNE. These guns were reinforced as soon as it was dark, in view of suspected counter-attack owing to a new and fresh Division being identified in the line.

Machine Gun Sections operating with the 8th A.I. Bde moved forward early this morning with the Infantry Battalions to which they are attached.

IDENTIFICATIONS.

N I L.

HOSTILE ARTILLERY.

During the day, N.11 and N.12., and O.13. were frequently shelled.

Quiet during the night.

HOSTILE AIRCRAFT.

E.A. crossed our lines at 9 a.m. but were driven back by A.A. fire. During the night bombing planes were exceedingly active and dropped bombs in the vicinity of FLAUCOURT.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Our planes were active throughout the whole period.

5TH AUSTRALIAN M.G. BATTALION.	
No.	5751
Date	.....

Wm J. Feater
 Lieut.
 For Lieut.-Colonel.
 C.O. 5th Aust. M.G. Bn.

270

5TH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION.

Headquarters.
2-9-18.

3

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS No. 4.

1. A Corps Reinforcement and Staging Camp has been established at L.22.b.9.2. (BRAY-CABBY Road).
All personnel proceeding to and from Leave, Schools etc. will stage through this Camp.
2. The following water points are now available. All require 1 measure B.P. per water cart. :-

HERBECOURT	-	H.26.c.3.0.
		H.32.a.55.65.
		H.32.a.65.75.
		H.32.a.5.5.
PLAUCOURT	-	H.4.a.4.8.
		H.4.a.3.6.
		H.4.a.3.5.
		H.4.a.6.3.
3. Ammunition requirements and location where to be sent, to be notified to Battalion Headquarters by Noon daily.
4. SUPPLIES. - Unchanged.

A. D. Bunn
Capt.
Adj. 5th Aust. M.G. Bn.

DISTRIBUTION.

- 8th M.G. Company.
- 14th M.G. Company.
- 15th M.G. Company.
- 25th M.G. Company.
- W.D.
- File.

5TH AUSTRALIAN M.G. BATTALION.	
N	315/173
Date	.....

270

4

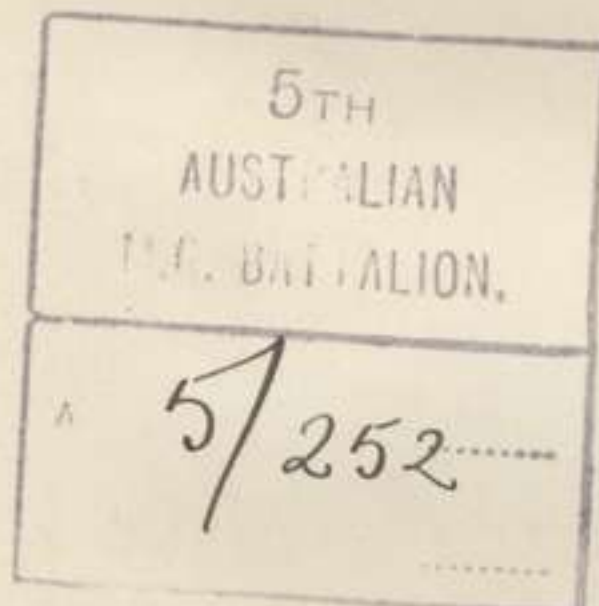
5th AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION.INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY. 2.For the period of 24 hours ending 6 a.m. 3.-9.-18.OPERATIONS.

Company operating with 15th A.I.Bde. Sections are disposed with Infantry Battalions and have occupied positions in the line held by the 15th Bde. Two guns are guarding bridge-heads across the River SOMME.

In addition to the above, 6 heavy German Machine Guns have been manned by personnel of the Company, these guns being disposed along the Brigade Front.

During the period, active harrassing fire was maintained on enemy strongpoints, trenches, etc. and moving targets were engaged.

Ammunition expended 10000 rounds.



Wm. J. J. J. J. Lieut.
for Lieut. Colonel.
C.O. 5th AUSTRALIAN M.G.BN.

SECRET

ORDER OF BATTLE 6 PM. 3-9-18
5TH AUST. DIV. (M. 9. d. 7.1.)

5TH M. G. Bn.

FRONT LINE

FRONT LINE

6TH A.I. BDE.
(H. 19. c. 5.8.)

59TH BN.

57TH BN.

14TH BDE.
(M. 30. a. 1.3.)

60TH BN.

58TH BN.

15TH A.I. BDE. (I. 32. d. 3.3.)
25TH M. G. Coy.

2ND AUST. DIV.
(G. 25. d. 1.3.)

32ND BN.
(I. 20. a. & c.)

30TH BN.
(I. 26. a.)

31ST BN.

(I. 26. CENTRAL)

32ND DIV.
(S. 4. b. 4.5.)

29TH BN.
(I. 20. a.)

8TH BDE. H.Q. (I. 19. a. 8.4.)
8TH M. G. Coy.

55TH BN.

(H. 24. a. 8.2.)

54TH BN.
(H. 22. b. 5.3.)

53RD BN.
(H. 29. c. 1.7.)

56TH BN.
(H. 29. a. 8.3.)

14TH A.I. BDE. (H. 34. a. 1.1.)

14TH M. G. Coy.

12TH ARMY BDE. A.F.A. (N. 4. d. 3.2.)

13TH BDE. A.F.A. (N. 22. d. 30.90.)

23RD R.F.A.
(N. 9. d. 23.)

14TH BDE. A.F.A.
(N. 16. d. 80.70.)

9TH BDE. R.G.A. (G. 30. d. 5.2.)

5TH AUST. DIV. ARTILLERY.

(N. 9. d. 50.00.)

15TH M. G. Coy. (RESERVE)
(N. 14. b.)

APPENDIX

5
19

270

30
6

5TH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION.

6

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

For period of 24 hours ending 6 a.m, 4-9-18.

OPERATIONS.

Machine Guns are working in close touch with the front line Infantry, and have engaged numerous moving targets with good effect during the period.

Slight advances by our Infantry have been closely supported.

Ammunition expended, 5,000 rounds.

IDENTIFICATIONS.

N I L.

HOSTILE ARTILLERY.

Very active during the afternoon and night on our forward position, shelling mostly with 5.9's and 4.2's, containing a mixture of gas.

Between 9 and 11 p.m., 200 shells fell in the vicinity of I.26.b.

HOSTILE M.G.

Machine Guns were very active and throughout the day sniped at any movement that took place to ranges of 1,500 yards behind our lines.

HOSTILE AIRCRAFT.

Throughout the day numerous Observation balloons were up. Otherwise, activity of E.A. was very slight during the day, but bombing p lanes were very active during the night and early morning.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Our artillery was very active throughout the night.

5TH AUSTRALIAN M.G. BATTALION.	
N	S/253

[Signature]
Lieut.
For Lieut.-Colonel.
C.O. 5th Aust. M.G.Bn.

270

21

PART, II.

APPENDIX 7

INCIDENTS IN RECENT FIGHTING.

1. Prisoner's Statement.

An Officer made a statement that applications were asked amongst the troops for men who were willing to defend PERONNE against the Australians.

2. INCIDENTS THAT OCCURRED.

(a). A Hun Officer who was wounded in the face, on the left of PERONNE, was approached by a Machine Gunner whom he attempted to shoot, whereupon the revolver was taken from him. He then commenced to kick and spit at the Gunner who knocked him on the head with the butt of the revolver. As he still resisted vigorously he was shot.

(b). In another place, a Hun who had his leg blown off at the knee, raised himself on the knee of the unwounded leg and stump of the other and continued to fight.

(c). After passing through the centre of the North Eastern part of PERONNE the resistance of the enemy stiffened considerably and groups of 10 and 20 BOSCHE would stand and fire back at Machine Guns which were firing at point blank range at them, in one instance one of our Guns being as close as 20 yards to them, the enemy continuing to fire until completely wiped out.

(d). Not only on collective occasions did he fight to the end but also in individual cases. One Hun remained in a cellar at the "On guard" position and although on his own, he fought until he received the point and was killed.

3. TO SUM UP.

By the numerous occurrences similar to these it would seem as if the enemy had strict orders to hold the village at all costs, and would not surrender even when they had not the least chance of escaping, but would stand and fight until disabled or killed.

5TH AUSTRALIAN M.G. BATTALION.	
N	.....

270

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

For period of 24 hours ending 6 a.m. 5-9-18.

OPERATIONS.

During the period any enemy movement in the forward area was engaged.

Sections conformed to the movements of Battalions in the re-adjustment of the Divisional boundary.

Ammunition expended 1,000 rounds.

IDENTIFICATIONS.

N I L.

HOSTILE ARTILLERY.

Noticeable decrease in enemy activity, only spasmodic shelling during the period, principally on MONT ST QUENTIN and Ridge during the day.

Between 8.30 p.m. and 9.30 p.m. all roads were harassed.

Between 9.30 p.m. and 10.30 p.m. 30 to 40 H.E. Shrap burst over I.22.a. and c.

HOSTILE M.G.

Much quieter than usual.

HOSTILE AIRCRAFT.

E.A. were seen on four occasions during during the day flying very high.

At 9 a.m. one plane flew over our back areas for 15 minutes and was engaged by A.A. fire and eventually returned to its own lines.

Two enemy Observation balloons were brought down in flames during the afternoon.

MISCELLANEOUS.

One Gun was blown up in the front line.

Our Artillery was very active throughout the day on FLAMICOURT.

Large clouds of smoke were observed at different times in rear of enemy lines.

5TH AUSTRALIAN M.G. BATTALION.	
N.	5/286
Date	

Wm J. Jester Lieut.
For Lieut.-Colonel.
C.O. 5th Aust. M.G. Bn.

Copy No.
Headquarters,
5th Sept. 1918.

SECRET.
Ref. Map.
Sheet 620.
1/40,000.

1. INFORMATION.

The enemy is retiring on the front of the 1st and 3rd Armies, and on the Southern portion of the French Front EAST of NOYON. He also appears to be retiring on the front of the 3rd Corps.

The 30th Division has reached the ULM and HASSAU trenches in O.22. and O.23. and are pursuing the enemy, who is not offering such opposition.

2. INTENTION.

The Australian Corps will press his retirement with strong advance guards, and will advance in an Easterly direction on a frontage of three Divisions,

30th Division on the Right.
5th Aust. Division in the Centre.
3rd Aust. Division on the Left.

Inter-Divisional Boundaries are as shown in blue on map already issued.

3. The advance of the 5th Aust. Division will be covered by an advance guard under the command of Brigadier-General E. TIVEY, C.B., V.D. composed as under :-

One Squadron, 13th Aust. Light Horse Regiment.
5th Aust. Inf. Brigade.
5th Army Brigade, R.H.A.
290th Army Brigade, R.F.A.

5th M.G. Company will remain with 5th Aust. Inf. Brigade and form part of advance guard.

4. 15th M.G. Company are allotted to 14th Aust. Inf. Brigade, who are moving forward ready to cross the SOMME at NEUFPIQUE. This Company will keep in close touch with 14th A.I. Brigade M.G. at NEUFPIQUE.

5. 25th M.G. Company on relief by Company of 3rd M.G. Battalion will move to Transport Lines and remain in Divisional Reserve.

6. 14th M.G. Company will be ready to move forward at short notice.

7. M.G. Companies ACKNOWLEDGE.

M. T. Brown
Capt.
Adjt., 5th Aust. M.G. Co.

DISTRIBUTION.

Issued at 9 p.m. to :

- Copy No.
1. 5th M.G. Co.
 2. 14th M.G. Co.
 3. 15th M.G. Co.
 4. 25th M.G. Co.
 5. 5th Aust. Division.
- Copies to, for information :
6. 5th Aust. Inf. Bde.
 7. 14th Aust. Inf. Bde.
 8. 15th Aust. Inf. Bde.
 9. W.D.
 10. File.

270



APPENDIX

74
10

C Form. (In books of 100.)

MESSAGES AND SIGNALS. No. of Messages 10

Prefix <u>by 1177</u>	Code <u>1177</u>	Words <u>61</u>	Received. <u>2045</u>
Charges to Collect			Sent, or sent out. At <u>7</u> m.
Service Instructions			To <u>76P</u>
By <u>2045</u>			Office Stamp. <u>5. IX. 18</u>
Handed in at <u>2045</u>		Office <u>1038</u> m.	Received <u>10.40</u> m.
TO <u>Zapa</u>			
Sender's Number <u>12118</u>	Day of Month <u>5</u>	In reply to Number	AAA
Situation <u>8.15</u> am <u>aaa</u>			
<u>We</u> have captured			
<u>FLAMICOURT</u> have patrols in			
<u>O4Bcm</u> and <u>I35cm</u> <u>aaa</u>			
<u>DARMSTADT</u> trench is now			
occupied by <u>us</u> <u>aaa</u>			
<u>Our</u> line now runs			
<u>Sto N. I34cm I34B2.8 I34B5.8</u>			
<u>I28B8.4 I29A1.6 I29D2.3</u> thence			
along <u>MANNHEIM. DARMSTADT</u>			
<u>RUPPRECHT</u> trenches and			
<u>ANTICONE</u> alley in <u>I110aaa</u>			
Addressed <u>deus Corps</u>			
Repeated <u>all concerned</u>			
FROM		<u>Legi</u>	
TIME & PLACE			

270



APPENDIX

11

25

Office to which sent		Service Instructions		his message is on a/c of		Recd. at.....m.	
Sent		Date		Service		Date	
At 11:27		18/9/18		5:29-18		From	
To		By		(Signature of "Franking Officer")		By	

TO: Zopa

Sender's Number.	Day of Month	In reply to Number.	AAA
4957	5		

Situation 10:30 am add
 Our patrols now in
 O10 and O11 add
 MANNHEIM. TRENCH in
 I29B has been occupied
 add.
 Addressed Aust Corps
 Reptd all concerned

From	Legi.
Place	
Time	

The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z)

Censor. Signature of Addressee

270

26

APPENDIX 12



MESSA

Prefix SM Code EHP

Charges to Collect

By

To

Service Instructions

By

Handed in at PVE Office 5.5 P m Received 5.30 P m

TO

Zopa

*Sender's Number

Day of Month

In reply to Number

AAA

9200

5

Situation	4 PM	Our	right
Bde	now	established	at
line	of	road	through
O.C.C	and	012 A	and
in	touch	with	32 nd
Div	troops	at	012061
aaa	enemy	resistance	east of
POINT	being	deadly	with
and	heavy	casualties	inflicted
aaa	30	prisoners	so
far	aaa	left	Bde
Troops	have	taken	BUSSU
and	are	now	established
300	yds	East	of
that	Point		

FROM

Legi

TIME & PLACE

*This line should be erased if not required

270



APPENDIX 13 ²⁷

"C" Form. (15 BOOKS OF 100)
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS. No. of Message.....

Pr. Code.....	Words.....	Received.	Sent, or sent out.	Office Stamp
Lm/ m/ km 40		From.....	At.....	5. IX. 18
z r d		By.....	To.....	
Charges to Collect		By.....		
Service Instructions.		By.....		
Handed in at.....		Office.....	Received.....	
Aye		12.50	m	7.17
TO				
zopa				
Sender's Number	Day of Month	In reply to Number		AAA
4266	6			
Situation 12 noon aaa DONGET has been captured by us and our troops are in touch on night with 3rd Div ada our left Bde is now moving on to Busson in touch with 7th Div				
FROM				
Legi				
TIME & PLACE				

5TH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

For period of 24 hours ending 6 a.m. 6-9-18.

OPERATIONS.

Relief. The 25th A.M.G. Co. was relieved in the line by the 3rd A.M.G. Battalion moving forward with the 3rd Aust. Div. The 8th A.M.G. Co. was relieved simultaneously.

Infantry. FLAMICOURT, DOINGT, and BUSSU were captured by our Infantry. During the night new dispositions were taken over by the Left Brigade. Infantry on the left of our Sector advanced at 10 a.m. and met with very little opposition.

MACHINE GUNS. During the advance our M.Gs. closely supported the Infantry and conformed to all their movements. Targets offered by the retiring enemy were engaged with good effect.

Ammunition expended 2,000 rounds.

IDENTIFICATIONS.

N I L.

HOSTILE ARTILLERY.

Comparitively quiet. MONT ST QUENTIN, PERONNE and BUSSU were shelled spasmodically with H.E. and Gas shells.

HOSTILE AIRCRAFT.

Two observation balloons were destroyed by our planes.

MOVEMENT.

At noon, small groups of men were noticed retiring from the enemy lines east of MONT ST QUENTIN.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Fires were burning throughout the period in villages well behind the enemy lines.

5TH AUSTRAL M.G. BATT. 2/57

Wms J. Lieut. For Lieut.-Colonel. C.O. 5th Aust. M.G. Bn.

PART II.

1. DISTRIBUTION OF ENEMY FORCES.

Divisional Front:- 5th Bav. Div. North to South. 19th Bav. I.I. 5th Sept. 21st Bav. I.I. 7th Bav. I.I.

2. INFORMATION REGARDING 7th Bav. I.R. 5th Bav. Div.

The 7th Bav. I.R. had orders to retire slowly to MONS-EN-CHAUSEE in case of an attack. A Divisional relief is expected. (Prisoners statement.)

3. INFORMATION REGARDING 19th Bav. I.R. 5th Bav. I.R.

Prisoners had orders to retire on to the CATELET line after dusk to night. (5-9-18).

Strength. 20 to 40 men per Company. The M.G. Cos. have only 2 or 3 heavy machine guns. No drafts of importance have been received lately. (P.S)

4. TRANSLATION OF A GERMAN DOCUMENT.

38 Inf. Division. I.a.2267.

Div. H.Q., 18-8-18.

DIVISIONAL ORDER.

- 1. In the main defence line or in front of them I forbid the use of dug-outs which built more than 8 steps deep. Should there be any such dug-outs, they are to be nailed up immediately or made unservicable in some other manner. Reports to be rendered through 83 Inf. Bde. before 25-8-18. 2. I once more emphasise the necessity of all means being employed to erect defensive obstacles. Regiments are requested to give this matter their special attention. 3. Some disused and badly fallen in trenches have in some instances been repaired by the troops by digging a narrow deep trench in the old trench line. Even if in isolated cases such repairs have been absolutely necessary to ensure a free field of fire, the above method is of small utility as it betrays proof of the occupation of these trenches in aeroplane photos.

(Sgd.) SCHULTHEL. Certified correct

BRUER. Capt. G.S.O.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

210 For period of 24 hours ending 6 a.m. 7-9-18.

OPERATIONS.

Infantry. Our Infantry advanced as far as the general line CARTIGNY - MONS-en-CHAUSSEE, when the Infantry on our flanks continued the advance. We continued to advance early this morning, 7-9-18.

M.G. Our M.G. are co-operating with, and are held as mobile reserves to the advancing Brigades.

Ammunition expended, nil.

IDENTIFICATIONS.

N I L.

HOSTILE ARTILLERY.

N I L.

HOSTILE AIRCRAFT?

Very active. E.A. flew low over areas and used their machine guns freely. At 6.30 a.m. and again at 10.30 a.m. an E.A. flew within 100 feet of the ground over our lines and was engaged with Lewis and A.A. guns.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Our artillery was active throughout the day.

5TH
AUSTRALIAN
M.G. BATTALION.

51259

Wm. J. Feater Lieut.
For Lieut.-Colonel.
C.O. 5th Aust. M.G. Bn.

PART II.

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.1. ENEMY RUSES.

According to statements of prisoners taken by the Corps on our right timed fused mines have been laid in certain cellars in the village of LAGNY. The charges, painted yellow, explode after an interval of 3 days. Those painted red and blue explode after more than 8 days. The mines are placed in floors of cellars.

2. TRANSLATION OF A GERMAN DOCUMENT.

Telephone message from G.S.XI. Ia. No. 4230 op. of 27-8-18. A.H.Q.
2 wires.

It has been brought to my notice that Infantry are making practically no use of their rifles in battle, and are leaving the defence entirely to M.G. and artillery. Numerous cases have also occurred where Infantry have broken through the artillery lines in escaping from enemy tanks, and have failed to take advantage to demand the artillery to protect them.

I must request G.O.s.C. to prevent with the severest measures such conduct which amounts to forgetfulness of duty.

Artillery Officers have the power to establish by name the identity of any Unit and leader who denies support to the artillery, and to report them.

Men who come from the front without rifles will be taken over by the authorities and will be punished according to Military Law.

Leaders have every opportunity to make use of the discharge of Infantry fire on demand. Control through senior officers.

(Sd.) v. d. MARWITZ.

Taken down 12.15 p.m. by Lt. SCHUSTER, G.S. XI. from Lieut. JUNG.

3. BOMBS LEFT IN DUMPS.

A german bomb was found in a coal dump in BAPAUME on night 6-9-18. Care should be taken as other dumps left by the enemy may contain similar bombs.

270

APPENDIX

16³⁰

MESSAGES AND SIGNALS. No. of Message 16

Prefix	m.	Words	Charge	This message is on n/s of:	Rcd. m.
Office of Orig.	Instructions	Sent		Service	Date
		At	m.		From
		To		(Signature of "Franking Officer.")	By
		By			

TO {
25th M.G. Company.

Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
* M.G.A. 957	7		

The 25th M.G. Company will move to-day to 0.22.a. aaa Bridge at 0.26.d.2.5. available for horse transport aaa Location to be forwarded to Battalion H.Q. through Report Centre at 0.15.c.4.1. aaa ACKNOWLEDGE.

From	Place	Time
	5th Aust. M.G. Battalion.	

The above may be forwarded in now corrected.

M. B. M. Cape
 Censor. Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.

SECRET.

5TH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION

APPENDIX 17³¹

Headquarters.
7-9-18.

Headquarters,
5th Australian Division.

Ref. Sheet,
626 1/40,000.

Reference your Battle Instructions Series "D" No.4,
Companies of this Unit are disposed as follows :-

8th A.M.G. Co. operating with 8th A.I. Bde. as mobile reserve,
with Headquarters at Q.14.d.2.4.

15th A.M.G. Co. operating with 14th A.I. Bde. with Headquarters
and Transport at P.21.d.8.9.

14th A.M.G. Co. in Reserve. Headquarters and Transport at
O.23.a.0.4.

25th A.M.G. Co. in Reserve. Headquarters and Transport at
O.22.a.

5th Aust. M.G. Battalion Headquarters and Transport at M.17.b.7.7.

<p>5TH AUSTRALIAN M.G. BATTALION.</p> <p>5/260</p>
--

Wm J. Feater Lieut.
for Lieut. Col.
C.O., 5th Aust. M.G. Bn.

M
Code
in and for

LDV

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

For period of 24 hours ending 6 a.m. 8-9-18.

OPERATIONS.

Inf. The enemy continued to retire and our Infantry advanced as far as the general line running north and south through SOYECOURT, capturing POEUILLY, FLECHIN, BERNES, VRAIGNES and HANCOURT.

M.G. Machine Gun Companies moved with the infantry acting as mobile reserve under the instructions of the Brigade Commanders.

IDENTIFICATIONS.

N I L.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Our aeroplanes were very active throughout the day, and especially during the evening.

Wm J. Feater Lieut.
For, Lieut.-Col.
C.O. 5th Aust. M.H. Bn.

PART II.

1. PRISONERS.

Since the operations on August 8th 392 Officers and 15,755 O/Ranks have been captured by the Australian Corps.

2. EXTRACTS FROM GERMAN DOCUMENTS.

21st Inf. Div.
To Pioneer Bn. 21.

30th August, 1918.

"Corps has ordered that the bridges which are still standing at CLERY, whatever happens, are to be completely destroyed and rendered wholly useless for traffic as soon as possible.

(Sgd) VON WAHLEN.

FROM Pioneer Bn. 21 to 1st Coy. Pioneer Bn. 21.

It is imperative that an attempt be made to carry out the above Corps Order. Perhaps it will be possible for a small patrol of 2 or 3 courageous men to cross the destroyed bridges on the northern arm of the SOMME and reach the bridges which are still standing and carry out the demolition with concentrated charges.

Division offers the Iron Cross, First Class, leave and a money reward for a successful attempt.

Men who volunteer for the task, and make a determined effort to carry out the task, will receive 14 days leave, even if they are not successful."

The result of the above order was that an ~~Officer~~ ^{Officer} Commanding the 2nd Pioneer Platoon made a plucky attempt to blow up these bridges, but was not wholly successful, as he states in his report, owing to the deterioration of the charges. He also states that it was "only by violence" that he could induce his men to go forward.

270

APPENDIX

19³³

Headquarters.
5th Aust. M.G. Battalion.
7th September, 1918.

Headquarters,
5th Australian Division.

REPORT ON RECENT OPERATIONS.

BRIEF RECOUNTAL OF PLAN.

1. Instructions were issued on 30th August that the advance of the Australian Corps was to be continued in a North Easterly direction. The advance to be carried out by the 5th, 2nd and 3rd Australian Divisions in that order from right to left.
2. Any successes achieved in forcing a crossing over the SOMME in either the 5th or 2nd Australian Divisional Section were to be exploited to the full.
3. The first objective of the Corps was to establish a bridgehead in the vicinity of PERONNE from which to continue its further advance.

BRIEF RECOUNTAL OF EVENTS.

1. The change in Divisional boundaries necessitated a side slip to the left, a cross country night march being entailed in order that the 15th A.I. Brigade could relieve 5th A.I. Brigade, 2nd Division.
Machine Gun Companies were moving in support of their named Brigades with 25th M.G. Company in Reserve.
Owing to the broken nature of the country and limited time available for the move, Transport could not be used, but the cross country march carrying heavy loads was a big strain on the personnel of the Machine Gun Companies; so much so that the 15th M.G. Company who had been digging positions all night on 30th to cover the crossing of the 15th Brigade had to be relieved by 25th M.G. Company on night 31st.

DEDUCTIONS.

1. This operation differed from the advance from VILLERS-FRETONNEUX in that it was across very broken country with the River SOMME forming a very strong natural object.
2. Transport therefore could not be so effectively used and a much greater strain fell on Machine Gunners in consequence.
3. Some Infantry Brigadiers are still inclined to allot a Section of Machine Guns to each Battalion in their Brigade when Companies are under their control, it is then almost impossible for them to concentrate the fire power of the Company at any given point should the situation so demand, and many opportunities of assisting the advance of the Infantry are lost in consequence.
Similarly some Infantry Battalion Commanders still ask for work from the Vickers Gunners that are obviously tasks for Lewis Gunners.

APPENDIX

19

- 4. The necessity of keeping transport moved close up and maintaining touch with it even when the guns are being carried forward was brought out in this operation.

5TH AUSTRALIAN M.G. BATTALION.	
No.	1/4/100
Date.....	

J. P. Mason
Lieut.-Colonel.
C.O. 5th Aust. M.G. Bn.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

For period of 24 hours ending 6 a.m. 9-9-18.

OPERATIONS.

Machine Guns. :- Two Sections 8th M.G. Company moved up in close support (with transport) to support 29th and 31st Battalions.

Artillery :- Fairly active throughout the period.

IDENTIFICATIONS.

N I L.

Ammunition expended , 2000 rounds on A.A. work.

ENEMY SHELLING.

Practically nil during the day - a few heavy shells fell into HANCOURT about 9 p.m. and 3 a.m., they appeared to be 4.2's fired from extreme range.

HOSTILE AIRCRAFT.

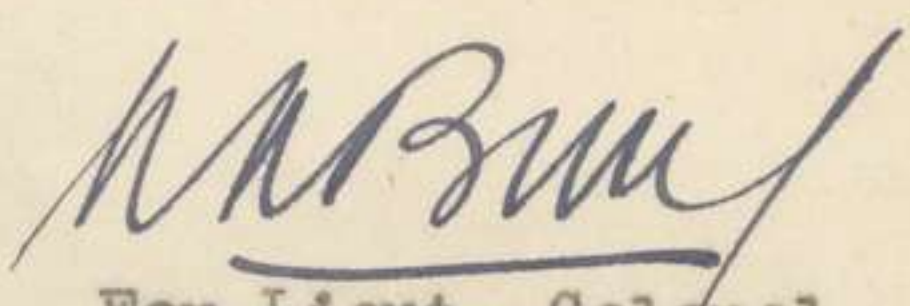
Enemy planes bombed ridges in Q.15., Q.1. and 27 at 3 a.m. 50 to 60 bombs were dropped . One plane circled overhead for about thirty minutes prior to unloading.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Our aircraft were fairly active during the period crossing and re-crossing the enemy lines.

Weather cold boisterous and showery during the period under review.

Visibility, - fair.


Capt. & Adjt.
For Lieut.-Colonel.
C.O. 5th Aust. M.G. Battalion.

PART II.

INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.

1. Prisoners statements. A prisoner states that the Alpine Corps will be withdrawn through a Prussian Division lately in the VOSGES sector, when the retirement has reached the HINDENBURG line.

Prisoners belonging to the 259 F.A.R. (att. 105th Divn.) and 66 Res. F.A.R. (att. 80th Res. Div.) state that the enemy intends retiring to St. QUENTIN and then delivering a powerful counter offensive in this sector

2. TRANSLATION OF A GERMAN DOCUMENT.

A memorandum on firing with M.G. on hostile aircraft from experiences of German contact patrols in English ground defences states, "The most valuable parts of the motor, propellar, and cooling aparatus. They can be engaged most successfully when the plane is rising. Engaging the plane when it is descending secures success against the occupants. Allow the airman to fly into the fire zone. When the plane is sideslipping, keep up heavy fire. The existance of armoured English aeroplanes has up til now not been substantiated.

"R" ammunition pierces. "S" and "K" (armour piercing) ammunition is not available. Small supplies of "S" and "K" ammunition ~~may~~ may be indetned for all the same from Army Headquarters in order to make penetration into the motor more certain.

The moral effect of M.G. fire on an airman is already considerable as soon as the flash is observed and the shots go near by.

The actaul effect is far greater than the troops who are shooting realise. The majority of ~~damages~~ damages incurred compel the plane to turn back at once and make a forced landing in the back areas.

Between the 9th and 30th April the 6th Army lost 23 contact patrol machines through A.A. and M.G. fire.

270

PART II (contd.).

20

The English were able to do this in spite of the heaviest fighting on the earth, and for the most part he was dealing with armoured aeroplanes. Considering this, our prepared defence against the unarmoured enemy must be made to provide better results. For every aeroplane shot down out of control, a prize of 200 marks has been granted by the Ministry of War.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.
ending 6 a.m. 10th September, 1918.OPERATIONS.

Relief. 15th Aust. M.G. Company was relieved by the 13th Aust. M.G. Company in Support, during the day.

IDENTIFICATIONS. N I L.

HOSTILE ARTILLERY

During the period the front line was consistently shelled and especially at dawn.

Intermittent shelling on roads, tracks, quarries and gullies at night.

HOSTILE M.Gs.

Active on movement in our front area, and especially on light horse patrols.

HOSTILE AIRCRAFT.

During the morning single E.A. attempted to cross our lines but were turned back by our fighting patrols.

MISCELLANEOUS.

In spite of the inclemency of the weather our planes were active throughout the day.

W. J. G. G. G. Lieut.
for Lieut. Col.
C.O., 5th Aust. M.G. Bn.

PART II.INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.GERMAN DISCIPLINE.

A captured order of 225th Inf. Division dated 29-3-18, at which time the Division was in the line in the WOEVRE, indicating that the remarkable discipline and industry of the enemy in the construction of field works is at any rate in that Division a thing of the past. The order, which is more than two and a half pages of close type is nothing but reprimand.

The principle complaints are as follows :

That (a) In spite of absolutely insufficient shelter, the work being done is inadequate, and progresses particularly slowly. In one instance only 12 men of a Reserve Company, all of whom should have been at work, were found usefully employed. In consequence, a report is to be made by every regiment to show how "each individual is employed".

(b) In spite of repeated orders and instructions protection from aeroplane observation is neglected in the most careless manner.

(c) There are a large number of sign-boards in all sections of all troops with wrong names or indicating things that do not exist.

(d) The trench officers are by no means sufficiently active, and must therefore, keep a written account of the information that they should have.

(e) Nearly every camp and dug-out is lacking in proper shelter security and cleanliness, dugouts have only one entrance, ammunition is kept in living huts, etc.

(f) Men go up to the front without their gas masks and without weapons.

(g) In one machine gun nest in a supporting point visited, I found the men and the commander completely ignorant of the employment, and object of the gun; all my questions and remarks confirmed a regrettable lack of competent control and inspections by the Commanding Officer concerned.

CAPTURED ORDER.

The following is the translation of a Secret order issued by LUDENDORFF on 16-8-18 :-

"The Commander in Chief is prepared to mention in the official communique the names of units, as well as the names of individual officers, N.C.O's and men who have specially distinguished themselves in action against tanks.



270

PART II (Contd.).

"Armies will include the necessary particulars in their daily reports. These particulars will be based upon the reports received from Commanders of troops in the line (Brigade, Regimental, Battalion, etc. Commanders). Each case must be examined on its merits, in order to see whether ~~the~~ conspicuous gallantry was shown. It is not practicable to base these special mentions on the despatches of a specific number of tanks.

270

39

APPENDIX

22

SECRET.

5th AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION.

Headquarters.
9-9-18.

Headquarters,
5th AUST. DIV.

RefSheet 62 C.

Dispositions of Guns.

Early this morning 8 guns of the 8th M.G.Co. took up line positions as follows.

Right flank.

Q 30 c 5.7.

Q 30 c 3.8.

Q 29 b 8.9.

Q 23 d.6.3.

Section Headquarters Q 29 c 9.7.

Left flank.

R1 1 c 7.7.

R 1 c 4.7.

and two guns in the vicinity of SENEVES FARM.

Other guns of the 8th M.G.Co. are held as Brigade Mobile Reserve at Company Headquarters, Q 14 d.2.4.

5TH AUSTRALIAN M.G. BATTALION.	
No.	1/11/101.
Date	

Wm D Feater. Lieut.
for Lieut. Colonel.
C.O. 5th AUSTRALIAN M.G.BN.

270
S E C R E T.
 Reference Map
 FRANCE 620.
 1/40,000.

Copy No.....
 Headquarters,
 9th September, '18.

1. The 4th Australian Division (less Artillery) are to relieve the 5th Australian Division (less Artillery) in the Centre Sector 9th/10th and 10th/11th September.
2. Moves and reliefs ^{of M.G. Companies} will be carried out in accordance with attached table.
3. The relief will be complete by 6 a.m. 11th instant.
4. Headquarters, 5th Aust. M.G. Battalion will remain at M.17.b.7.7.
5. Completion of relief will be notified to Brigades Companies are operating with, and repeated to Battalion Headquarters.
6. The usual precautions will obtain as regards hostile shelling and aircraft, double normal distances to be maintained on the move.
7. Consistent with the terms of this order all details of relief will be arranged direct between Company Commanders concerned.
8. Machine Gun Companies ACKNOWLEDGE.

M. B. M.
 Capt.
 Adjt., 5th Aust. M. G. Bn.

DISTRIBUTION.

Issued at 1.30 p.m. to :

- Copy No.
- | | |
|----|---------------------|
| 1. | 8th M.G. Co. |
| 2. | 14th M.G. Co. |
| 3. | 15th M.G. Co. |
| 4. | 25th M.G. Co. |
| 5. | 5th Aust. Division. |

- Copies for information to :
- | | |
|-----|----------------------|
| 6 | 8th Aust. Inf. Bde. |
| 7. | 14th Aust. Inf. Bde. |
| 8. | 15th Aust. Inf. Bde. |
| 9. | 4th Aust. M.G. Bn. |
| 10. | W.D. ✓ |
| 11. | File. |

270

MOVE AND RELIEF TABLE ::: TO ACCOMPANY 5TH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION ORDER No.43.

Serial No.	Date.	Relieving Company	In Relief of.	From	To.	Remarks
1.	DAY 9th September.	13th Aust. M.G. Co.	15th M.G. Co.	SUPPORT.	M.G. Battalion Area.	-----
2.	NIGHT. 10/11th September.	13th Aust. M.G. Co.	8th Aust. M.G. Co.	LINE.	do.	-----
3.	DAY 9th September.	-----	14th Aust. M.G. Co.	RESERVE	do.	No relief - Withdraw.
4.	DAY 9th September.	-----	25th Aust. M.G. Co.	DIV. RESERVE.	do.	No relief - Withdraw.

APPENDIX

23

41

SECRET.

5TH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION.

APPENDIX **24**⁴²

Headquarters

9th September, 1918.

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS No. 8.

1. RAILHEAD.

Railhead will remain at HERRINGCOURT. Re-filling points will be notified later.

2. AMMUNITION.

Companies will complete to full echelons. Ammunition demands will be sent to Battalion Headquarters together with location where to be sent.

3. RESERVE RATION.

The 48 hours Ration, at present carried on the man, will NOT be handed over.

Upon relief these Rations will be withdrawn to C.C.M. Stores and checked, this of use to be notified of any deficiencies by noon 11th inst.

4. AREA STORES.

The extra water bottle issued for operations will be returned to the Battalion Quartermaster by the 11th inst. together with a statement showing numbers returned.

5. BATHS.

The location of baths to be established in the area, will be notified later.

6. LEAVE PERSONNEL. ETC.

Corps Staging Camp will open in PERONNE locality on 10-9-18. Personnel proceeding forward to Companies and proceeding on Leave etc. will spend the night at this camp.

M. R. P. [Signature]

Capt.
Adjt. 5th Aust. M. G. Bn.

DISTRIBUTION.

- | | |
|----------|-------------------------|
| Copy No. | |
| 1. | 5th M.G. Co. |
| 2. | 14th M. G. Co. |
| 3. | 15th M.G. Co. |
| 4. | 25th M.G. Co. |
| 5. | C.M. (for information). |
| 6. | W.D. ✓ |
| 7. | File. |

5TH AUSTRALIAN M.G. BATTALION.
N. 261.....
Date.....

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

For period of 24 hours ending 6 a.m. 11-9-18.

OPERATIONS.

The 8th M.G. Company was relieved in line positions by the 13th Aust. M.G. Company. The relief was satisfactorily completed by 9 p.m.

IDENTIFICATIONS.

N I L.

HOSTILE ARTILLERY.

Intermittent shelling of the forward areas and especially the villages during the day.

HOSTILE AIRCRAFT.

E.A. were active at 1.15 this morning (11-9-18.), and bombs were dropped in the back areas.

W. H. Feater Lieut.
For, Lieut.-Colonel.
C.O. 5th Aust. M. G. Bn.

PART II.INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.

Morale of Enemy Machine Gunners. - In the last few days, prisoners from M.G. Companies have often stated that when the English attacked, they did not fire their guns.

Yesterday a closer examination was made :-

In the 232nd Division, Infantrymen stated that the morale of the Machine Gunners was superior to their own, and it seems that the guns of the 445th I.R. weren on the whole well fought. On the other hand the 2nd. M.G. Co. of 447th I.R. only got one Gun into action. The Sgt. Major commanding the latter Company, who has fought since 1914 and wears the Iron Cross, was glad to be taken prisoner and said that the morale of ~~his~~ his men was low, though not so bad as that of the Infantry.

In the 14th Reserve Division, gunners of the 1st and 2nd M.G. Companies 16th R.I.R. surrendered without firing a shot. The 1st M.G. Company 159th I.R. were little better. The 3rd Company of the 53rd R.I.R. where the morale is fairly good, were prevented from getting their guns into action at RANCOURT by our extremely accurate artillery barrage.

5TH AUSTRALIAN M.G. BATTALION.
No. <i>5/265</i>

270

APPENDIX 26⁴⁴

MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form C. 2121.
(In pads of 100)

No. of Message **26**

Prefix.....	Code.....	m.	Words.	Charge.	This message is on a/c of:	Recd. at.....	m.
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.			Sent			Service.	Date.....
			At.....		By.....		From.....
			To.....			(Signature of "Franking Officer.")	By.....
			By.....				

TO **Mr. D.** Issued to all recipients of Admin. Instr. No. 5

Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
*M.G.A.981	10	---	

Reference administrative Instruction No. 5 dated 9th September, para. 3. **aaa** Only extra 24 hours rations issued for operations to be withdrawn to C.Q.M.S. Stores.

From **5th Aust. M.G. Battalion.**

Place

Time **7. P.M.**

The above may be forwarded as now corrected.

Censor. **[Signature]** Capt.

Signature of Addressee or person authorised to telegraph in his name.

* This line, except **AAA**, should be erased if not required.
Wt. W 3253/P511. 500,000 Pads. 1/18. B. & Co. Ltd. (E2389.)

Headquarters.
11-9-19

270

TRAINING.

1. During the period that the Battalion is in the Support area, the first few days will be devoted to re-organisation, re-equipping and resting, and the balance of the period will be occupied in training, commencing with elementary work, and later if time permits, of combined work in open warfare.
2. In the preparation of Training programmes, the afternoon should be devoted to organised games, inter-Company matches etc. No training will take place on Sundays.
3. A Class for the training of N.C.Os. will be arranged by Battalion Headquarters, to commence on a date to be notified later.
In addition to this, each Company will arrange a Class for Junior N.C.Os. (I/Cpls.) and men desirous of qualifying for promotion.
4. Company Syllabi of Training will be submitted to Battalion H.Q. for approval by 13th instant, and will commence from 16th instant.
5. This Syllabus will include programme of Training for prospective N.C.Os. mentioned in para. 3. The Training of Company Signallers will be arranged by Battalion Headquarters.

M. B. B. B.
Capt.
Adj. 5th Aust. M. G. Bn.

DISTRIBUTION.

5th M.G. Company.
14th M.G. Company.
15th M.G. Company.
25th M.G. Company.
W.D.
File.

5TH AUSTRALIAN M.G. BATTALION.	
N.	2791

SECRET.

APPENDIX NO. 28

Ref. Map "A" 1/20,000.

5th Aust. M.G. Bn. Headquarters.

15th September, 1918.

MACHINE GUN INSTRUCTION NO. 1.

(Issued in conjunction with Battle Instruction, Series "D" No. 8.)

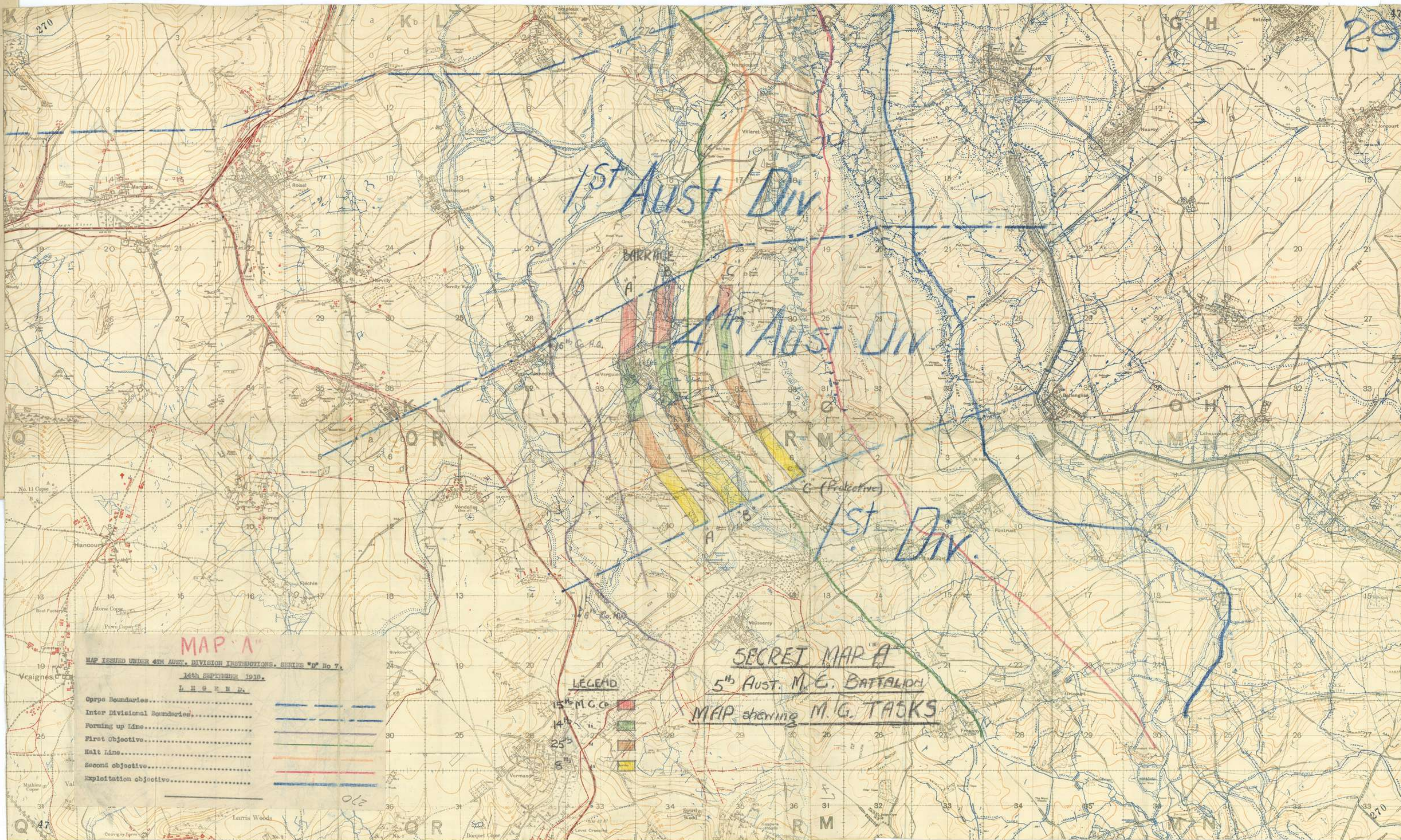
1. The Fourth Army in conjunction with the First French Army on the right, and the Third Army on the left is to attack the enemy's defensive position in front of the HINDENBURG LINE at zero hour on a date to be notified.
2. The Australian Corps is to attack in the Centre of the Fourth Army Front; the IX Corps is attacking on our right and the III Corps on our left.
3. (1) The Fourth Australian Division is to attack on the right and the First Australian Division on the left of the Australian Corps front.
(2) The Fifth Australian Machine Gun Battalion has been placed at the disposal of the 4th Australian Division and the 3rd Australian Machine Gun Battalion at the disposal of the 1st Australian Division.
4. (a) The 5th Aust. M.G. Battalion will provide the preliminary barrage for the first objective and the protective barrage to cover the consolidation of same.
(ii) 64 Guns will be employed for this barrage. Company frontages and tasks are shown on attached map "A" also objectives and Divisional boundaries.
(iii) Details as to rate of fire and lifts will be issued later.
(iiii) Battalion S.A.A. Dump will be formed at Q.12c. 6.7. where 500,000 rounds will be available from 5 p.m. 16th instant.
5. Battalion Forward Headquarters will be established at R. 8a. 6.5. from 5 p.m. 17th instant, where watches will be synchronised at 7.30 p.m. on the day prior to zero.
6. When the advance from the CROSS LINE commences the 5th Machine Gun Battalion will be in reserve to 4th Aust. Division.
7. Machine Gun Companies ACKNOWLEDGE.

W. Ben Capri
Lieut.-Col.
C.O. 5th Aust. M.G. Battalion.

DISTRIBUTION.

Issued at 7 p.m. to:-

- | | |
|-------------|----------------------------------|
| Copy No. 1. | 8th M.G. Co. |
| 2. | 14th M.G. Co. |
| 3. | 15th M.G. Co. |
| 4. | 25th M.G. Co. |
| 5. | 4th M.G. Batt. |
| 6. | 4th Aust. Div. |
| 7. | 5th Aust. Div. (For information) |
| 8. | C.M.G.O. |
| 9. | W.D. ✓ |
| 10. | File. |



MAP "A"

MAP ISSUED UNDER 4TH AUST. DIVISION INSTRUCTIONS. SERIES "D" No 7.

14th SEPTEMBER 1918.

I. H. G. B. D.

- Corps Boundaries.....
- Inter Divisional Boundaries.....
- Forming up Line.....
- First Objective.....
- Halt Line.....
- Second objective.....
- Exploitation objective.....

LEGEND

- 15th M.G. Co. [Red box]
- 14th " [Green box]
- 25th " [Orange box]
- 5th " [Yellow box]

SECRET MAP "A"

5th AUST. M.G. BATTALION

MAP showing M.G. TASKS

1st Aust Div

4th Aust Div

1st Div.

BARRAGE

C (Protective)

ole

29

270

270

29

APPENDIX 29

29

SECRET.

COPY NO. 30

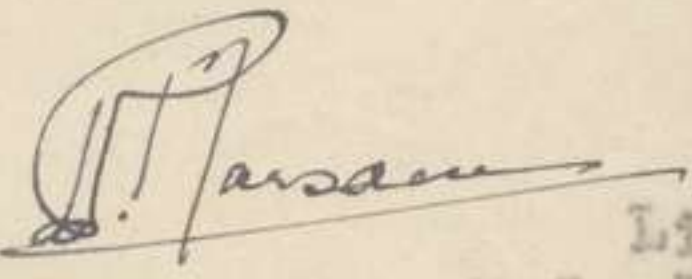
Ref. Map "A" 1/20,000.

5th Aust. M.G. Bn. Headquarters.

16th September, 1918.

MACHINE GUN INSTRUCTION NO. 2.

1. The Machine Guns of 5th Australian Machine Gun Battalion will open on Barrage "A" at Zero, and will lift to Barrage "B" at Zero plus 3 minutes, where they will remain until Zero plus 25 minutes.
At Zero, plus 25 minutes, Protective Barrage in front of BROWN LINE.
2. RATE OF FIRE. 100 Rounds per minute.
3. The Infantry will not advance from the BROWN LINE until Zero plus 3 hours 10 minutes.


Lieut.-Col.
C.O., 5th Aust. M.G. Battalion.

DISTRIBUTION.

As for Instruction No. 1.

1:20,000

NOTE CHANGE OF COLOUR.
Enemy Trenches in Blue.

VILLERET

PARTS OF 82° N.E. 82° S.E.
82° N.W. 82° S.W.

31⁴⁹



SECRET.

5th Aust M.G. Bn.

MAP showing DISPOSITION
of M.G. Co. H.Q.
and GROUPS.

for OPERATIONS 17/18th - 9-18

15th M.G. Co. H.Q.

GROUP 4

16 Guns

14th M.G. Co. H.Q.

GROUP 3

16 Guns

5th M.G. Co. H.Q.

GROUP 2

16 Guns

25th M.G. Co. H.Q.

A Battery
B
C
D
ea. 4 guns.

8th M.G. Co.

GROUP 1

16 Guns

8th M.G. Co. H.Q.

49

270

FIELD SURVEY BY R.S. (1941) 14-3-18

SCALE 1:20,000

31

31

01



ALPHEBEL

Scale 1:50,000
From Survey of Districts

1:50,000

Intelligence Report

32

For period of 36 hours from 6 p.m. 17-9-18
to 6 a.m. 19-9-18.

Operations

Relief. The 5th Aust. M. G. Bn relieved the 4th Aust. M. G. Bn in the 4th Divisional Area, simultaneously taking up battery positions.

Relief was completed by 8 p.m.

at 5.30 a.m. 18-9-18 a heavy machine gun barrage was placed on areas as shown on Secret Operation map "A".

ammunition expended 1444, 500 rounds.

Identifications

Red shoulder strap, with Grenade over 1 in yellow. L 33.

Hostile Artillery

Previous to attack active with H.V. guns on ridge R2C and 5.9's west of SOYECOURT and on junction of roads Q17a.

During the attack a lively barrage was placed on our forward positions along ridge in R9a + c, Road through R3a, Valley L33c and on JEANCOURT.

Hostile M. G's

Very active during the night 17/18th around JEANCOURT and generally on roads and tracks in forward areas.

Hostile Aircraft

Active during the afternoon of the 18th, patrols crossing our lines at 12 noon, 3 p.m. and 5 p.m.

E.A. destroyed one of our balloons west of VENDELLES at 3.30 pm.

During the night 18th/19th, bombing planes were very active on our back areas.

Wentwater sent
for C.O. 5th Aust. M. G. Bn.

APPENDIX

32/50

270

APPENDIX 33

51



"A" Form.
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form C. 2121.
(In pads of 100.)

No. of Message.....

Prefix.....	Code..... m	Words.	Charge.	This message is on a/c of:	Recd. at..... m.
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.				 Service.	Date.....
SECRET		Sent		(Signature of "Franking Officer.")	By.....
		At..... m.			
		To.....			
		By.....			

TO 8th Moscow.

ack

Sender's Number MG 1436.	Day of Month. 17	In reply to Number.	AAA
-----------------------------	---------------------	---------------------	-----

zero hour 5.20 am.
18th Sept. 1918

From 5th Aust	mg	Bw
Place 9.4 pm		
Time Wendebank St.		

270



APPENDIX

52
34

1 C. 2121.
(Scale of 100.)

Prefix.....

Office of Origin and Service I.....

SECRET

Sent

At.....m.

To.....

By.....

This message is on a/c of.....

Service.....

Recd. at.....m.

Date.....

From.....

By.....

(Signature of "Franking Officer.")

TO { 18th meals . alt

Sender's Number. 18th Day of Month. 19 In reply to Number. AAA

Zero Hour 15.20 30m.

18th meals

From 5th Aust meals

Place 7.10 pm.

Time W. H. H. H.

The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z)

270

53

APPENDIX 35



"A" Form.
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS

Prefix.....	Code.....	m	Words.	Charge.	This message	Recd. at.....	m.
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.			Sent			Service.	Date.....
SECRET			At.....		(Signature of "Franking Officer.")		From.....
			To.....			By.....	
			By.....				

TO { 15th M.S.C.

Sender's Number. * 703/108 Day of Month. 7 In reply to Number. A A A

2nd hour will be
5.20 a.m. 18th Sept 1918.

Acknowledge.

From 5th Aust M.S.C.
Place
Time 9.20 pm
The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z)

270



APPENDIX 36 54

"A" Form.
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form C. 2121.
(In pads of 100.)

No. of Message 36

Prefix.....	Code.....	m	Words.	Charge.	This message is on a/c of:	Recd. at.....	m.
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.				Sent		Service.	Date.....
				At.....		From.....	
				To.....		By.....	
				By.....	(Signature of "Franklin Officer.")		

SECRET

TO

25 ~~to~~ WACO.

Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
* 1041.427	17		

Zero hour 5.20 am
18th Sept. 1918.

Acknowledge.

From	5th Aust Division
Place	
Time	9.25 pm

The above may be forwarded as now corrected.

(Z)

unclassified list

270

55

APPENDIX 37



"A" FORM. MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form C. 212 (In part of 100.)

No. of Message 37

Prefix..... Code..... m	Words.	Charge.	This message is on a/c of:	Recd. at..... m.
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.	Sent			Date.....
	At..... m.		Service.	From.....
	To.....		(Signature of "Franking Officer.")	By.....
	By.....			

TO 8th MGC.

Sender's Number. * M9/433.	Day of Month. 18.	In reply to Number.	AAA
-------------------------------	----------------------	---------------------	-----

The Company will make itself comfortable for the night further movement depending on action of tonight will let you know as early as possible what & when it will occur.

From 5th Aust MGB.

Place 4.10 pm

Time

The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z)

W. H. Baker

270

56

APPENDIX 38



"A" FORM
MESSAGES AND SIG.

Army Form 38
(In pads of 100.)

No. of Message 38

Prefix..... Code..... m	Words.	Charge.	This message is on alc of:	Recd. at m.
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.	Sent			Date.....
	At..... m.		Service.	From.....
	To.....		(Signature of "Franking Officer.")	By.....
	By.....			

TO

8th MG Coy.

Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
------------------	---------------	---------------------	-----

MGT. 434 18

Owing to the whole of the
4th Bde moving forward
you may be called upon
to form a defensive flank
between the RED and
GREEN line.

From	5th Aust MG Bn
Place	
Time	

The date may be corrected as now corrected. (Z)

270

57

APPENDIX 39



"A" Form.
MESSAGES AND SIG

Prefix.....	Code.....	m	Words.	Charge.	This m.	alc of:	Recd.
Office of Origin and Service Instructions:				Sent	Service.		Date 39
				At.....			From.....
				To.....			By.....
				By.....	(Signature of "Franking Officer.")		

TO { 8th MG Co.

Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
* <u>1141/35</u>	<u>18</u>		

You will move one
 section to vicinity of
 R. 5 d and take up
 positions for close defense
 with SOS tasks in
 vicinity of M. 8. Central

From	<u>5 MG. Bn</u>
Place	<u>5 pm</u>
Time	

The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z) W. J. ...

270



40

"A" Form
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form C. 2121
(In pads of 100.)

No. of Message.....

Prefix.....Code.....m.	Words	Charge.	This message is on a/c of:	Recd. at.....m.
Office of Origin and Service Instructions	Sent			.....Service.
.....	At .....	.....	.....	Date.....
.....	To .....	.....	.....	From
.....	By .....	.....	(Signature of "Franking Officer")	By.....

TO { 8th Coy
14th Coy
15th Coy } 25th Co.

Sender's Number. Day of Month. In reply to Number. AAA
MGI. 448-11 19

You will move to
your Rear Headquarters at
once. p.s.
Acknowledge.

From 5th Australian
Place
Time 3:25pm
The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z) W. J. G. J.
Censor. Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name

* This line should be crossed if not used.

270



APPENDIX

59
41

"A" Form
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form C. 2121
(In pads of 100)

No. of Message.....

Prefix.....	Code.....m	Words	Charge.	This message is on a/c of:	Recd. at.....m.
Office of Origin and Service Instructions		Sent		 Service.	Date.....
.....		At.....m.		.....	From.....
.....		To.....		(Signature of "Franking Officer.")	By.....
.....		By.....			

TO { 5 M.G. Bn

Sender's Number. * C 29	Day of Month. 19	In reply to Number.	AAA
----------------------------	---------------------	---------------------	-----

warning order aaa all
your guns may now
be withdrawn and report
back to your 5th Division

From
Place A M G Bn
Time

The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z) [Signature]
Censor. Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.

* This line should be erased if not required.

270

60

APPENDIX 42



"A" Form
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form C. 2121
(In pads of 100.)

No. of Message 42

Prefix.....Code.....m.	Words	Charge.	This message is on a/c of:	Recd. at.....
Office of Origin and Service Instructions	Sent			Date.....
.....	At .....	.....m.	.....Service.	From
.....	To .....	.....	(Signature of "Franking Officer")	By.....
.....	By .....	.....	.....	.....

TO { 5 MG POW

Sender's Number. C 33	Day of Month. 19	In reply to Number.	AAA
--------------------------	---------------------	---------------------	-----

your guns will be withdrawn
and you will move to original
site in 5th POW area aaa
arrival will be reported to 5th
Anst Div aaa completion of
withdrawal to be notified

From
Place 4 MG POW
Time

The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z)
Censor. Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name
..... if not required.

270

5th Aust. Inf. Bn. **43**

Headquarters
19-4-18.

Headquarters.
4th Aust. Inf. Bn.

Evacuation complete

G. Soper.
19-4-18

W. S. Keane
for C.O. 5th Aust. Inf. Bn.

270

5TH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION.

44

Headquarters,
5th Australian Division.

REPORT ON OPERATIONS COMMENCING 18th SEPTEMBER, 1918.

PLAN.

The 5th Aust. Machine Gun Battalion was placed at the disposal of the 4th Aust. Division for purposes of the attack up to G.21 to G.33.

The Battalion was used mainly for barrage for the 1st Objective and then concentrated by Companies as Divisional Reserve.

The machine gun barrage was placed well ahead of the artillery barrage and stood still until safety of our troops necessitated lifting.

EVENTS.

Owing to the distance of the 1st Objective, all guns had to be sited in what was, till "Y" day, "No Man's Land". This rendered the task very difficult, but arrangements were complete and the barrage was fired to time table.

The artillery barrage drove the enemy back and into the machine gun barrage which inflicted considerable loss.

The barrage was stated by both our own Infantry and by prisoners to be very accurate and to have caused many casualties and much demoralisation to the enemy.

The Companies were then concentrated as arranged. At 5 p.m. 18th instant, owing to the unsatisfactory situation on the right flank, a defensive flank of machine guns was formed, one section of guns of this Battalion moving to R.11.b. as part thereof. This section was withdrawn, without becoming engaged, at 12 noon 19th instant.

DEDUCTIONS.

The "pinching" between the artillery and machine gun barrages was highly efficaceous.

20th September, 1918.

Wm. H. Wright
Major.
C.O., 5th Aust. M.G. Battalion.

Copy to 4th Aust. Division.

5TH AUSTRALIAN M.G. BATTALION.
14/10/18

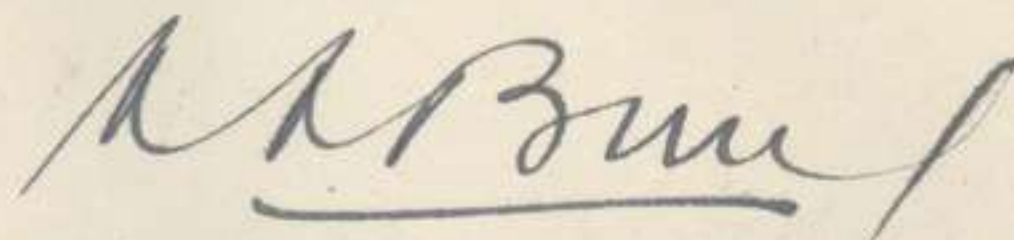
270

5TH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION.

458

Ref. Map.
Sheet 62C.
1/40,000.SECRET AND URGENT.Headquarters.
26-9-18.MACHINE GUN INSTRUCTIONS. SERIES "E" No.1.

1. A portion of the Divisional Dump Store, which is situated at Billet No. 34 in the main street of PERONNE, has been allotted to this Unit.
2. O's.C. Companies and Battalion Quartermaster will arrange that all surplus Stores, gear, kits etc., are dumped in this Store by 5 p.m. on the 27th instant.
3. No mechanical transport will be available to move Company stores to this Dump.
4. R.Q.M.S. Kaufman and two other ranks from Battalion Headquarters will remain in charge of this Dump, and stores may be sent any time after 9 a.m. on the 27th instant.
5. Other ranks should only be allowed to retain the following kit:-
 Fighting Order.
 1 Blanket per man.
 Greatcoats and Waterproof Sheets.



 Capt.
 Adjt., 5th Aust. M.G. Battalion
DISTRIBUTION.

Issued at 4 p.m.

- Copy No. 1. 5th M.G. Company.
 2. 14th M.G. Company.
 3. 15th M.G. Company.
 4. 25th M.G. Company.
 5. Battalion Quartermaster.
 6. Spare Copy.
 7. File.
 8. War Diary.

5TH AUSTRALIAN M.G. BATTALION.	
No.	14/111
Date	

MACHINE GUN INSTRUCTIONS, SERIES "E" No.2.

1. The Australian Corps with the II American Corps affiliated, are to attack the enemy's positions in the HINDENBURG Line in the sector NAUROX - GOUX on a date and hour to be notified.

2. Troops available.

(a) Divisions.

3rd Australian.
5th Australian.
27th American.
30th American.

(b) 23 Field Artillery and 10 Heavy Artillery Brigades.

(c) About 160 Mark V and Mark V Star Tanks, 25 Whippet Tanks, One Armoured Car Battalion.

(d) 13th Australian Light Horse Regiment.

(e) Several Special Companies R.E.

(f) 3rd Squadron, A.F.C. assisted by 5th Brigade, R.A.F.

3. Brigade Groups.

Following is allotment of Machine Gun Companies to Brigade Groups.

(a) 8th Aust. Inf. Brigade Group.
25th Aust. M.G. Company.
2 Sections, 8th Aust. M.G. Company.

(b) 15th Aust. Inf. Brigade Group.
15th Aust. M.G. Company.

(c) 14th Aust. Inf. Brigade Group.
Headquarters, 5th Aust. M.G. Battalion.
14th Aust. M.G. Company.
8th Aust. M.G. Company. (less 2 Sections).

4. General Plan.

There will be a preliminary bombardment by all available Artillery lasting for a considerable period. The object of this Preliminary bombardment will be:-

- (a) To complete the demoralisation of the enemy.
- (b) The destruction of the enemy's defences including wire, dugouts, etc.

The attack will be carried out on a frontage of 2 Divisions. The operations will be divided into 2 phases.

The Boundaries and objectives of Divisions are shown on the map issued herewith

(a) First Phase.

The 30th American Division on the Right, and the 27th American Division on the Left, will form up on a taped line, prior to the given Zero Hour and will attack with Tanks under a creeping Artillery Barrage. The Start Line is shown in BROWN on map issued and the objectives are shown in a continuous GREEN line.

270



46

Ref. Map.
WIANGCOURT.
1/20,000.

47 46

4. (b) Second Phase.

The 5th Australian Division on the Right and the 3rd Australian Division on the Left, each with its own Divisional Artillery and a proportion of Tanks, and organised in Brigade Groups, will pass through the 30th and 27th American Divisions respectively in open warfare formations at a time to be decided later. The objective is shown in RED on the map issued. In order to secure the flanks of this operation and to extend the base of the salient created by the advance, the reserve troops of the 30th and 27th American Divisions will extend their operations to the south and north respectively with the object of seizing the objectives shown in RED on map issued.

5. Light Signals.

The only Light Signals to be employed will be ~~the~~ -

- (1) The S.O.S. Signal which will be a No. 32 Rifle Grenade, bursting into three Red Lights.
 - (2) Success Signal which will be a No. 32 Rifle Grenade, bursting into three White Lights.
 - (3) Red Flares will be issued and will be lit for the purpose indicating our position when the aeroplane calls.
- All ranks must be made to understand that when the aeroplane calls Flares must be lit.

6. Maps and Photographs.

The following are being issued:-

- (i) WIANCOURT. Scale 1/20,000. (3 Copies).
- (ii) BEAVES. 1/40,000. Target Map. (1 Copy).
- (iii) RIGUEVAL. 1/20,000. (2 Copies)
- (iv) BELLICOURT.W. 1/10,000. (1 Copy).
- (v) ----- 1/20,000. (2 Copies)
- (vi) MOSAIC of Divisional Front.
- (vii) 24 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS.

7. Secrecy.

The necessity for secrecy in the forthcoming operations will be impressed on all ranks. All possible steps will be taken to prevent scope and date of the operation becoming known except to those taking part. Any Officer, N.C.O. or man found discussing the operation in public or giving details to any person, not immediately concerned, will be severely dealt with. No orders will be given or reference made to the operation on any telephone line forward of Divisional Headquarters of line divisions.

8. Company Commanders will report to the Headquarters of their various Brigade Groups as detailed in Para. 3, when they will receive further orders.

9. No movement east of General Line TINCOURT-BOUVINCOURT will take place before 7 p.m., 27th instant.

10. ACKNOWLEDGE.

M. R. Brumby

Adjt., 5th Aust. M.G. Battalion. Capt.

DISTRIBUTION.

Issued at 3.30 p.m.

- Copy No. 1. 5th M.G. Company.
- 2. 14th M.G. Company.
- 3. 15th M.G. Company.
- 4. 25th M.G. Company.
- 5. 5th Aust. Division.

Copies to, for information.

- Copy No. 6. 5th Aust. Inf. Brigade.
- 7. 14th Aust. Inf. Brigade.
- 8. 15th Aust. Inf. Brigade.
- 9. War Diary.
- 10. File.

270

66

APPENDIX 47



MESSAGES AND SIGNS

refix.....	Code.....m	Words	Charge	This message is on a/c of:	Recd. at.....m.
Office of Origin and Service Instructions		Sent			Service.	Date.....
47 47		At.....m.		From.....	
		To.....		By.....	
		By.....		(Signature of "Franking Officer.")	

TO { 5th A.M. Bde

Sender's Number. Day of Month. In reply to Number. AAA

25	M.G.	60	attached
to	Bombard	Group	and
2	Quarterm	8 M S Co	
to	Plank	Force	

From 5th A.M. Bde
 Place
 Time 9.15 am

The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z)
 Censor. Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.
 M.A. B. M. P. P. P.

* This line should be erased if not required.

270

APPENDIX

48

67



MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

NO. OF MESSAGE.....

Prefix.....	Code.....m	Words	Charge.	This message is on a/c of:	Recd. at.....m.
Office of Origin and Service Instructions		Sent			Service.	Date.....
48					48
		At.....m.			From.....
		To.....			By.....
		By.....		(Signature of "Franking Officer.")	

TO { 8 14 '17 P. B. }

Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
M. S. A. 92.	27	-	AAA

Bm	14.2.	8 m. P. B. less	
2	Distances	and	14"
M. P. B.	will	work	from
present	location	to	the
HERVILLY	area	to	right
aaa	Starting Point	will	
be	ROAD	running	through
0.22.	to	and	about
will	be	the	order
of	March	aaa	300
Lands	distance	will	be
observed	between	companies.	

From _____
 Place 3.22 pm 5 PM P. B.
 Time _____

The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z)

 Censor. Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.

MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

No. of Message.....

Prefix.....	Code.....m	Words	Charge.	This message is on a/c of:	Recd. at.....m.
Office of Origin and Service Instructions		Sent			Service.	Date.....
49					49
At.....m.					From.....
To.....					By.....
By.....				(Signature of "Franking Officer.")	

TO { 5th Aust. Div

Sender's Number. Day of Month. In reply to Number. AAA

M 8194 27 -
 On A.D. Closing
 Present location
 6.30 pm opening
 HERVILLY 10.30 pm
 to night

From
 Place
 Time 5.40 pm R.M. P. [Signature]

The above may be forwarded as how corrected. (X)
 Censor. [Signature] Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.
 [Signature] could be erased if not required.

270

APPENDIX

51 70

"A" FORM MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

No. of Message

Prefix..... Code.....m	Words. Charge.	This message is on a/c of:	Recd. at.....m.
Office of Origin and Service Instructions	Sent		Date.....
51.	At.....m.	Service.	From.....
To.....	To.....	(Signature of "Franking Officer.")	By.....
By.....			

TO { 5th Aust. Div. 51

Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
M. S. D. 104	28	54865	

Location	Report	ARRA	
Batt. H. Co.	14th Am. G. Co.	8th	
Am. G. Co.	less two	sections	
K. 24. C. 4. 3.	ARRA	15th Am. G. Co.	
K. 6. d. o. o.	ARRA	25th Am. G. Co.	
L. 19. A. 1. 9.	ARRA	Two sections	
8th Am. G. Co.	L. 19. a. 4. 9.		

From 5th Am. G. Co.
Place
Time 9 pm.

The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z) [Signature]

Censor. Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.
* This line should be erased if not required.

(4715) W.L. Wason/Pg. 1, 123, 325 Sh. 2/18 C. & Co. 1918

270

Company Commanders

Report on Operations through
Mendenberg Line.

270 Report on Operations from 29.9.18 to 2.10.18.

At 6.45 am on the morning of the 29th ult. 174 Sections under O.C. reported to C.O. 31st Bn in accordance with instructions received. At 7 am. the 31st Bn commenced to move towards the line, the M.G. Sections bringing up the rear.

The route was the "Black Rd" leading to Villers. up to this point each Section had the forward portion of its fighting numbers with them, but it was found impossible to get them any further forward, so the men had to carry from there on.

From Villers the troops proceeded towards Bellcourt. A smoke Barrage was put down whilst we were between these two places.

Owing to the wind blowing in our direction the smoke was blown back over the our own troops, which made it difficult to maintain direction. Apparently this smoke was the cause of the Americans getting hopelessly lost & confused. A great deal of M.G. fire from the Right Flank was experienced, but little or no shelling.

On reaching Bellcourt it was found that the town had not been cleared of the enemy & that the left end of the town was still in their hands. The sections had to halt in village from about 10 am to midday. During this period the enemy heavily shelled this area village, but fortunately no casualties were inflicted.

About noon the 31st Bn commenced to move forward in artillery formation, in the direction of Hamroy, on the right flank. The M.G. sections followed in similar formation by gun teams.

2.

On reaching a line of trenches in G 170 the Section halted, whilst the Infantry moved forward & established a line on a second class road running through G 18C, with two Companies in support in G 24A. In accordance with the C.O. of the 31st Bn it was decided to put two guns in the front line & two back with the Support Companies. The other four were placed in position in trenches in G 170 so as to cover Hamroy (which was then held by the enemy) & the valley running to it.

At ^{on the 30th} 4pm the Infantry moved forward to the timber road running from Etricourt to Hamroy. No guns were sent further forward. But the four guns in support in G 170 were taken forward to trenches in G 18C & a barrage placed on trenches in H 1C which lasted for 15 minutes. 3000² lbs expended.

The two guns with Support Companies were moved up to the second class road in G 18C, as were two of the guns from G 170, the remaining two being in position in G 170.

Thus there were 6 guns in G 18C & two in G 170.

The enemy had consistently shelled this area with 5.9" & 4.2" also gas shells. One gun was blown out during the night of the 30th.

Coy H.Q. was formed G 170 8.0.

At dawn on the 1st next the 31st Bn again attacked & with the 32nd Bn on their right, took pourcourt & Hill Ridge to Estrées

270 About 9 am the O.C. proceeded forward with the O.C. 31st Batt^y & other positions for guns to be placed. The four guns of No. 1 Sec to H 137 & the three of No 4 to H 138 & H 78. The sections moved forward about 1 pm, but owing to another operation, did not dig in. As the operation did not eventuate by 6 pm, orders were given for them to do so.

The 31st Batt^y notified me that they were being relieved by a Batt^y of the 5th Bde that night.

About midnight I was informed through the 8th Bde that I would be relieved by a Section of Guns from the 5th Amc Coy. Guns were sent out to meet them, but missed. At 5 am they were located & the relief arranged & completed by 6 am. Under Order from the 8th Bde we moved back to the area in H 260. Eventually moving back to Service that evening.

During the whole of this period the liaison was maintained by Runners & the O.C. with the 31st Batt^y.

Casualties sent Wandermia Rd.
 (Wounded Shell Fire)
 4. ops (Wounded Shell Fire)

4/10/15

A. K. Mackay Capt^y
 O.C. 8th Amc Coy.

14th Co

APPENDIX

52 75

Report on Operations

Date

29th Sept. ∴ The Coy, less Rear HQs moved forward with 14th Inf Bde & took up positions at G7.C.4.5 Sheet 62^b.

30th .. ∴ Under instructions from the 14th Inf Bde Nos 1 & 4 sections 14th Army Coy. under Lt Hansen & Watson respectively moved forward at 4 a.m. & reported to the C.O. of 53rd & 55th Battalions.

No. 2 & 3 sections remained at Coy. HQs at G7.C.4.5 (62^b)

The 4 guns of No 1 section were placed in position along the road running through A 28.c. (Battery Position approx. A 28.c. 3.8), in rear of infantry of 53rd Batt.

During the night 30th/1st this battery harassed the Low Ground & sunken road in A.16.d., 8000 rounds being expended.

The 4 guns of No 4 section took up positions in trench running through A 28.c. & A 28.d. for the purpose of covering the infantry of

The 53rd & 55th Batts.

1st Oct. ∴ No 1 Sect. advanced with 53rd Batt. at 6 a.m. & took up new positions. Two guns were placed in position at A 22.c.5.4 & two at A 22.d.3.6. The function of these guns was to assist the infantry by direct fire in stopping any counter-attacks which might develop from the battle.

No 4 sect. moved forward with 53rd & 55th Batt^{ns} & took up new positions at A 28 a.5.0. on high ground in rear of main infantry outpost line.

At 6 a.m. No 2 section with 4 guns under Lt Muir moved forward with 54th Battⁿ & took up positions in front of Estrees at approx. H 1.c.8.4

No 3 section at the same time with 4 guns under Lt Hill moved forward with 56th Battⁿ & took up positions at H 7a 7.7.

At 5.30. Coy. H 15 moved forward to a position at A 28.c.2.9 (62^b)

2nd ∴ On night of the 2nd, No 2 section moved with 54th Battⁿ to positions at right of Grand Court, commanding

South Valley & Folemprise Farm.

3rd Oct

On morning of the 3rd the 2nd Aust. Div. went forward through our positions & on the 3rd taking their objective. No 2 sect. withdrew to Coy. HQ's.

No 3 sections were relieved on night of the 3rd by the 5th Aust. m. l. Coy.

No 1 sections were relieved at 1 a.m. on the morning of the 3rd by the 50th English m. l. Batt. & on English troops taking over the line No 4 section withdrew & returned to Coy. HQ's.

No counter attacks developed while our sections were in line.

<u>Casualties</u> (During Operations)	<u>Killed</u> 0	<u>Wounded</u> 4	<u>Missing</u> 2
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Summary :- The greatest trouble was experienced during operations in keeping up communications.

Owing to the wet weather & the wretched state of roads & tracks, gun limbers could not be used & guns, rations etc. had to be taken forward on packs.

Communication with "Rear" particularly Batt. HQ's was a matter of great difficulty. It was some considerable time before the location of Batt. HQ's was supplied to this Coy. HQ's.

(Over)

78

14/4

APPENDIX

52

270

While boy HQ¹³ was established
at 97 C.H.S., visual signalling,
in conjunction with 8th boy
signallers, was kept up with
Forward Battr HQ¹³.

4-10-18

J. Antons Lieut
S.B. 14 Am. S. Co.

HINDENBURG. LINE, as a reserve

At 6 a.m. on morning of 1st October, the 15th Bde advanced again. Supported by overhead fire from Nos 1, 3 & 4 Sections, All objectives were gained and Sections moved forward to assist in consolidating. No 2 Section advanced after 58th Bn from LE CATELET line to gun pits in A.23.d. and A.29.b. No 3 Section took up positions on PUNKER road G.4.b. 2.4. No 4 Section in trenches in G.6.b., whilst reserve section (No 1) advanced with C&Q from G.3.b. to LE CATELET line in A.28.b. These dispositions were not altered until the Company was withdrawn from the line on the morning of 2nd Oct.

Casualties sustained during operation
1 O/R. Killed. 20 O/R wounded or missing. 2 Horses killed, 3 wounded. Three guns were blown out.

Deductions:

The very formidable defences, and, in places, very obstinate resistance encountered, made the battle very different from others in which this Unit has been engaged. The fog and smoke greatly hampered movement, during the earlier stages of the attack on 29th Sept. and was entirely responsible for the loss of direction sustained by No 3 Section.

Rationing by Battalions, was not so satisfactory as in the past, but this was due no doubt to the obscurity of the situation, and the tremendous difficulties encountered by the transport.

The use of pack-horses was on the whole satisfactory.

communication to the rear was very difficult because of the great distance which a runner had to travel. It is suggested that, where the objectives of an attack, are distant, and the use of bicycles for runners is impracticable, as in the operation just concluded, a forward report centre, at which a motor cyclist could collect reports, should be established.

George F. Fitzgerald, Captain,
0.6. 15th Aust. Machine Gun Company



15th Co.
Report. on Operations. (29th Sept — 2nd Oct. 1918).

General Plan. : The part to be played by MG's of this company was clearly and easily understood. Attached to 15th A. I. Bde, who were to pass through the Americans, on a 2 Battalion front — 59th Bn. on left and 57th Bn on right — with one Battalion (58th Bn) in support, sections were detailed to operate as follows. No 3 Section to support 59th Bn and No 4 Section to support 57th Bn; remaining 8 guns were to gain summit of hill in G. b. d. in time to give covering fire to 15th Bde. when advancing beyond ESTREES, and having accomplished this, were then to take up positions, in vicinity of 58th Bn. in BEAUREVOIR line, and become Brigade reserve.

Operations. : Nos 1 & 2 Sections, in order to reach position at G. b. b. and give covering fire, moved from camp at L. b. d. o. o. at 6.20. a.m. 29th ulto. and joined 57th Bn. on right flank of 15th Bde before reaching "start. line". Lieut. Stackworthy 'MC' in order to reconnoitre, moved with most advanced party of 57th Bn. leaving Lieut. C. Cameron, to move both sections to vicinity of G. b. b.

Everything progressed satisfactorily, until BELLICOURT. was reached, when further progress was stopped by enemy elements remaining in NAUROY. and LE CATELET. — NAUROY line. Infantry suffered heavy casualties in reaching BELLICOURT. and, though they attacked most gallantly, on several occasions, they were

15/2 APPENDIX 57

to adopt defensive positions, along the line of the canal tunnel. Nos 1 & 2 Sections, were then ordered to support. The 58th Bn. which had by that time been brought into the front fighting. Defensive positions were taken up on the Canal line and held for the night.

Nos. 3 & 4 Sections moved from "Start line" in rear of 59th and 58th Bns. respectively, and though direction was hard to maintain, owing to the heavy fog & smoke, the line of the Canal tunnel was reached. Thus far satisfactory liaison with Infantry, had obtained, with the exception of No 3 Section. Attached to 59th Bn. This Battalion operating on the left flank of the Brigade were prevented from gaining as much ground as the right flank, and No 3 Section, which had veered slightly to the right during the fog, had advanced beyond the line held by the 59th Bn. This however was remedied, during the night. 29th - 30th Sept. when the 59th Bn received orders to move to the right flank of the Brigade, resting about BELLICOURT.

About 7 am. 30th Sept. the 14th Bde, advanced through the 15th Bde, and attacked LE CATELET line in the vicinity of CABARET FARM. The attack, although only partially successful, gained a certain sector of the LE CATELET line, and No 2 Section advanced and occupied positions in that trench system (A.28.d. - A.29.c.). Previous to moving, enemy transport before wood in A22, was successfully engaged by guns of this Section. Nos 3 & 4 Sections, stood fast during 30th Sept. on Canal line, and No 1 Section was withdrawn to vicinity of CHQ at 9.3.6.4.7. in

The 25th M.G. Coy was attached to the
5th A.I. Bde for the attack on 29th Oct 1918.
One section ^{each} was attached to the
29th & 32nd Batt. respectively. ~~to~~ ^{to}
two sections & M.G.s with the
support battalion of the Bde the
30th Batt.

A section with the 29th Batt. moved
off at 7 a.m.

B. section with the 32nd at about
the same time.

R & B sections with M.G.s moved
in rear of 30th Batt. at 8 a.m.

All gun gear & ammunition
was carried on pack horses.

A heavy fog was on. but touch
was maintained.

An artificial fog was put over which
~~made~~ adding to the natural fog
which prevailed made the question
of keeping in touch extremely
difficult, nevertheless the two
sections with me (R & B) kept well
up to the support battalions.

By some means the 29th & 32nd Batt
did not get through to. Some
shelling was consistent from
Villeret to Bellicourt. we suffering
in casualties both to horses &
personal. No sign of intended
we passed Bellicourt on our way
our intention being to approach
Nancy on our right. All was
peaceful then. A the morning

who made the initial ² could
 be found. As soon as we got on
 the Right of Bellicourt. we came 05/2
 under direct observation from
 the enemy who apparently were
 holding Nauroy strongly. On
 the left edge of the village an
 anti tank gun was firing on the
 approaching tanks. I immediately
 ordered the horses to be unpacked
 & got under cover, & ordered the
 guns to get into action on the
 wood where this tank gun
 appeared to fire from, & also where
 m.g. fire was heavy. Apparently
 our fire was effective for soon
 after a party of men were seen
 running from the tank gun &
 enemy m.g. were silenced. Platters
 looked serious at this time as
 our left flank was in the air
 the 29th having failed to come up.
 To form a defensive flank in
 the event of a counter attack
 which appeared imminent. I
 detailed one section of m.g. to
 occupy the high ground on the
 right of Bellicourt so as to
 engage the enemy from both sides
 of Nauroy. The other section
 I placed in support of two
 companies of the 30th. Enemy
 shelling & m.g. fire was very heavy.
 During this time nevertheless, the
 guns got into action & silenced
 the enemy m.g. We suffered heavy
 casualties, one officer & gun team

59.26 52
270

being knocked out once & another gun put out of action.

The 30th Batt. pushed patrols out which enabled the 29th to come up. Meanwhile the section with the 32nd advanced (Naurou having been cleared by another tank), but they also suffered casualties going over. The sections with the 29th & 32nd advanced with the Batt. when they made a minor attack.

The Coy. The Bde was relieved on the night 1/2 Oct. & moved to a support area. The Coy accompanying them.

It would have been impossible to get into action without the use of pack horses as the distance was too great to carry the gear etc.

The Infantry Batt. CO have expressed their appreciation of the effective covering fire given by the sections for the Inf while advancing, also for the manner in which they engaged strong posts of the enemy.

J. J. Saunders Capt.
O.C. 25th A.M.G. Coy.

4/10/18.