

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

Machine Guns

**Item number:** 24/6/20

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

October 1917



AWM4-24/6/20

*Original*

WAR DIARY

or

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

(Erase heading not required.)

1st AUSTRALIAN  
MACHINE GUN  
COMPANY.  
No.....  
Date.....

Army Form C. 2118.

1st Aus. M.G. Coy

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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.

*Refer to Map Sheet 28*

Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

CHATEAU  
SEGARD  
AREA  
Sheet 28  
H24C14

1/10/17

A and B Sections under Lt SH DUTTON relieved 8 MGs of the 24<sup>th</sup> Aus M.G.C. in the WESTHOEK SECTOR which was held by a composite Bde consisting of 3<sup>rd</sup> Bde HQ, 8 MGs, 1<sup>st</sup> Aus M.G.C. & MGs 2<sup>nd</sup> Aus M.G.C. 2 Bns 3<sup>rd</sup> Bde and 1 Bn from each of the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Bns. These 8 MGs were purely defensive guns. Lt DUTTON'S HQ & antiaircraft at J.S.A. 18. Received orders that 2 Sections will attack with the Bde at a time & on a date to be notified later.

2/10/17

C.O. reached Lt DUTTON and took 3<sup>rd</sup> Bde to reconnoitre new sector. Remainder of day spent in preparing C and D Section for attack. Sufficient workmen arrived to complete these sections. Casualties 2 killed & 1 wounded. Allied extra carrying party of 16 men

Co HQ  
J.S.A. 18.

3/10/17

Received final attack orders and Zero time is 0600 4-10-17. C and D Section moved off at 1630 to relieve A and B Sections relief complete by 0100. Route to assembly trench reconnoitred by Officer W.N.C.O. Section all in position by 0530

4/10/17

1100 received word that Lt CATER O.C. C Section was wounded badly also that casualties were fairly heavy and infantry was temporarily held up just in advance of Red line. But extra carrying party from Bde of 100 R. to carry up ration & on other parties were worn out having taken part in the attack. Casualties up to date 1 Officer 12 OR

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Coy HQ JSAIS.	5/10/17	6/10/17	<p>C. S. M. KENNEDY was wounded early in the morning while seeing to ration. Morning very quiet. C.O. visited gun and all Coy HQ. Enemy <del>some</del> <sup>airmen</sup> flying low all over our lines, our airmen declined to fight though they were about in large numbers. Our men very disappointed at poor shooting of our airmen and very apparent superiority of the enemy. Total casualties since Zero 1 Officer 30 O.R. These figures include carrying parties but are not yet complete. A or B Section moved up to relieve C or D Section. Enemy counter attack but did not pose danger. Relief of C or D Section by A or B Section passed off well though owing to darkness reliving sections took a long time to get up to positions. <del>Relief</del> Relief complete by 0400. Fine and steady wind all day. Enemy airmen again had the sky to themselves over our forward positions firing down on troops. Received orders from 3rd Bn to arrange with 12th Bn regarding the placing of captured German M.G. L-REX is to do this. Casualties since Zero 1 Officer 34 O.R. This includes carrying parties. L-DUTTON visited gun.</p>	

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will be prepared in manuscript.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Coy HQ J.S.A.I.S.	7/10/17		<p>Received orders to be ready to support a forthcoming attack by being in fire to bear on targets in E. 19 A and B. Reported suggestion to D.M.G.O and am awaiting orders meantime S.A.A. etc is being carried forward from 0900 to 1100. Enemy aeroplanes flew low in one case only, 300 feet from the ground. A large number of our machines were in the air but there was no fighting. Shortly after 1100 Enemy stilled us down with heavy H.E. and did considerable damage to road, pack trains etc. Munitions were taken into use and clocks were put back one hour. At 1600 enemy again stilled road in rear heavily. Weather very cold and wet toward evening. S.O.S. at once all along the front at 1800 but there was no attack on our front. Lt R.E.X. was killed by shellfire.</p>	
	8/10/17		<p>Morning fine and quiet. Enemy aeroplanes were again active and were stilled us down consistently all day. Received orders for the attack tomorrow and the 3rd Bn is to start enemy positions in the vicinity of CELTIC WOOD Our M.G.s are to cooperate by sweeping fire on both flanks and also by long range indirect fire. Lt DUTTON proceeded up to take charge of A Section Enemy placed a heavy barrage in rear of our positions and delayed</p>	

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No. ....  
Date .....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Coy HQ J.S.A.I.S.	8/10/17 Conto		<p>parts carrying SAA. Night very dark and wet and cold. Issued orders to section commander zero time into 0520 9/10/17. Capt HOLMES CO. 8<sup>th</sup> ANZ M.G.C. come to make arrangements re relief. In spite of weather conditions SAA was carried off and gun got into position before 0500 9-10-17. Casualties were zero Nil. Some captured by the attack found about 18000 rounds of S.A.A. Every aeroplane was flying low over our line till about 1100 when our planes came along and though there was no fighting the enemy planes disappeared. Received word that red line had been taken all along the line. Heavy shelling on the sector on our right at 1700. S.O.S. went up on our part at 1750 but no attack developed. Received relief orders and issued some instructions.</p>	
	9/10/17		<p>Morning very quiet. Relieving teams of 8 ANZ arrived at 1550 and left for position at 1630. Practice bombardment started at 1700. Much aerial activity all day. Wet and cold in the morning, clear and sunny toward evening. Relief complete by 2100 and the 1<sup>st</sup> ANZ M.G.C. moved down to their old camp in CHATEAU SEGARD AREA. Casualties Nil.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CHATEAU SEGARD AREA	11/10/17		Day was spent in cleaning all gun gear and repacking lubricants also in making preparations to move. Received orders at 2100 that the Company would move by bus to the WIPPENHOEK area at 0700 tomorrow	
Wippenhoek	12/10/17		Company embarked at 0700 and the train left <del>at 1000</del> followed at 1000. On arrival at WIPPENHOEK found that there was no camp but some tents had arrived and there were to be pitched and used by us as the camp we were supposed to have was occupied by some 5 <sup>th</sup> Div A.A.S.C. Tents were pitched and a day was very cold and wet camp was by no means good. The transport lines were all mud	
	13/10/17		A.S.C. moved so we returned to occupy their camp however on looking about found that there were good billets to be had, got permission to occupy them and moved in. The transport took over A.S.C. camp and had fair horse lines which had some cover. Bullets for the men are good. Day very cold and wet. Received word that 4 military medals had been awarded to members of this unit. Afternoon was spent in making billets as comfortable as possible	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Whippenhook Area	14/10/17		Weather fine, shortage but more out and section reorganised. Enemy aeroplanes flew over on sea at night.	
	15/10/17		Company went to HOPOUTRE bath in the morning. Day fine section changed all your gear and some shortages were made up. Enemy more now, except messengers, for a week. Enemy aeroplanes were over on sea and dropped bombs but none were on billets. Time 1900 to 2300.	
	16/10/17		Parades were carried out as usual. Football match against the 1 <sup>st</sup> An Bn in the afternoon. 1 <sup>st</sup> Bn won 5-3. Evening cloudy and rainy.	
	17/10/17		Parades were carried out as usual and work of refitting continued. Our "Soccer" team played 1 <sup>st</sup> Bn and were beaten 4 goals to 2.	
	18/10/17		The 1 <sup>st</sup> An Bn was inspected with the 5 <sup>th</sup> AUS by 18 <sup>th</sup> Lt of the Divisional Command at 11:15. Remainder of the day parades were carried out as usual.	
	19/10/17		Training carried out as usual.	
	20/10/17		Training carried out. At about 1100 an enemy aeroplane flew low over our camp (about 500 ft) he was engaged and turned by one of our MGs. Played 2 <sup>nd</sup> Bn football draw 6 all.	
	21/10/17		Training carried out as usual. Soccer team beat 1 <sup>st</sup> Bn 2-11.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Wippenhoek Area	22/10/17		Training carried out as usual. Weather becoming much colder 6 OR reports from base	
Area	23/10/17		Training carried out as usual 38 Reinforcements from base. As a whole they were not up to usual standard. Rugby team were beaten by P/Bn 10-6 and the Soccer team won 5-1	
Camp near CHATEAU BELGE	24/10/17		Training carried out as usual. afternoon was spent in preparing for the move tomorrow	
Camp near CHATEAU BELGE	25/10/17		Company left billets at 0845 and marched to embussary point about 1 mile S of POPERINGHE and thence marched by bus to near CAFE BELGE where they departed and marched to camp near CHATEAU BELGE going into tents there. The transport occupied the same line as when previously having proceeded by road from the WIPPENHOEK AREA. Accommodation was very limited, there being none at all for the transport and the weather wet and cold and ground very muddy.	
Camp near CHATEAU BELGE	26/10/17		Day was spent in improving camp further Cook houses etc. Enemy dropped bombs in area but none near our camp.	



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Camp near CHATEAU BELGE	27/10/17		Day was spent in parade and making further improvement to the camp. 2 A.A. guns were mounted and fired at E.A. during the night. Bomb was dropped not far away at about 18.30 causing some casualties but not in the unit.	
	28/10/17		Day spent on improving camp and front line. Enemy bombed our position recently at night but caused no casualties in the unit. Received orders that the 1st Aus M.G.C. would relieve the 2nd Aus M.G.C. in the forward defensive positions on the night of 1/2 <sup>nd</sup> November.	
	29/10/17		Day very windy cold and wet later. F.G.C.M. in the case of No 734 Pte FERGUSON W.S. promulgated on company parade at 1400. He was awarded 90 days F.P. No 2 for "When on active service absent by himself without leave".	
	30/10/17		C.O. visited H.Q. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Aus M.G.C. and arranged particulars of relief to take place on the night of 1 <sup>st</sup> /2 <sup>nd</sup> Nov. also saw D.M.G.C. to try and get 2 more boxes to convey the relieving teams to them by H.Q. There are only 8 M.G.s to be placed in the line all forward direct fire positions.	
	31/10/17			

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information			Remarks and references to Appendices
Camp near CHATEAU BELGE	31/10/17		Strength of unit 1-10-17	8 officers	156 O.R.	Decorations received
			" " 31-10-17	9 "	195 "	Bar to D.C.M.
						N° 75 C.S.M. KENNEDY T.
			Casualties etc during month of October 1917			Military Medal
			Killed in action 1 officer 4 O.R.			942 Sgt HAMONET E.C.
			Wounded 1 " 26 "			506 Sgt SAY L.
			Missing — —			354 A/Sgt MacMILLAN W.H.
			Hospital Sick 1 9 "			1309 Licp Drim BURKE J.S.
			Transfers — 1 "			3143 Licp TELFORD
			Joined during the month of October 1917			250 " NORRIS F.
			Returns from Hospital { France 10 O.R.			333 Pte MAWSON
			{ England 17 O.R.			" JONES R.
			Reinforcements 54 O.R.			
			Capt HUDD 2nd AMGC trans as S.I.C. to 1st AMGC			

*JMR Richards Capt  
Capt. W. M. C.*

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2 direct commissions printed

Technical lessons learnt.

I beg to suggest that Commanding Officers of Units in France should be given the opportunity where possible, of expressing their opinions of N.C.O. and men recommended for commissions while in England. Under ordinary circumstances this N.C.O. or man will usually return to his original Unit where commissioned, and the C.O. of this Unit knows what this N.C.O. or man is capable of in the line in France, whereas at the Base in England they only see him on the Parade ground.

Tactical lessons learnt.

I consider that Machine Guns are not taking A.A. work up seriously enough, and I would suggest that when a sector is taken over, at least four Machine Guns should be placed in pairs at positions from 1000 to 2000 yards behind the line.

These guns, if provided with tracer ammunition, and suitable armour-piercing ammunition, both on a scale of 1 in 5, would prevent every aeroplane from flying low over our line, as they did near WESTHOEK in the early part of this month. Almost daily, planes of the D.F.W. AVIATIK type flew low over our lines some 3000 to 4000 yards back, directing fire on Artillery, and on roads. There appears mostly to be answered in order to do this, I would suggest also that more time be spent in A.A. training.

J. Roberts Lt.  
C.O. No. 1 M.G.

## Monthly return of losses least

Strength - If Machine Gun Companies are to carry out the work as at present, it will be impossible to do so efficiently, with the present supply of men. At best, when 50% are left behind there are 5 men per gun for fuel, camouflage, S.A.F. and fill belts, which is insufficient. This allows for no casualties. If Machine Gun Company is allowed 4 Signallers. Even in case when 8 gun batteries are used, it is necessary to have a phone or signal station at each Battery, and one at Company Headquarters. This leaves one man for each of two stations and 2 at the other. These figures show a M.G. Company at its best and does not allow for extra men, who must be used such as Pyromans etc. Should a Company be undisciplined or have many casualties, its guns cannot be used with men available. I consider that 9 Signallers and a Corporal are the least that should be allowed, also an addition of at least 12 Machine Gunners per company are necessary.

In open country, if Gun Batteries, whether in depth, and as far apart as ground permits, would be just as effective and would entail less casualties than eight gun batteries in one line. Machine guns are too easily picked up in long lines, even when camouflaged.

(21)

Communications are different to ordinary wires over the top are useless in most cases. Bundled cables are a necessity, as the Battery Commanders must have some sort of dug out in which they can hear the phone, as they cannot do so in an open trench.

To do this men are necessary, and the number required will depend on time allowed for preparation.

In order to be able to keep communications lamps may be necessary. At present scale of issue to No. 9 Company, Colne (1). It is evident that communications to two or more Batteries and Head Quarters cannot be kept up with one lamp.

On the evening before the attack on the morning of the 20<sup>th</sup> there were instances of Tanks running over small dumps of gun gear etc left behind to be reclaimed for later. This gear was all destroyed but this could have been avoided had the probable route to be taken by the tanks been known.

23/9/17

Richard Cuff  
Capt. Am. B.S.C.

SECRET.First Australian Machine Gun Coy.Machine Gun Head Q.2nd October 1917.Instructions No 2.

The First Australian Infantry Brigade will attack at a time and on a date to be notified later. 20th Infantry Bde is on the Right and 2nd Aus Inf Bde on the left.

Objectives and Divisional + Brigade Boundaries are shown in map already issued. <sup>inter</sup> Battalion boundary is as follows: - a line from J4 C 00.95. to J5 B 45.85.

Objectives have been allotted as follows: -

First Objective 3rd Aust Inf Bn

Second Objective 4th and 1st Aust Inf Bns

with 4th Bn on the RIGHT.

"D" Section divided into 2 sub sections will operate on the 4th Bn front - 1 sub section under 2/Lt A.B. WEARNE will take up some suitable position in the vicinity of J5 B 45.45. with both guns.

One (1) sub-section under Lieut H.E. EWINS will take up positions as follows: -

1 gun approximately J5 B 15.15.

1 gun do J5 B 00.70.

"C" Section will operate in 1st Bn sector in 2 sub-sections as follows: -

1 sub-section under Sgt SAY. will take up some suitable position in the vicinity of D29 D 40.25. with both guns.

1 sub-section under 2/Lieut V.W. CRAIGER. will take up position as follows, both guns in the vicinity of D29 D 10.00.

P.T.O.

Orders of fire have been explained to all concerned.

Each section will send One (1) RUNNER to the Bn. Head Q., in whose sector they are working, as soon as they are in position and 2 RUNNERS to Machine Gun Coy Headquarters, which will be situated at J8A18.

Guns will cooperate closely with Infantry but will take all orders from C.O. 1<sup>st</sup> M.G. Coy.

Should Infantry Commanders urgently require assistance, when it cannot be given from locations laid down M.G. Officers may alter their positions at their own discretion, and M.G. Coy. H.Q. will be notified as soon as possible.

Machine Gunners will arrange with Battalions regarding medical arrangements.

Clinometers will not be taken into the line, and only such spare parts as are necessary will be taken.

Two (2) spare guns will be kept at M.G. Coy. H.Q. also a reserve of water, burning oil, clinometers, and wing lights.

Night S.O.S. will be as before, a parachute rifle grenade bursting into red over green over yellow. The Daylight S.O.S. will be Red smoke Mortar signal.

Rations and gear to be taken as shown in Appendix "A".

Watches will be synchronised at M.G. Coy. H.Q. at 1830.

Michael J. Call.

C.O.

First Aust Machine Gun Coy.

Appendix 'A'

Composition of Gun Crew:-

1 N.C.O. and 4 Other Ranks (Machine Gunners)  
 " 5 Other Ranks (Carrying Party)

Stores to be carried on the Gun

Water Bottle filled	Bombs (2)
24 hours Fresh Ration	Card Bags (2)
24 hours Iron Ration	Men armed with Revolvers (Ammunition as available)
1 Cheering Gun Ration	Men armed with Rifle (120 rounds)
1 Shell Dressing	
1 Anti Gas Ampoule	

Gun gear with each Gun.

1 Gun  
 1 Tripod  
 1 Anc tripod, Condenser belt, recondenser etc.  
 Spare parts, as are necessary.  
 14 Bell boxes, filled.  
 2 tins Drinking Water, in petrol Cans.  
 1 Terry Fastol 1 inch  
 6 Terry Light 1 inch White  
 Yukon Packs as available  
 1 Pramio Above



Report on operation of 4-10-179-10-17

At 1630 3/10/17 C and D Sections, who had been told off as the mobile sections moved out from Camp at CHATEAU <sup>SEGARD</sup> AREA to relieve A and B Sections who had been occupying defensive positions in 4<sup>th</sup> Aus Inf Reg area. Reliefs were completed by 0100 on the 4<sup>th</sup> unit and Officers and NCO reconvened at the route to the assembly point. A and B Section now moved down to camp at CHATEAU SEGARD AREA. C and D Sections were in position for the attack by 0530.

These two sections were each divided into 2 sub-sections and were to take up positions in <sup>of front</sup> lines as follows

2 guns in vicinity of	J 5 B 45 45
2 "	D 29 D 40 25
1 gun	J 5 B 15 15
1 "	J 5 B 00 70
2 guns	D 29 D 10 00

Officers had orders to select suitable positions if possible near these locations

The mobile section moved off in rear of 3<sup>rd</sup> Aus Bn and waited at Red line till 4<sup>th</sup> Aus Bn had passed over the then advanced close behind. No targets were observed during the advance.

Recon report at 1100 that L'CAIGER or E Section was badly wounded and one of his

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sergeants was killed, then leaving Sgt. SAH  
in charge of the section. The section eventually  
got into position as follows

2 Guns. approx J.S. A. 95. 95.  
2 " J.S. A. 80 80

D Section was caught by a few enemy shells also a  
few of our own shells and one gun crew was wiped  
out, thus leaving 3 guns. The section reorganized  
at the Red line and eventually took up position  
as follows

2 Guns approx J.S. B. 45 60  
1 Gun " J.S. A. 95 50

Up to 1800 4-10-17 reports casualties were  
1 officer 12 OR. included 3 attached carrying  
parts. C.S.M. KENNEDY was wounded while  
in charge of section party. No targets had  
presented themselves, except at every intervals  
which were flying low over our lines. One  
Captured German gun was now mounted as one of  
ours was hit by shell fire

C and D Sections who were now very weak were  
relieved by A and B Sections. Our casualties  
at 1800 5-10-17 were 1 officer 34 OR. These  
casualties were all occurring during the advance  
but report was delayed till section was  
able to find out. Received orders from  
3<sup>rd</sup> Aus Div to mount some into Captured  
guns but owing to shortage of men this was changed

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and the Battalions were to man them and we  
were to supply an instruction.

7-10-17 Received orders to support attack on 4 day  
with 3 MGs and 2 MGs and 3 MGs and orders of GOC 3<sup>rd</sup>  
AUS Inf Bde

Lt REX <sup>ASut</sup> killed by shell fire 20R wounded

Lt DUTTON replaced Lt REX and ordered to take  
43 positions to fire on E 14 A & B. The other 3 gun  
positions direct on enemy position to the right of  
CELTIC WOOD. to keep back the fire down.

There were no casualties during this operation.

During the whole period on the line every  
airman have shown that they are superior  
to our own. They have been flying low to ground  
at a time direct in enemy fire even as far  
back as WESTHOLEK RIDGE. Their low flying  
planes met no opposition whatever from  
our own and in many cases they tried to

fight but could not get one.  
Total Casualties 2 officers 38 ORs into carrying back

Lesson

I do not consider that machine guns are  
organized seriously enough in A.I. work. It  
is impossible to estimate the damage done by  
low flying enemy aeroplanes, both to the morale  
of the men and also material damage by  
directing shell fire. Low flying aeroplanes are mostly

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report for this purpose and even they are not  
 placed in depression position in depth. Machine Guns  
 if well handled are far superior for AA work and  
 if they were issued with armour piercing and  
 frozen SAA they could do well placed de-  
 sensions downy to the low flying planes. The  
 seems all the more necessary owing to the attitude  
 adopted by our airman.

Anti frost like grease is an obtainable this is a  
 very necessary thing as proved by the lost few days  
 carrying parties is supplied at present are very  
 unsatisfactory and if machine gun companies are  
 to work in they have been doing some better arrangements  
 is necessary. Men detached as a carrying party are  
 usually men who are not worked in the companies  
 and such are very hard to manage at all and  
 are more so when with strange unit. The account  
 of loss of large quantities of M.G. gun and shortage  
 of SAA.

J. M. Richard Capt.  
 Coy. 4th Av. M.C.

Summary of Operations of First Australian  
Machine Gun Company, which attached to  
Fifth Australian Division from 25<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>  
September 1917.

First Austr Machine Gun Company, moved out  
from Chateau Seward Area at 1730 and took  
up positions together with 2nd Aust MG Coy  
in our old front line in J 14 A. Each Company  
supplied twelve (12) guns, as personnel available  
was insufficient to man more. These 24 guns  
together were formed into three (3) batteries of  
eight (8) guns.

J Battery, under Lieut Hawkes of 2nd  
Aust MG Coy

K Battery, under Lieut<sup>N</sup> Martin of 2nd  
Aust MG Coy

L Battery, under Lieut S H Dutton of  
1st Aust MG Coy.

These 3 Batteries, together formed  
Creeper's (Barrage) Group, to support attack of  
the 5th Aust Division. Group was commanded  
by Lt Col of 1st Aust MG Coy with Captain  
L. G. Sewell of 2nd Aust MG Coy as second  
in command. During the whole period this  
Group worked under orders from 2nd MG B  
5th Aust Division.

All guns were in position with  
casualty by 0400 on the 26<sup>th</sup> instance  
then caused by several positions.

damaged by shell fire. Enemy shelling was very heavy from 0230 to 0630. Zero time was at 0550. At 0557 all guns opened up on Creeping Barrage target and ceased fire at 0746. During this period one (1) machine gun was put out of action but was replaced; casualties during the morning 5 Other Ranks Killed and 2 Other Ranks Wounded. SAA Expended 21000 rounds. At 1006 received word that our troops had taken Red Line and were attacking Blue Line. At 1047 received orders to fire on target H (a line running from J10 D 75.00. and J4 B 75.30.) for 10 minutes. Later received orders to be prepared to fire on targets J22 B 65 to J16 D 0.9. and J17 A 15.00 to J17 A 15.20. These targets were fired on from 1208 to 1321. Word was now received that the Corps on the right had not taken Blue Line and S.O.S. line was arranged from J16 D 4.9 to J11 C.0.0. At 1205 received report that No. 8 gun of L Battery had engaged & brought down an enemy aeroplane. At 1230 it was reported that the same gun had brought down a second enemy machine. At 1725 received orders from J Mc 9 B - 5th Div. Division to fire the S.O.S. line for 10 minutes. At 1855 J Mc 9 B reported that troops on Right had advanced and guns were fired at 200 yards extra elevation to ensure safety, till position of our troops was certain. At 1920 S.O.S. went up and all guns responded. At 2005 reverted to old S.O.S. line. At 2030 S.O.S. again went up & all guns answered call. From 1930 till about 2200 SAA was carried to all 4 or 500 pack animals.

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Situation was very quiet until about 1500 on the 27th and when enemy shelled Battery positions heavily with gas shells and H.C. of large calibre, a number of gun positions being hit and men buried, but no serious damage done. S.O.S. Line was now altered as follows, approximately from J 16 B 85.10 to J 11 C 25 20. At 1535 received orders to fire on S.O.S. line for 10 minutes. At 1841 S.O.S. went up and all guns opened fire, firing for 25 minutes. During this period Battery positions were again shelled with gas shells and H.C. At 0845 on the 28th night S.O.S. went up on the extreme right and guns opened fire for 5 minutes, but ceased as signal was not repeated on our front. At 0950 received orders to withdraw and return to Camp in Chateau Segard Area taking out all gun gear. This was completed by 1700. Total Casualties for whole period:

1st A.M.G. Coy.	5 OK	Killed
	4 OK	Wounded
21st A.M.G. Coy	83 OK	Killed
	705 OK	Wounded

\* This included Attached carrying party.

S.A.A. Expended

1st A.M.G. Coy.	191,000 Rounds.
21st A.M.G. Coy.	162,000 Rounds.

I wish to make special mention of the work done by the  
the Battery Commanders also

No 597 L/C CHARLIE L.C. 21st A.M.G. Coy.

No 1369 Sgt EVANS T.R. 1st A.M.G. Coy.

18/9/17.

Richard Cott. G. Hill.  
1st A.M.G. Coy.

