

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

Machine Guns

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

**Title:** 15th Australian Machine Gun  
Company

August 1916



AWM4-24/20/6

## WAR DIARY

or

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

462

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.

Page 1.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1/8/16		Drew cash from Field Cashier, Lally, and paid Company	
	2/8/16		Removed Coy transport from Bde Lt Mawr. to billet behind the mill, Lally.	
	3/8/16		Completed numbering of Gun positions in front line	App I
	4/8/16		Front line and three hundred yd line sections relieved by sections in reserve and strong posts.	
	5/8/16		Picked up <sup>9000</sup> good rounds S.A.A. in belts lying round 300 yd. and front line trenches.	
	6/8/16		Drew from Royal Engineers four Lewis gun anti-aircraft mountings and two new flash protectors for Vickers guns.	
	7/8/16		Conferred with 183 <sup>rd</sup> M. G. Co re cooperation between machine guns in front line and supports.	
	8/8/16		No 3108 <sup>9</sup> Pte O'Kane J.D. shot himself through the arm in the trenches.	
	9/8/16		Court of enquiry, consisting of Lieut Holmes C.H., Fitzgerald G.F. and Elliot C. held to enquire into wounding of 3108 <sup>9</sup> Pte O'Kane J.D. Result and statements of witnesses forwarded to Bde HQ.	

R.B. Munison. Capt.

WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	10/8/16		Visited D.O.O. in connection with spare parts etc. Two guns out of action through lack of spare parts.	
	11/8/16		Made arrangements to remove to new billets at Winters Night. 183 <sup>rd</sup> Bde relieved by 184 <sup>th</sup> Bde. Visited O.C. new M.G. Company.	
	12/8/16		Removed to new billet at Winters Night.	
	13/8/16		Received Bde Secret order 27. re enterprise against hostile trenches.	
	14/8/16		No 3666 Svr. Wilson W.R. Kicked by horse and sent to Field Amb. Sent Lieut Holmes and Patman to School of instruction at Camiers.	
	15/8/16		<del>Drew money from Field Cashier</del> : Cooperated with A.L.I.M.B. and right group of artillery in action against enemy trenches.	App. No 2
	16/8/16		Drew money from Field Cashier Sully & paid Company.	
	17/8/16		Received Bde Secret Order No 31 re action against enemy trenches.	
	19/8/16		Issued final instructions for operation against enemy trenches on night of 19/20 <sup>th</sup> inst.	App 3.
	20/8/16		No 3264 Pte D. Lutherland killed in action after taking part in raid on enemy trenches.	
	21/8/16		Three guns out of action through lack of spare parts Relieved two sections in front line & supports with two sections in reserve and strong posts. Two Vickers guns. laid on fork of road where enemy movement reported.	

R.B. Thurston, Capt.

WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	23/8/16		Used indirect fire on hostile Battery at N176.60.35 and on ground in vicinity	
	24/8/16		Attended conference at Bde HQ.	
	25/8/16		Arranged with 184 <sup>th</sup> Bde to place Battle emplacements firing South along enemy trenches N. 8 to 50.05 The 184 <sup>th</sup> to build one at N 8.C.90.70 firing north along our front to the.	
	26/8/16		Second Lt. Hackworthy M.C. sent to Field Amb	
	27/8/16		Inspected 184 <sup>th</sup> Brigade Machine Gun emplacements at strong posts and in front line trenches. Made arrangements with Engineers to build four battle emplacements in front line.	
	28/8/16		Had six guns supporting the 8 <sup>th</sup> Brigade in their raid on the enemy trenches. App. 4.	
	29/8/16		Received three men from base details. No 3745 Pte Evans. W.J. shot by No 2065 pte Field M.C. and sent to Field Amb. Pte Field placed under arrest and charged sheet together with statements of witnesses sent to Bde HQ.	
	30/8/16		Inspected harness at transport. Presented engineers for material for renovating stables.	
	31/8/16		Draw money from Field Cashier, Sully, and paid Company Draw from Ordnance 11 Spare Part Boxes and 12 Pairs of Binoculars -	

R.B. Muirson. Capt.

Appendix I

Gun Positions Front Line

No. 1-18 from Bond St. to Pinney's Avenue  
" 19-32 from Pinney's Avenue to Mine Avenue.

app 1

Appendix No 1

Appendix 2.

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Orders issued for action in co-operation with A. L. I. M. Battery  
and right group of Artillery on 15-8-16.

To Lieut. FitzGerald,  
No 3 section.

You will occupy positions A. S. 3 and A. S. 4 this afternoon  
having both guns in position by 3.45 p.m. You will open fire at 4 p.m. and  
cease at 4.5 p.m. You will fire on a communication trench running from N. 9 C 95. 10  
to N. 15. a. 10. 65.

(Signed) K. B. Muirson Capt.  
15-8-16

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Appendix Q.3

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Orders issued for operation against enemy trenches on night of 19/20<sup>th</sup> Aug, 1916

To Lieut Elliott,

No 2, Section.

You will leave your four guns mounted in position Nos 28, 30, 31, & 32 by 9 p.m. tonight. No 4 gun will be mounted in front line and held in reserve. Fire will be opened 8 mins. after zero time and continued for 17 minutes, searching enemies parapet, wire, & ground in front from N.G. d. 9.7 to N.<sup>10</sup>. G. 6.9.6. You will receive Brigade time at 8.30 p.m. from C. 14. 2. Your men will be on the alert to take advantage of any target that presents itself in their sector.

(sgnd) K. B. Murray, Capt  
19. 8. 16

To Lieut. FitzGerald,  
No 3 Section.

You will leave your subsection in positions Nos 15 and 18 by 9 p.m. today. Fire to be opened 8 minutes after zero time and cease 25 mins. after zero time. Enemies

Appendix No 3  
Q.3

Appendix 3 (cont)

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wire and parapet from N. 9. c. 5.1 to N. 9. d. 1.1 to be thoroughly searched during this period. You will want roughly 4000 rounds in belts at each gun. Reports to advance C.H. 2.

(sgud) K.B. Morrison, Capt.  
19. 8. 16.

To Lieut. Redgway,  
No 4 Section.

You will take your section and occupy the four positions P.S. I, P.S. II, A.S. I, and A.S. II, guns to be in position by 9.30 p.m. You will take extra precautions that guns are laid correctly, and that no error in <sup>range</sup> bearing, elevation, etc. has been made. You will open fire 3 min. after zero time, and maintain fire for 8 minutes on communication trenches from N. 15. a. 80.50 to N. 15. c. 80.95 and from N. 15. b. 50.63 to N. 15. b. 75.11. Open fire again 14 min. after zero and maintain for six minutes.

(sgud) K.B. Morrison, Capt.  
19. 8. 16

Appendix No 3

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Appendix A.

Orders issued for action in co-operation with right group of Artillery  
and A. L. I. M. Battery on 28. 8. 16

To Lieut. Elliott

No 2 Section.

You will occupy positions A. S. 5 and A. S. 6. tonight;  
both guns to fire at hostile battery at N. 17 b. 60. 35. Fire to open as follows:

From zero time.

• 00. 01 to 00. 03  
00. 10 " 00. 12  
00. 14 " 00. 16.  
00. 20 " 00. 22.

(Squad) K. B. Muirson Capt.

28. 8. 16.

To Lieut. FitzGerald.

No 3 Section.

Take your section of four (4) guns and mount in vicinity  
of ~~N.~~ N. 15. c. 55. 30. Right sub-section will search enemy trenches running from  
N. 11. a. 1. 5 1/2 to N. 11. a. 7. 8. Left sub-section will search enemy trenches running  
from N. 10. b. 7. 3 3/4 to N. 11. a. 2. 4. Fire to open 8 minutes after zero and continue  
2 minutes, and 3 minutes further after rocket signal (3 successive green lights)  
which may be expected about 00. 25. (Squad) K. B. Muirson Capt 28. 8. 16