

AWM4

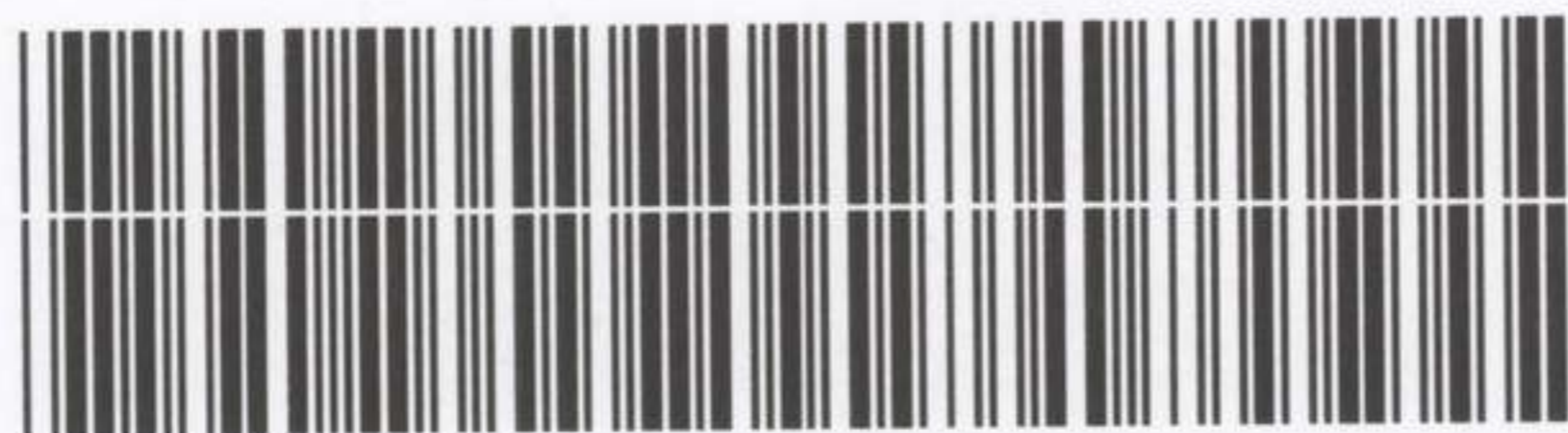
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War**

Machine Guns

Item number: 24/6/11

Title: 1st Australian Machine Gun Company

January 1917



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VOLUME VII

1st January 1917 Our M.C. co-operated with the artillery in the bombardment. C.O. 5th Aus. M.C. called and relief of one V.M.B. was arranged on account of the M.C. taking over some portion of the line from 5th Bn. Relief to be carried out on the 2nd at 1530. Weather very mild and overcast. 2U HEANE went up to Mapt BULFORD TRENCH everything was going well there.

2nd January 1917 We received orders to take over a sector from 5th Aus. M.C. Only one gun in the sector this was relieved without casualty by 1700 LT EWINGS took over and reported on position. Visited our gun at BULFORD TRENCH in the evening gave orders for some small banks of dirt to be cut away to give greater field of fire. Weather very mild and overcast.

3rd January 1917 Front line guns were relieved without casualty. Weather conditions favoured the operation. Went up to these guns early in the morning and came home via PASSION RESERVE. good progress was made on CHIPS positions in the past few days. L. M. HOLLAND visited Reserve line in the morning. During the time of duty in the line Tommy's Coochin beer proved a great comfort to the men enabling them to get frequent hot drinks when coming off duty. Received news that our late C.O. Major W.R. FRENCH had received the M.C.

4th January 1917 Went up in afternoon to preserve gun and mortar gun in EVE ALLEY position very near enemy for MG with out support Team from BULFORD TRENCH gun relieved EVE ALLEY gun by 1500. During the night 6 of our MG in conjunction with artillery fired on enemy working parties with good result

5th January 1917 Lt MAULHOLLAND went round gun and returned home about 900 indirect fire was carried out during the night and two enemy planes engaged by day. The following 2nd lieutenants took Lieutenants RL'S DUTTON, BAYER SYKES. Received relief orders

6 January 1917 C.O. 12 ANS MG by come up and all matters in connection with relief were arranged. 12th Coy are bringing in only nine guns at first. Detailed 2Lt EDWINS as advanced party to ADELAIDE CAMP and 2Lt HEANE with 1 OR to act as relieving party to RIBEMONT sent round relief orders to all officers

7 January 1917 12 Ans M.S. Coy relieved us relief complete by 19.45. One crew of the 12th Coy ~~was~~ lost 1 officer and 3 OR there were all hit in the legs by a stray shell. Company moved down to ADELAIDE CAMP for the night. Weather was good till about 2000 when it came on to rain.

8th January 1917 Moved out of ADELAIDE CAMP at 11.15 leaving Lt MAULHOLLAND to look after the transport, which owing to mud was very difficult to move

8th January 1917 continued. Coy marched to WILLOW SIDING, where after waiting some hours it entrained for MEAULT and thence marched to RIBEMONT. Men were very tired after the days work, having just come out of the trenches. Bunkets were for too cramped and damp, no straw was then available. Men were all in bunkets by 1700 and tea was cooked at once.

9th January 1917. Men all occupied all day cleaning bunkets and repacking lumber. LT DUTTON went on leave to ENGLAND. 10th January 1917. Company marched to HEILLY for a bath and change of clothing, which was much needed. Men were paid. LT MULHOLLAND with 3 OR preceded by several CAMIERS then leaving LT K. GILL to act as S.I.C.

11th January 1917. Very cold day, snow at times. This is the last of the 3 days rest. Kit inspection was held. Received orders regarding move to CONTAY on the 13-1-17. ~~At 10.00 AM~~

12th January 1917. Day was spent in usual parade and preparing for the move on the following day. 2 LT HEANE and 1 OR attended a lecture on Contact with aeroplanes. GSO II sent for VC regarding establishment of M.G. Companies. In the afternoon a team from 1st AUS M.G. Coy and 1st AUS LTMB played 3rd Hon Union football. 3rd Hon won 20 to NIL.

January 13th 1917. The Coy moved to VADENCOURT by march route where they arrived, and were settled in 9 billets at 1400. These billets were much better than those at RIBEMONT. L' BAYER returned from leave in ENGLAND.

January 14th 1917. Evening parade was cancelled owing to a fall of snow. Sergeants were entertained by the sergeants of a Transport Park. Syllabus of work for the evening was published and special programme of football for the afternoon.

January 15th 1917. Weather good and parade well conducted. In the afternoon football was organized and proved a great success. Keepers were warm and giving plenty of exercise. All sick horses are improving fast in the stables. L' GILL gave a lecture to officers on "Horses and Horsemanship".

January 16th 1917. L' EGSEWELL returned from the seconded bat and was posted to C Section. Attended a conference at D.H.Q. in the afternoon regarding formations in the attack. Heavy fall of snow at night-fall.

January 17th 1917. Heavy snow fell in the night. Took the company for a short march. In the afternoon the company played a football match. Made arrangements for ball firing on the following day.

January 18th 1917 Received orders for a practice operation against an enemy position using the new formation adopted by this Division. 2 pny co. operated on each flank from their positions they enveloped the ^{enemy} position.

January 19th 1917 Operation took place in the afternoon. Took officers co. operating over the ground in the morning and remainder watched the operation. Guns were in position by 1400 in good positions. Attended lecture on Courts Martial by Col FOOT at WARLOY. All men who could get back in the afternoon the remainder are to go tomorrow.

January 20th 1917 Operation attempted on the 19th was carried out. 4 MG again took part trying of dry emplacements and used white bandages round the gun to conceal it in the snow. However the gun was not unexpected ^{by the enemy} ~~by the men~~ the men were very keen in spite of the cold.

January 21st 1917 Coy attended church parade in the morning. In the afternoon there was a return match against the 15th A.S.C. which was lost also a morning match took place. These afternoons seem to have had a very cheering effect on the men. Orders for the move to BÉCOURT were received and arrangements started.

January 22nd 1917.

Limbers were repacked and cleared out prior to the move on the following day. All transport was inspected by Brigade Company attended gas parade at Base H.Q. under Base Co. Officer. Orders for move published.

January 23rd 1917. Coy fell in at 0900 with kits and billets were then cleared out. Coy moved off at 1005 and at 1020 reunited main head where L.T.M.B. and Base H.Q. joined the column and marched to BECPURT Camp. Day was bitterly cold, the coldest yet experienced. New camp was found clean and comfortable as could be expected owing to the cold. 3 horses evacuated.

January 24th 1917. Cold weather still continues. C.O. attended conference at Base H.Q. at 1130. Company cleared repacked and parked limbers in the morning. The afternoon was spent in gas drill and overhauling belts etc. One horse died thus leaving strength 44.

January 25th 1917. Visited H.Q. 150th M.G. Coy and arranged relief to take place tomorrow. In the afternoon Lt GILL and 2 drivers visited Q.M. store and new transport lines also saw routes to HIGH WOOD EAST CAMP. Explained relief to all officers and H.Q. C.S.M. The limbers were scraped and oiled this made a great difference in their appearance.

January 26th 1917 Coy marched out of camp at 0900 but had to wait for 30th Bn to get clear. Arrived at HIGHWOOD EAST CAMP at 1100 where men had lunch leaving at 15.15 to relieve 150th MG Coy. Relief complete at 18.20. Men working on H & Q dugout nearly completed.

January 27th 1917 Received reports from all officers on gun positions. Visited right group of guns in the afternoon, found men in very good dugouts, though uncovered approaches. 9 OR arrived from base. LIPUTTON returned from leave to ENGLAND. Work was started by all sections, improving dugouts etc.

January 28th 1917 Visited left group of guns, found everything going well also saw S.C.O. left Bn regarding MGs sent distribution to base. Enemy shelled about Coy H & Q all day with 7.7 cm shells, so orders were issued that no one was to move by daylight.

January 29th 1917. Went round all guns with Brigade Major all work was progressing favourably. Saw Lt. Manning Coy regarding a new Coy H & Q and also a dugout for gun crews. Weather still clear and bright with very cold wind.

January 30th 1917 Went round some old German trenches looking for dugouts for gun crew, found one suitable but could not find a suitable one for Coy H & Q. Two Corp Staff Officers visited Coy H & Q in the afternoon.

January 31st 1917 B. Brigade or B. Brigade
 reported by HQ. Made out information regarding
 indirect fire and also renamed all MG
 positions. Moved one gun to position near
 dugout found yesterday. Full of snow during
 the previous night, but day much warmer.
 An very clear and observation good all day.

1/2/17

J. M. Richards Capt
 C. P. [unclear]