

AWM4

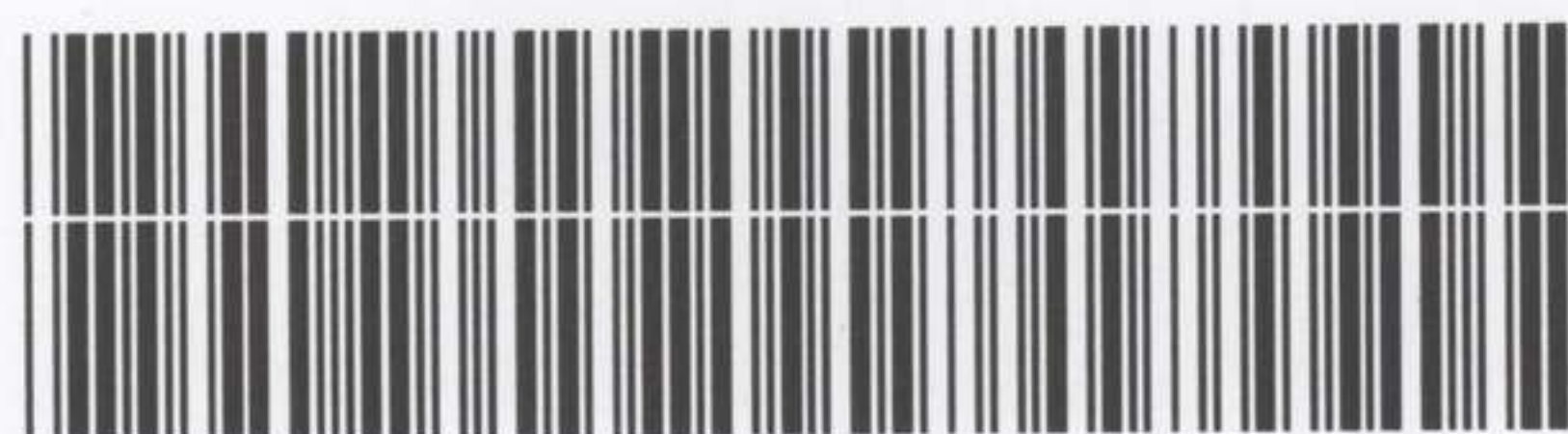
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War**

Machine Guns

Item number: 24/9/16

Title: 4th Australian Machine Gun
Company

October 1917



AWM4-24/9/16

CONFIDENTIAL - ORIGINAL.

1st October, 1917.

Cleaning of Gun Gas etc.

2nd October 1917.

Fitting of Equipment, & inspection of same, also inspection of Box Respirators and P.H. Helmets.

The afternoon was devoted to haircutting.

3rd October, 1917.

Parades at Section Commanders' discretion.

4th October 1917.

Explanation of Barrage Fire and filling of belts.

Approval given for men who have the necessary credit in their Paybooks to draw amounts not exceeding Five Pounds (£5) in excess of ordinary pay for the purpose of purchasing Christmas Gifts.

5th October, 1917.

Parades at Section Commanders' discretion.

6th October, 1917.

Physical Training
Gun Drill & Instruction
Lecture - "Fire Direction".

8th October, 1917.

Elementary Gun Drill
Lecture.

9th October, 1917.

The Company stood by to move up to Belgian Chateau, but the Order came along in the afternoon to remain in present quarters, as the whole Brigade will be quartered here when the Battalions and trench Mortar Battery leave Steenwoorde on 11th inst.

10th October, 1917.

Gun Instruction.

11th October 1917.

The Company moved to vicinity of BELGIAN CHATEAU, near YPRES, Brigade Headquarters being in the latter town.

12th October, 1917.

Two Officers went up to the line to see new positions.

13th October 1917.

Co and one other Officer went up to the line and returned in the afternoon.

14th October 1917.

Headquarters and Nos 1, 2, & 4 sections moved up to the line at 1.30 am, Nos 1 & 2 sections to take up Barrage Positions, & No 4 section to be in support line.

2121

7 am Relief completed. Gun positions taken over from 12th Coy as follows:

Support Guns - D17c 80-20, C80-40, C80-60 C92.82

Barrage guns 4 positions but increased to 58. Battery front running N (Mag) from D17c.19.52 + barraging line D18a 7.7. to D18a 75.12. at latter location joining barrage line of 13th Coy. on our right.

Enemy artillery + aircraft active.

Weather much clearer + fine. Mud very sticky.

15th October 1917.

Enemy artillery + aircraft again active. weather + observation good.

Throughout day artillery exceptionally active on whole sector. Casualties on support guns - 3 killed, 1 wounded, 2 shell-dock.

16th October 1917

Artillery normal. Enemy aircraft very active during early morning.

Cloudy. Communication difficult by telephone. Visual station established using Lucas lamp - very satisfactory. Enemy artillery particularly active on front area.

17th October 1917

Enemy artillery + aircraft active. Consolidation Orders received from Bde.

System of defence being consolidation in depth. front area to consist of a series of posts mutually supporting.

Reserve lines to be wired + partially dug.
18th October 1917

Directing gun of Battery blown out, crew killed. Particular care has been exercised in the use of camouflage. Enemy aircraft active. 18 Jtha planes crossed our line about 2 pm. bombing batteries. Artillery exceptionally active on whole sector. Batteries being subjected to 5 hours continuous bombardment. Forward area received much attention. Patrols report enemy outposts about 500 in front of our line. He has apparently evacuated to next ridge.

Enemy bombarded heavily with gas, very irritating + apparently no smell. Whole front subjected to gas.

19th October 1917.

Artillery active especially in rear areas. Visibility moderate. Night moderately quiet.

20th October 1917.

Carried out relief of support guns. Relief started at 5 am. + completed at 6 am. Early morning best time for relief. 2nd M.G. Coy reconnoitering for

28th October 1917.
Remaining vehicles of transport
arrived in LISBOURG

29th October 1917
Cleaning of Limbers
Lecture on Discipline, Crimes &
Capital Punishment by Section Officers

30th October 1917
Gun Instruction & Drill.
All NCOs attended lecture
at 9am - Subject "Discipline", by the Co.

31st October 1917
Route March in morning.
Afternoon - Lecture on Map Reading
and Gun Instruction
All NCOs attended lecture
at 2pm on Map Reading.

Paul Bombé Cap-
for Co. to be employed.

relief of Sector on 23rd Artillery
very active on rear areas. Enemy planes
doing considerable bombing on Battery
positions. Night quiet.

21st October 1917.
Carried out relief of Barnage guns
Relief complete at 6.30 am. Day sound.

22nd October 1917.
At 5.30 am our Artillery opened
bombardment of enemy's lines. Enemy
retaliated 15 minutes afterwards on our
front system. No heavy counter-
battery work. Orders received regarding
relief. 2nd Coy to relieve forward guns,
2nd Coy to relieve Barnage guns.
Relief to commence at 5 am. Three
men killed on Battery.

23rd October 1917.
Relief carried out by 2nd + 21st Coys.

24th October 1917 - [before daybreak].
The company embussed for Reningelst
area

27th October 1917.
The company paraded at 4.15 am
in full marching order & marched to
Brandhoek Station, & entrained there for
WIZERNES. From the latter place the
Company proceeded in busses to LISBOURG.

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