

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

Machine Guns

Item number: 24/21/16

Title: 21st Australian Machine Gun
Company

May 1918



AWM4-24/21/16

42

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
DUPLICATE.
TRIPLICATE.

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

21st Aust. M.G. Coy. (1st Aust. M.G. Bn)

FOR

MAY 1918

Signature of Officer compiling

J. J. Swell
Capt

Signature of Officer Commanding

J. J. Swell
Capt

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118. 42

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or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LE ROUKLOSHILLE (Sheet 27 S.E)	1 st MAY		<p>The dispositions of the 21st Australian Machine Gun Company on this date were as follows:- Company Headquarters was located at R. 31. c. 45. 35. Wagon lines were at Q. 34. c. 15. 75. Nos 1. & 3. Sections were attached to 1st Aust. M. G. Coy on left of Divisional Sector and occupied positions in the forward zone. No. 2. Section was in positions forward of ROUGE CROIX at W. 16. B. 8. 5., W. 17. a. 35. 65. W. 17. a. 65. ⁸⁰/₆₅. W. 17. a. 35. 95. No. 4. Section were in the vicinity of LE ROUKLOSHILLE at X. 1. c. 66., X. 1. b. 1. 1., X. 1. b. 85. 50., X. 1. b. 90. 60. Fighting strength of Company 201.</p>	
"	2 nd		1 other Rank wounded. Nothing else of note to report.	
"	3 rd - 4 th		Total fighting strength of Company, including officers and O.R's - 190.	
"	5 th		3 O.R's were evacuated sick to hospital and 1 O.R. died of wounds.	
"	7 th		2 O.R's rejoined Company from wounds.	
"	9 th		In the morning two Company Commanders of 31 st Battalion, M.G.C. visited C. H. Q. with reference to relief which was to take place on the following night. During the afternoon, advance parties of this Bn. arrived and were sent to various gun positions.	
"	10 th		On the night of at 10/11 inst. advance parties of 31 st Bn. M. G. C. took over various gun positions and Nos. 1. 3 & 4 Sections were relieved by sections of 31 st Bn. M. G. C., C. H. Q. & Nos 1. 3 & 4 Sections	

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J. B. Sevell Capt a/c

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SHEET. 27 S.E. SHEET. 36 N.E. HAZEBROUCK. 5A.	11 th May		proceeded to billets in vicinity of Transport Lines at Q. 34. c. 15. 75. No. 2. Section remained in position. C. H. Q. was now at Q. 34. d. 25. 80. Nos 1 & 3. Sections again came under command of O. C. 21 st A.M. Coy.	
"	12 th		C. H. Q. & Nos 1 & 3 Sections moved by march route to billets at V 22. A. 95. 15. No. 4 Section proceeded with its 3 limbers to V 24 b. 3. 3. and there came under the command of O. C. 3 rd Aust. Machine Gun Coy., as a mobile section. On the night of 11/12. No 2. Section, in its positions forward of ROUGE CROIX was relieved by one section of 2 nd A.M. Coy. and on relief, proceeded to Coy. H. Q. at V. 22. a. 95. 15. During the day positions were reconnected for two sections in 2 nd zone, B line, and for two sections in 2 nd zone, F C Line, No 4 Section was withdrawn from disposal of 3 rd Aust. Inf. Bde. The afternoon of the 12 th was spent in over-hauling of gun gear. The total fighting strength of the Company was 189.	
"	13 th		By noon on the 13 th the sixteen guns of the company were in position as follows. No. 1. Sect. H. Q. W. 9. D. 70. 95. - Guns, W. 14. c. 90. 50. W. 14. a. 80. 15, W 9 C 85. 95, W. 9. d. 15. 95. — No. 2. Sect. H. Q. V. 24. b. 3. 3. Guns, V. 24. C. 70. 90, V 24. B. 50. 30, W. 19. C. 55. 35, W. 19. C. 90. 35.	Y. B. Y. well cut on, p

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SHEET. 27. S.E. " 36 th N.E. HYZEBROVCK. 59.			No 3. Sect. H.Q. at W. 13. d. 00. 55. Guns at W. 13 C. 30. 20, W. 13. D. 09. 09. W. 13. d. 10. 42, W. 13. d. 49. 95. — No 4 Section H.Q. at E 1. B. 90. 45. Guns at E. 2. a. 30. 24, E 2 a. 20. 33, W. 20. C. 70. 60, W. 20. a. 68. 00. — C. H. Q. was at V. 24. a. 45. 05. Wagon Lines did not move.	
"	13 th -17 th		Whilst in these positions emplacements and living accommodation were improved and in all cases S. A. A. was made up to 10,000 rounds S. A. A. per gun.	
"	16 th		On morning of 16 th arrangements were made with the 3 rd A. M. G. Coy. for the relief to take place on night of 17/18 inst. Lieut. S. A. Gordon with one N. C. O per section & one man per gun reported to the 3 rd Coy as an advance party and moved into the positions to be taken over.	
"	17 th		On night of 17/18 inst. the Company relieved the 3 rd A. M. G. Coy in the Right Machine Gun Section of the Divisional Sector. Relief was complete by midnight. The dispositions of the Company were then as follows: C. H. Q. at W. 27. D. 55. 20, Wagon Lines at V. 22 H. 95. 15. No. 1. Sect H. Q. at E 4 A. 2. 9, Guns at W 28 C 25. 35, W. 28. C. 55. 65, E. 4. b. 6. 2 E. 4. b. 9. 5. — No. 2. Sect. H. Q. at W. 27. C. 25. 40, Guns at W. 27. C. 30. 25. W. 27. C. 30. 40, W 27. A. 75. 20, W 27. a. 80. 40. — No. 3. Sect. H. Q. at E 3 8. 95. 10 Guns at E 10. A. 25. 85, E. 4. C. 3. 2, E 4. a. 00. 25, E 4. a. 10. 55	Y. S. J. well Co but on

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SHEET 27SE. " 36° N.E. HAZEBROUCK 37.			No. 4. Section H.Q. at W. 28. A 27, Guns at N. 28. D 55. 70, N. 29. C. 15. 55, N 29 D. 65. 95, + W 29 B 55. 55. Company fighting strength 188. 10. ORs. evacuated sick to D. R. S.	
"	22 nd		On 22 nd inst. preliminary instructions were received for the cooperation of eight guns of the Coy. in a proposed attack by 1 st Aust. Inf. Bde. on the MONT. DE MERRIS. During the night of 22/23 the O.C. + Lieuts N. L. Martin M.C. + S. A. Gordon carried out a reconnaissance in connection with this proposed attack.	
"	23 rd		On night of 23/24 inst. the following work was carried out in connection with above proposed operation. No. 2 Section under Lieut. S. A. Gordon prepared four gun positions, the right one being at E. 17 A 25. 72 + the left one at E 17 A 15. 99. During the proposed attack, guns mounted in these positions would provide flanking fire. Positions were fixed for two (2) guns of No. 3. Section in an Infantry post at about E 11 a. 8. 6. These guns were to sweep the flat ground to the south of the railway line and to the east of STRAZEELE railway station, and would provide covering fire for the infantry.	

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SHEET. 27. SE. " 36a. NE. HAZEBROUCK. 5A			<p>in the event of heavy opposition after they had reached their objective. In addition a good position was found for two guns of No. 1. Section at E. 5. d. 35. 25. The functions of guns placed in these positions would be to sweep the flat north of the railway line and the western slope and crest of MONT. DE MERRIS. in the event of our troops being driven back during the attack. On this date 1 OR. was accidentally wounded & 34 ORants joined the company from 1st Aust. M. G. Bn. reinforcement camp.</p>	
"	24 th		<p>1 OR. wounded. On night of 24/25th inst, 16,000 rounds of bulk. S.A.A. were taken up to the Infantry C. H. Q. at E. 16. A. 0. 7. & 25,000 rounds to the Infantry C. H. Q. at E. 11. A. 4. 9. This ammunition was for use during the proposed operation.</p>	
"	25 th		<p>Total Company Fighting Strength was 214.</p>	
"	26 th		<p>1 ORant. killed in action. A shoot of the heavens was to take place on MONT DE MERRIS during the 27th inst. and on night of 26/27 inst the infantry garrison was withdrawn from the front line from E. 6. a. 1. 1. to X 25 C. 8. 3. to the support line. Positions for two</p>	

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SHEET 27. SE. " 36a. ME. HAZEBROUCK 5A.	27 th		Guns were reconnected by O.C. & Lt R. Phelan, in support line of 2 nd Aust. Inf. Bn. to cover the front line. Good positions were found at E 5. b. 1. 8. & W. 29. d. 35. 40. and the two guns were moved forward into these positions by 1.30 am on 27 th . At 11 p.m. when the Infantry garrison had resumed their normal dispositions, the two guns mentioned on 26 th inst were withdrawn to their original positions.	
"	29 th		Lt J. G. Wilson reported to 3 rd Aust. M.G. Coy at V. 22. a. 95. 15. to obtain all necessary information in connection with the forthcoming relief of the 21 st Coy by the 3 rd Coy, in the Forward zone Nos 2 & 3. Sects. sent advance parties each of one N.C.O per section and one man per gun to Section Headquarters of the two sections of 3 rd Coy at present in 2 nd zone. These advance parties were to obtain all necessary information in connection with forthcoming relief of the two sections of 3 rd Coy, then in 2 nd zone, by Nos 2 & 3 Sects. of 21 st Coy. Two Obs. were wounded that day.	
"	30 th		On night of 30/31 st Nos 1. 2. 3 & 4 Sections were relieved in the Forward zone by the 3 rd Aust. M.G. Coy. C. H. Q. & Nos 1 & 4 Sections, after relief, moved back to wagon lines at V 22 a. 95. 15. Nos 2 & 3 Sections	

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SHEET 27 SE " 36a. NE RAFZEBROVCK. 59		31 st	<p>moved back into the 2nd zone and relieved the two sections of the 3rd Coy. then occupying positions in 2nd zone. The dispositions of these two sections were then as follows - No. 2 Sect. HQ at E. 2. a. 10. 30 Guns at W 14. c. 9. 5, W. 14. b. 05. 40, W 20. c. 50. 50, & W 20. a. 70. 00. No 3 Sect. HQ. at W. 8. c. 85. 20. Guns at W. 14. a. 80. 15, W 8. c. 50. 40, W 9. c. 40. 40, & W. 9. c. 50. 20. The whole relief was complete at 1. AM. 31st inst. No 1 + 4 Sections, then at C. H. Q. at V. 22 a 95. 15 now became mobile sections. During the afternoon, all gun gear of Nos 1 + 4 Sections was overhauled and repacked. The O.C., with Captain J. E. Stevenson of 1st Aust. Field Coy Engineers visited houses at W 25. b. 8. 7, W. 14. c. 1. 1, W. 14. a. 05. 45. & W 8. d. 5. 5. Machine gun emplacements were to be constructed in these houses</p>	

W. J. Wells
Capt. or.