

**AWM4**

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

Machine Guns

**Item number:** 24/6/14

**Title:** 1st Australian Machine Gun Company

April 1917



AWM4-24/6/14

# 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.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
RIBEMONT	1/4/17		Church parade as usual at 1000. All C.O.s reported to Bn HQ at 1130 and discussed matters with the G.O.C. The Corps Commander visited Bn HQ while the parade was taking place. C.O. gave instructions to all officers regarding the parade tomorrow.	
	2/4/17		The Company moved off at 0900 to the Review and was dismissed at 1040. The Brigadier inspected the men's dress. Orders were received for the move to MONTAUBAN on the 3d inst. Made all necessary arrangements. One blanket per man was handed in tomorrow.	
MONTAUBAN	3/4/17		Moved to MONTAUBAN. Left RIBEMONT and arrived at 1530 after 5 hours march. When the company was billeted in huts. Received orders to move to HAPLIN COURT on the 4th inst.	
HAPLIN COURT	4/4/17		Transport left under L. GILL at 0700 and proceeded via BAPADME. The company left at 0905 and took immediate HAPLIN COURT at 1630. The houses were all destroyed but 20 trench shelters were issued and all men had good cover for the night. Very heavy snow in the morning but cleared up towards evening.	
"	5/4/17		C.O. visited Bn HQ and received orders for 2 guns to be placed at the disposal of each of the 1st and 3rd Bns. Found that there were 6 guns to be released. Arrangements were made accordingly and A Section under 20 GRIBBLE reported to 1st Bn and 2 guns of B Section under L. HEATHIE to 3rd Bn. Relief complete by 0200. Received word that L. BAYER had been appointed to the temporary command of the AA School which he was attending for instruction.	
	6/4/17		Casualties during the relief: 1 OR killed, 2 OR wounded. Improvement to the camp was made by all staff men. Received orders at 1430 regarding the attack on HERMIES. Saw CO 20th Bn who were to attack and made out scheme of attack for M.G.s. Went up to reconnoitre the point and sent all officers and some NCOs up also. Explained scheme to all subsection commanders and arranged to meet post lock in the morning.	

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HARLIN COURT	7/4/17		Received order for CO to report to Bn HQ at 0600. Sent CSM and later all officers and some NCOs to reconnoitre front. Received formal instruction from Bn. Drew 100000 rounds of SAA and took it forward to VELU WOOD. Later received orders that the operation had been postponed 24 hours.	
"	8/4/17		CO marked ground area with officers. Two forward dumps of SAA and Sandbags were made, 40000 rounds of SAA in each dump. All MGs moving ready to take up positions in the attack.	
	9/4/17		2Lt D.W.B. GRIBBLE was wounded. CO. reported to Bn HQ at 0300 and remained till 1130. Also was at Bn HQ from 1400 to 1730 and then to 2300. 2 sections of 21st AUS MG Co were attached to Bn for the operation and three remained in reserve. 11 MG of 1st AMG Co were pushed forward with ammunition trucks with one firing covering fire. Casualties were few considering the number of guns present 5 OR wounded. LISH DUTTON reported back from MG Section. CAMIERS was sent to take charge of A Section who was without an officer.	
VELU WOOD	10/4/17		CO. reported to Bn HQ at 0330 in case he should be required in event of an enemy counter attack. Dumps were all pushed forward near new positions. Coy HQ and transport moved up to VELU WOOD. MG which had been at AA school was returned also. 3 OR reported back.	
"	11/4/17		CO. went round line from flank to flank and arranged to have 8 MGs forward and with down 8 to where they could be reloaded also. He found no more they were wanted. The transport completed move up to VELU WOOD as a final good standing up for the horses not found.	

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VELUWOOD	7/4/17		Day was spent building quarters for men and making force lines. 7 guns were withdrawn from forward system & arranged yesterday. The making of a reserve of which 4 accounts for AA work by day. No enemy plane has yet come within range. Heavy snow storm and a very cold night.	
	13/4/17		Received orders that the catpots should move forward but M6 would remain in present positions. SMG took up position again. concerning fire should they be required. They were not required. Arrangements were made to carry out indirect fire tomorrow morning.	
	14/4/17		Weather better. 2 enemy planes were engaged and turned by our AA guns. More SAA was carried forward to dump on guns.	
	15/4/17		Enemy attacked at about 0345 and all reserve guns except 4 were at once put into action. The other 4 were ready and aimed to order and also prepared to fire long range fire if necessary. CO reported to HQ at 0730 and remained till 1400 reporting again in the afternoon and at 2000 and remained all night. Our gun on the left did good work one gun accounting for about 60 of the enemy and also hindered them in their progress.	
	16/4/17		Visited 4 <sup>th</sup> Bn HQ and also left parties of M6 officers and explained situation arranged to receive some guns but all except 2 had to remain on account of the possibility of another attack. Had some difficulty in obtaining proper escorts for guns but eventually the matter was settled. Very dark wet night.	
	17/4/17		CO visited 1 <sup>st</sup> Bn HQ where met the GOC and went on with him to 2 <sup>nd</sup> Bn HQ and made arrangements to leave 11 guns in the line and bring 5 out in reserve. Corralled 2 <sup>nd</sup> Bn HQ on the morning. Indirect fire was carried out on enemy wads etc.	

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PELVUWOOD	18/4/17		CO. visits left sector officer and explains situation on night cooperation with Br Commanders. Induced by Br. Arrange for more indirect fire the covered out Visited 21 <sup>st</sup> AMG Co and get the distribution of their MGs in Corp defence line. Sent sketch showing operations and use of fire of 14 AMG Co to Br.	
"	19/4/17		CO. visited MG Company on the night and get distribution of their MGs which were bonded on to Br. Also visited left sector gun and saw officer there.	
"	20/4/17		Heath line CO visited right gun and saw new position. Also visited Br. HQ. Received orders regarding the discharge of gas on front covered all concerned.	
"	21/4/17		Visited left Br. Commanders and received instructions on how to be repaired in the sector. Saw MG officer in charge there and explained to him. Received verbal instructions that gas attack had been postponed. Lt. BAYER reported back from AA school.	
"	22/4/17		Received orders to meet CO of planning Company at Br. HQ. which was done. CO took him round the sector and made all arrangements for relief. Enemy aeroplanes were very active but did not come within range of our MGs. CO visited Centre gun and explained relief arrangements to Defence commander. Received relief order also was notified that gas attack was again postponed.	

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VELUWOOD	23/4/17		Sent round relief orders. C.O. 33 <sup>rd</sup> M.G. called to arrange relief of 4 left gun near BOURSES. He decided to replace 3 of them 4 and the relief was to be carried out today instead of tomorrow. 32 <sup>nd</sup> M.G. relieved the remainder of guns & arranged relief complete by 11.30 P.M. 4 men came back and spent the night in the vicinity of VELUWOOD. Only one of the 3 crew of 31 <sup>st</sup> turned up so relief of the two guns had to be postponed till tomorrow.	
VELUWOOD	24/4/17		All the company except C.O. and 2 crew not relieved moved to billets in BEAULENCOURT and had good accommodation there. Sent a message to C.O. 33 <sup>rd</sup> M.G. and arranged to have the two remaining guns relieved that night. Relief complete by 12.30 A.M.	
BEAULENCOURT	25/4/17		C.O. and remaining men left VELUWOOD at 9.30 A.M. and proceeded to BEAULENCOURT arriving there at 12.30. Received orders to reconnoitre position now occupied by 5 <sup>th</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> A.M.G. Cos near VANLY and LAGNICOURT. Received orders late at night that a relieved relief would take place on the 26 <sup>th</sup> inst.	
	26/4/17		The company moved off at 12.00 to be met by guides at arranged points and to arrange relief of four guns 12 of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> A.M.G. Co. and 12 of the 6 <sup>th</sup> A.M.G. Co. of the gun 8 men in the BEAUMETZ-VANLY line and 16 in the BEUGNY-YTRES line. Relief complete by 16.15.	

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BEAULENCOURT	27/4/17		The company was relieved again by the 5th & 6th AMGLs and sections moved back independently to BEAULENCOURT. The last section arrived at 14.30. Timber was all upked and packed and the company was ready to move at short notice. 6 OR reinforcements arrived from Rose. Forwarded 2 names for M.G. Cadets: LPT KENT and PH LESLIE.	
	28/4/17		AAW & AMGL 1st AUS Div inspected 1st line transport <del>area</del> . Received orders to return strength Am M.G. by noon on the 29th.	
Camp near BEAUGNATRE	29/4/17		Company moved out at 08.30 to return to 5th & 6th AMGLs and sections in the BEAUMETZ - VAULX and BENGNY - TYRES line. Relief complete by 12.00 without incident. CO reported to 1st Div to give account of M.G.s in action on 18/4/17 in front of HERMIES - DEMIECOURT. 3 men awarded M.M.: CPL LYALL J., LPT MORRISON C.S. and PH GOODMAN J.	
"	30/4/17		Strength of Company 1-4-17 10 Officers 183 OR " " 30-4-17 9 " 186 "	
			Casualties Killed } 1-4-17 — 2 " " " " " " " " " Wounded } 30-4-17 incl 1 " 10 " Sick } — " — 3 "	
			Reinforcement received during the month — 18	
			Received orders from G.O.C. 7th Aus Inf Bn to supply a sketch showing proposed positions for M.G.s in the BEAUMETZ - VAULX line.	

J. M. Richardson Capt  
Capt. 1st Aus M.G.