

AWM4

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

Machine Guns

Item number: 24/9/23

Title: 4th Australian Machine Gun
Company

May 1918



AWM4-24/9/23

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
DUPLICATE.
~~TRIPLICATE.~~

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

Nº 4 AUSTIN MACHINE GUN COY.

FOR

MAY ————— 1918

Signature of Officer compiling.....

Signature of Officer ^{for} Commanding.....

McLoren Lieut

4th M.G. Coy
May Brig

Army Form C. 2118.

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VILLERS-BRETONNEUX SECTOR	1918 May 1st		<p>Our guns were silent during the night owing to a silent minor operation with the object of advancing our line on the fronts of the two centre Battalions. This was successfully carried out, but the enemy, seeing our intention at the outset, put down a stiff Artillery and Machine Gun fire, but which was negotiated by our troops with very light losses. Visibility throughout the day was low & there was little aerial activity, although an enemy plane flew over our lines at low altitude at 4.30pm, and was engaged by M.G. fire. This plane, by the way, was rather distinctive from most of the enemy's craft, on account of its marking - a black Geneva Cross in a white circle. The enemy is apparently very expectant and nervous, and at night fires a great number of flares & bursts of erratic Machine Gun fire. The slightest movement brings a burst from a dozen different forward guns, and his snipers are exceptionally alert and attentive to us. Considerable enemy movement, & many opportunities were taken by our forward guns to inflict casualties. Enemy Artillery, at times was very active.</p>	

D. D. & L., London, E.C.
(A7883) Wt. W80/M1672 350,000 1/17 5ch. 52a. Forms/C/2118/14

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WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VILLERS-BRETONNEUX SECTOR	1918 May 1st		especially to the left of VILLERS BRETONNEUX and in the village itself where a lot of gas was thrown, but, for the most part, the day passed quietly.	
	2nd		<p>During the night our indirect guns fired on chosen targets, consisting for the most part of roads, communication saps and trench works undergoing construction. Today was beautifully clear, with a bright sun, and ^{on} the roads between the Gun positions ^{and} a Bunker which had been established in the village could be seen the khaki uniforms of the Australians, the sky blue of our French Allies, and here and there the sun burnt-brown of the French Foreign Legion. Except for an occasional burst from an ever-ready battery, there was little artillery activity, but aircraft were making full use of the excellent weather. One aerial combat took place - 7 of our planes against 4 of the enemy, of which one came down in flames. There a great many rumours, as usual circulating. And one yarn goes that Hindenburg has asked how many 4th Australian Divisions are there in the field - His estimate is 10.</p>	

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WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VILLERS - BRETONNEUX SECTOR	1918 May 2nd.		<p>There are many other stories, but not necessary to such a record as this War Diary. Statements of recently captured prisoners, are bewildering in their inconsistency, showing the Hun either as good a liar as the average "Aussie" or too clever to give a true account of affairs. It is clear, however, that Prussian regiments of the "Sturm" class are almost pampered, while units from other Kingdoms. Bavaria or Saxony are treated as underlings. Naturally hatred is aroused in the breast of the Teutons by this distinction. If this animosity were encouraged by us, it would do much to end the war for internal unrest is the certain undoing of any nation.</p>	
	3rd		<p>An attack carried out by the 12th Brigade on our right commenced at 2am but met with heavy resistance - an intense M.G. & trench mortar fire. The central party attained its objective capturing 55 prisoners but on account of the flanks being held up, were forced to retire to their original line. The troops on the flanks encountered strong wire entanglements, on which enemy M.G.s were playing, rendering it impossible for them to cut their way through. The darkness prevented from them from properly grasping the situation.</p>	

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(A8001) Wt. W1771/M2031 750,000 5/17 Sch. 52 Forms/C2118/14

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WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VILLERS - BRETONNEUX SECTOR	1918 May 3rd		<p>Under the circumstances it was deemed wiser to retire. Isolated parties who did not know of the retirement, dug in, stayed all the following day & did not return until nightfall. Many incidents of individual gallantry could be recorded, but this is not their place. No unusual Artillery activity by either of the side took place, but aircraft were overhead all day & there were many exciting combats. One enemy machine was destroyed & another came down out of control. Enemy Artillery set fire to a large dump of Oil & Petrol today & caused a considerable amount of smoke. There are many signs of an early offensive by the enemy on this front, and increased activities are daily observed behind his lines. The division facing us is now known to be the Jager Div. with a good reputation & well supplied with M.G's having 24 heavy No 9's & 13-14 light No 9's on the establishment of each Battalion.</p>	
"	4th.		<p>8000 rounds were expended on harrassing & indirect fire on special targets & avenues of approach likely to be used during an expected enemy change-over. This information has been gl volunteered by or extracted from recently captured prisoners, but of course this is not the most reliable source. The Jager Division are due to be relieved for a few days, so an immediate attack cannot be expected.</p>	

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WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date 1918	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VILLERS-BRETONNEUX SECTOR	May 5.		<p>troops. At times, when salvos are being fired it is positively dangerous to walk on the top in their line of fire. Last night it rained fairly heavily & at daybreak the outlook was very bleak, but at midday a watery sun broke through. The weather lately has been very changeable sunny days alternating with dreary, showery turns. At 6 pm our Artillery heavily bombarded Monument wood & vicinity, and afterwards large numbers of wounded were observed being carried away.</p>	
"	6th		<p>Great activity behind the enemy's lines now prevails. 21 advanced aerodromes have been discovered by our planes. Bridges, dumps & roads are being constructed and the heavy traffic on the main roads & railways & incessant movement of large bodies of troops to a convenient position in reserve making it apparent that the offensive will soon be resumed. So far we have had 4 casualties to officers, Lieut Clasper, who has died of wounds, Lieuts Allan, Fawcett & Jones, evacuated. Some interesting information regarding the 8th Res. Jager Bn, who are facing us will be worthy of record. It consists of 7 Inf. boys & 2 MG boys. 1st & 2nd boys are in the front line 3rd & 4th in close support, 5th, 6th & 7th</p>	

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WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VILLERS-BRETONNEUY SECTOR	1918 May 6th		<p>in reserve about 200 metres further back. Nothing is known of the disposition of the M.G. boys. Each Inf boy has 4 light M.Gs. & every night each boy put out 4 outposts, which are drawn at dawn.</p> <p>We put through 8000 rounds by indirect fire on positions which the enemy has under construction. All the evening the enemy played his Machine Guns on the village & on our forward tracks.</p> <p>Our planes during the day have been exceptionally active but only one enemy plane has been observed, & it very high up.</p>	
	7th		<p>About 8000 rounds were fired indirect on chosen targets. This is the first time the company has gone in the line under the jurisdiction of the Battalion. All boys are connected direct by phone to Battery and a fairly elaborate system of forward communication is operating & as well as 'phones daylight lamps are established at various stations.</p> <p>Observation today was splendid. Two enemy M.G. positions were discovered & transport & troops were seen moving in the early morning.</p> <p>In the afternoon, 2 hostile aircraft succeeded in crossing our lines & for a quarter hour they floated over our back areas, but A.A. & M.G. fire at last forced them back.</p>	

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WAR DIARY

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~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VILLERS-BRETTONNEUX SECTOR	1918 May 8.		<p>Observation was again very good with the result that our Artillery was very active & that of the enemy moderately so. 5000 rounds were put through during the night on Monument wood & enemy roads & tracks likely to be used during an attack relief. Many of our shells was fell short during a practice barrage causing casualties among our own troops, a large number, too, were "duds". The enemy today attempted to rush one of our posts but Lewis Guns promptly opened out, with the result that two were killed several wounded & the remainder dispersed. Aeroplane activity was moderate, but towards dusk a few aerial encounters took place.</p>	
"	9		<p>During the day observation was good. Enemy roads & communications were subjected to an intermittent fire during the night & small parties were fired on at dusk & dawn. Towards evening a brilliant display was given by an Aviator just outside boy B.Q. This has happened twice or three times lately & the entertainment is much appreciated by the troops. Arrangements for a relief are in hand with 12th Coy who are to relieve us tomorrow</p>	

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~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VILLERS-BRETONNEUX SECTOR	1918 May 10		<p>Observation being particularly good, as a natural consequence aerial activity was great. Several enemy flights attempted to cross our lines but their efforts were foiled by our Fighting Patrols. Our observing planes were exceptionally busy being protected above by our fighting patrols. The Heavy Artillery on our side did considerable shooting & the lighter guns a certain amount of harrassing fire. The M. Gs forward have throughout our tour done practically no firing - they were there in readiness for the expected enemy attack. Our tour of duty was exceptionally quiet, tho' a continual stream of warnings came regarding the impending attack. The morale of our men was of the highest & throughout the whole of our work was displayed that happy, cheerful, optimistic character so prominent among the Australians. The relief carried out with the 12th Coy was exceptionally good. Hot soup was ready at our Coy Report Centre & each man received a good supply before proceeding further. This was much appreciated by the incoming men, who had done a considerable march. The relief was completed about midnight & our men were taken</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VILLERS - BRETONNEUX SECTOR	1918 May 10 contd		back to BLANGY TRONVILLE in G S Wagons. Eight guns, relieved earlier in the day, took up positions in the reserve line in support to 2 Batts. - 13th + 14th of the 4th Bde. Positions were found to be comfortable + generally satisfactory. The following positions were taken up by guns in reserve line: 1 gun O26d70.00. 2 guns O32b60.00 2 guns U1c95.90 1 gun O32a65.10. 2 guns U1b30.40. The remaining 8 guns were in BLANGY TRONVILLE under the General Command of G. O. B. 4th Bde. Their general role was to assist the remaining two Bns 15th + 16th in a deliberate counter attack should the enemy succeed in penetrating our forward area.	
BLANGY-TRONVILLE	11		The day was devoted to cleaning of guns + gear. In the afternoon a few shells fell in the village and later in the afternoon they came regularly at 20 minute intervals.	
..	12		Soon after 2am this morning one of our billets was hit by a shell + one man was severely wounded, and the 8 or 9 others sleeping under the same roof had a certainly miraculous escape. As the shelling still continued during the morning it was deemed wiser to leave the village itself + so some shelters were requisitioned + the Company dug in in an embankment	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BLANGY TRONVILLE	1918 May 12		a half mile outside the town. Within a couple of hours we were comfortably installed in these fresh dugouts.	
"	13.		Since we left the village we have not been troubled with any shells & strange enough, none have fallen in the village. Word came today that we are to relieve the 13th Company tomorrow night, & so three of our officers went up to make for detailed arrangements & to inspect the positions. They returned with a good impression of the positions.	
VILLERS BRETONNEUX SECTOR	14		This company relieved the 13th M.G. Coy tonight, & the relief was carried out very satisfactorily, without delay or casualties. It was complete by 1am. For Location of Guns see Appendix A. Enemy Machine Guns were fairly active during the night & a couple of planes dropped bombs in our reserve area	"A"
"	15		Enemy artillery was very active during the day & ours was even more so. Our aircraft were busy all day on photographic & reconaissance work. The C.O. Capt MITCHELL attended a Bde conference at the Quarry, 14th Battr H.Q. this afternoon & on the way back was severely wounded in the arm & side by a piece of 5.9 shell. He was attended to quickly & Capt LANGBORNE was sent for to	=

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VILLERS BRETONNEVEY SECTOR	1918 May 15		take command of the Company. A fire was accidentally lit in the village today by some Infantrymen in the and a Petrol Dump was acc fired.	
	16		The b.O. inspected all the gun positions this morning & found everything satisfactory. One section carried out Indirect Fire during the night on roads, tracks & communication saps. Our Artillery was busy pounding enemy's front line and supports, Monument Wood being heavily barraged. ^{Enemy} Guns did only counter battery work & paid little attention to our forward system. Aircraft were busy all day ours having command of the situation. Enemy bombing planes crossed our lines during the evening.	
	17		Last night the same programme of Indirect Fire was carried out some 9000 rounds being put through. Very little artillery fire was noticed on either forward system but a great amount of counter battery work was engaged in by both Artilleries. A great amount of aerial activity was displayed today and a few combats took place. One of our planes was forced down and landed in our lines. The plane was burnt and stretcher bearers carried away the wounded armen. An enemy plane too, was brought down by	

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(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VILLERS BRETONNEUX SECTOR	1918 May 17		our anti aircraft fire. It was about 15000 feet down up when it was hit and then plunged straight to earth landing in O27A	
	18		Again last night we engaged several targets by indirect fire. Today fresh gun teams came up from nucleus & relieved the men who had been in right through. The relief was carried out in the early evening without mishap or casualty. During the day our artillery was very active, firing on enemy front line & supports and on northern end of Bangard wood, and at 5pm an intense barrage was laid down on Monument wood. Our aircraft was fairly busy during day & night. The enemy, during the night heavily shelled VILLERS BRETONNEUX with gas shells and H.E.	
	19.		During the night our artillery kept up a consistent bombardment of the enemy's forward system, and our rear guns carried out a programme of indirect fire on enemy roads & tracks. Our planes were fairly active during the day & enemy aircraft attempted to cross our lines but were driven off by A.A. fire. Several fires were caused in the village by enemy artillery fire today	
	20		Word was received today that the company are to be relieved tomorrow night by the 11th Aust. Ho Coy. Artillery has been	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VILLERS BRETONNEUX SECTOR	1918 May 20		very active today both on forward systems and on counter-battery work. Our Machine Guns engaged various enemy planes during the day, but without any definite results. The enemy shelled VILLERS BRETONNEUX during the day fairly heavily. The Post of the 16 Guns of the 11th A.M.G. Coy came in this evening to go forward to the guns and learn "the lay of the land". They were guided to their respective gun positions by Runners	
"	21		After a fairly quiet day we were relieved at night by the 11th A.M.G. Coy. The relief was carried out quickly and without casualties. Our tour of duty in the line this time has been rather quiet, and fortunately the weather has remained fine. The positions however, were not good when we took over but ^{after} a few days work on them we they were fairly comfortable	
ALLONVILLE	22		Today the company marched to Allonville where we are to be billeted, and while there this company, working with the 4th A.S. Brigade will be on Corps Defence Line in the event of an enemy attack in this sector	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ALLONVILLE	1918 May 23		This village has a very poor water supply. The few private wells are almost dry and all water for the company has to be carted from a water point. A number of reinforcements have joined up recently & many of them are infantrymen entirely ignorant of Machine Gunnery. So the opportunity is being taken while in this area to teach them as much as possible about the Gun	
	24		cleaning guns & instruction were carried out today. Four of our officers reconnoitred the Gun positions we are to occupy should the enemy attack. They are mostly in excellently placed & some have dugout accomodation near by. This area is subjected greatly to nocturnal air raids, but no damage has been done in the village itself by bombs.	
	25		Word has come that we are to be inspected by General Birdwood, G.O.C. A.I.F. tomorrow. And so today Limbers & equipment were cleaned in readiness for a march past. The opportunity is to be taken to have a presentation of Medals	
	26		To day at a Brigade Church Parade General BIRDWOOD presented medals won mostly in the operations in the HEBUTERNE sector. Four members of this Coy were among the recipients: Sgts Sinclair & Andrews, L/Spl Carr and Pte Hansen	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ALLONVILLE	1918 May 27		There is an epidemic of influenza in this village at present, and there are few who have not been affected more or less. Many have gone to hospital or a Rest Billet that has been established in the village is full of the less serious cases. A programme of elementary gun instruction was carried out today.	
"	28		Word has been received today that we are to relieve the 8th Aust. M.G. Coy on night 1st/2nd. This will be the first time to relieve this Company since we have been in France. The new men are progressing satisfactorily in their knowledge of the gun.	
"	29		The enemy has begun to shell these back areas & today a few H.E.'s fell near the village. Sections went on the range today & every man fired the gun. For some it was the first time they had pressed the thumbpiece.	
"	30		Four of our officers went to the line today and reconnoitred the positions we are to take over from the 8th Coy. Most of them are inconveniently placed, as regards communications as they cannot be approached in daylight. Their tactical positions are good though.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ALLONVILLE	1918 May 31		Last night the enemy resumed his shelling of these back areas, and at about 2pm this morning two shells found marks in billets occupied by 14th Bn. There were 145 casualties, including thirty three deaths. All spare packs, felt hats & blankets were dumped to day in the village, and limbers packed & cleaned in preparation for a move to Bussy tomorrow.	
<p><i>Paterson</i> Lieut for O.B. No 4 A.M. Coy</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <p style="text-align: center;">MACHINE GUN</p> <p>No...../.....</p> <p>Date.....</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A. I. F.</p> <p style="font-size: small; text-align: center;">No. 4 AUSTRALIAN COMPANY.</p> </div>				

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18,000-12/17-5723

APPENDIX.

18

WAR DIARY

OF

No 4. Aust. M. G. Coy

FOR

MAY

1918

LIST OF APPENDICES.

- | No. | Subject. |
|-------|---|
| ✓ "A" | Map showing positions of 8 guns in reserve in Bois l'Abbe |
| ✓ "B" | Operation Order No 4 - 4th A. M. G. BATTN |
| ✓ "C" | " " " " No 5 " " " |
| ✓ "D" | 4th A I Bde Order No 9 |
| ✓ "E" | Operation Order No 6. 4th A M G BATTN |
| ✓ "F" | " " " " No 12 13th A M G Coy. |
| ✓ "G" | " " " " No 12 8th A M G Coy |
| ✓ "H" | " " " " No 1 4th A M G Coy |
| ✓ "I" | Defence Scheme - 4th A M G Coy |
| ✓ "J" | 4th A I Bde after Order |

McLennan Lieut.
for O. C. No 4 A M G Coy

No. 4 AUSTRALIAN	MACHINE GUN	COMPANY.
	No. /	
	Date	
A. I. F.		

212 1:20,000

Parts of 62° 5' N APPENDIX A 19

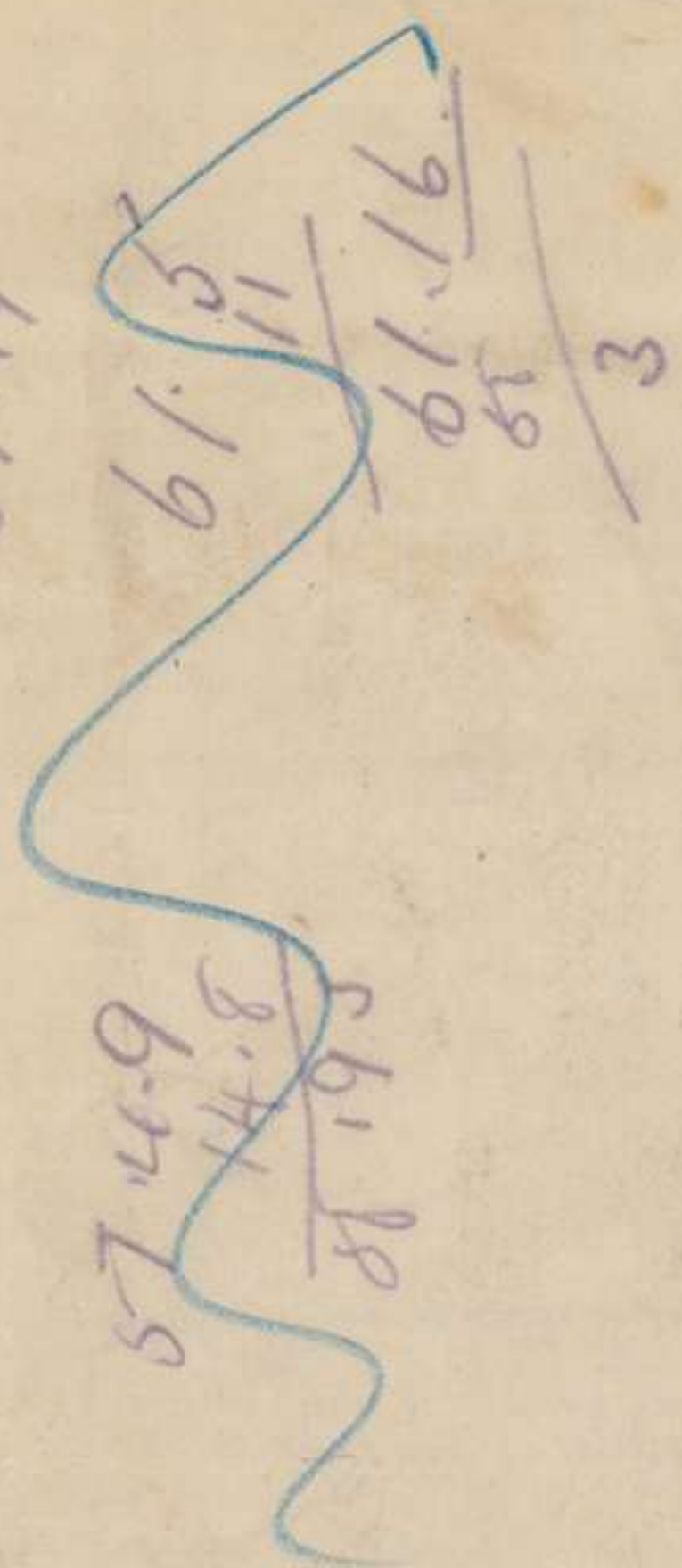


FIELD SURVEY CO. RE. (8537) 1:5.18

SCALE 1:20,000 YARDS 1000 500 0 1000 2000 3000

AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

61.5
57.49.



FADZ



217
SECRET.

B

APPENDIX 4
Copy No.

4TH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION

20

Operation Order No. 4

W. O. Dery

Ref. Map 1/80,000 62 D.

Headquarters
3rd May 1918.

1. " The 4th Aust. Inf. Bde. will arrange to take over from the 13th Aust. Inf. Bde. the front line from the present inter-Brigade boundary to the road (inclusive to 4th A.I. Bde.), running from S.E. to N.W. through O.36.D., B, and A.

The 4th Aust. Inf. Bde. will continue to hold the front, as thus extended, with two Battalions.

The 13th Aust. Inf. Bde. will arrange to take over from the 13th Aust. Inf. Bde. the remainder of the Divisional front as established subsequent to the attack.

The Inter-Brigade boundary will be adjusted to run as follows :-

Along the road, (inclusive to Left Brigade), running from O.36.d.e.7. to O.36.a.3.6., (Road junction), thence straight line to Road and Railway Junction at O.34.b.90.75, thence along road, (inclusive to 4th A.I. Bde.), running through O.34.a.60.75. to the main road at O.27.d.40.35., thence as before.

The relief will probably take place on the night 3/4 May, and all arrangements will be made on this assumption. "

2. The 15th Aust. M.G. Coy will relieve the 13th Aust. M.G. Coy in the Right Brigade Sector.
3. After relief the 13th M.G. Coy will place 8 machine guns in the Aubigny Line in positions at present held by 13th M.G. Coy. Remaining guns and headquarters of 13th M.G. Coy will move to billets at BLANGY TRONVILLE.
4. Consequent on re-Adjustment of Inter-Brigade Boundary the 4th Aust. M.G. Coy will arrange to relieve two guns of 13th M.G. Coy in Square O.36.a. on night 3/4 May.
5. Relief to be carried out on night 4/5 May.
OR. M.G. Coy.
6. Details of relief to be arranged by M.G. Coy Commanders concerned.
7. ACKNOWLEDGE.

C. Crouchatel

Captain

Adj. 4th Aust. Machine Gun Battalion.

P.T.O

4TH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION

Operation Order No. 4

Issued through signals at 12 noon

Headquarters
3rd May 1918

Ref. War 189,000, 24 D.

Distribution :-

- 1. The 4th Aust. Inf. Bde. will change to Coy. G.M.G. 4th Aust. Inf. Bde. the present line to the road (inclusive to 4th A.I. Bde.), running from 0.34.00.75 to 0.34.00.75, through 0.34.00.75, B, and A.
- 2. The 4th Aust. Inf. Bde. will continue to hold the line from 0.34.00.75 to 0.34.00.75, through 0.34.00.75, B, and A.
- 3. The 13th Aust. Inf. Bde. will change to Coy. G.M.G. 13th Aust. Inf. Bde. the present line to the road (inclusive to 4th A.I. Bde.), running from 0.34.00.75 to 0.34.00.75, through 0.34.00.75, B, and A.
- 4. The 13th Aust. Inf. Bde. will continue to hold the line from 0.34.00.75 to 0.34.00.75, through 0.34.00.75, B, and A.
- 5. The 13th Aust. Inf. Bde. will change to Coy. G.M.G. 13th Aust. Inf. Bde. the present line to the road (inclusive to 4th A.I. Bde.), running from 0.34.00.75 to 0.34.00.75, through 0.34.00.75, B, and A.
- 6. The 13th Aust. Inf. Bde. will continue to hold the line from 0.34.00.75 to 0.34.00.75, through 0.34.00.75, B, and A.
- 7. Spare

The Inter-Brigade boundary will be adjusted to run as follows :-

From the road (inclusive to left brigade), running from 0.34.00.75 to 0.34.00.75, (Road junction), thence straight line to road and railway junction at 0.34.00.75, thence along road (inclusive to 4th A.I. Bde.), running through 0.34.00.75, to the right road at 0.34.00.75, thence as before.

The relief will probably take place on the night 3/4 - 5/4 and all arrangements will be made on this assumption.

The 13th Aust. M.G. Coy will relieve the 13th Aust. M.G. Coy in the Right Brigade Sector

After relief the 13th M.G. Coy will place 3 machine guns in the Auxiliary line in positions at present held by 13th M.G. Coy. Remaining guns and head mounds of 13th M.G. Coy will move to billets at BAWBY TROUVILLE.

Consent on re-adjustment of Inter-Brigade boundary the 4th Aust. M.G. Coy will arrange to relieve the guns of 13th M.G. Coy in course 0.34.00.75 on night 3/4 - 5/4.

Relief to be carried out on night 4/5 - 5/5.

Details of relief to be arranged by M.G. Coy Commanders concerned.

ACKNOWLEDGE.

Captain Chamberlain

Adj. 4th Aust. Machine Gun Battalion.

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AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION

Operation Order No. 5.

APPENDIX. C 22

Headquarters
8th May 1918.Reference Map 62D S.W. - 1/20,000.

1. The 12th Aust. Inf. Bde. are relieving the 4th Aust. Inf. Bde. in the Left Brigade Sector on night 9/10th May 1918.
2. The 12th Aust. M.G. Coy will relieve the 4th Aust. M.G. Coy in the Left Brigade Sector on night 10/11th May 1918., advance parties to be sent forward beforehand.
3. After relief the 4th A.M.G. Coy will place 8 machine guns in the AUBIGNY (Corps Defence) Line, in positions at present occupied by 12th A.M.G. Coy. Remaining 8 guns and M.G. Coy Headquarters will move to BLANGY TRONVILLE and be under tactical command of 4th Aust. Inf. Bde.
4. Completion of moves to be reported by wire.
5. ACKNOWLEDGE.

C. V. Duchatel

Captain

Adjut. 4th Aust. Machine Gun Battalion.

Issued through Signals at 3.30 p.m.

Extra copies to
 Transport Officer
 Quartermaster
 2nd A.M.G. Battalion
 5th " "

SECRET.

War Diary

Copy No.

APPENDIX D

23

FOURTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER NO. 9

Reference Sheet 62.D. 1/20,000.

Headquarters,
O.25.c.5.3.
8th May, 1918.

1. On the night 9th/10th May the 4th Australian Infantry Brigade will be relieved by the 12th Australian Infantry Brigade as under :-

Unit.	Relieved by.	Location.	On relief moves to.	Remarks.
16th Bn.	43th Bn.	Right Line Bn.	BLANGY LINE	-----
15th Bn.	46th Bn.	Left Line Bn.	BLANGY LINE	-----
14th Bn.	47th Bn.	Left Support Bn.	Area vacated by "C" Coy. 13th Bn. and 45th Bn. Coy. in O.34.a.	Under order G.O.C. 13th Brigade.
13th Bn.	45th Bn.	Right Support Bn	AUBIGNY LINE	-----
4th T.M. Btty.	12th T.M. Btty.		BLANGY-TRONVILLE.	-----

2. The 4th A.M.G. Company will be relieved on night 10th/11th ^{May} April under arrangements made by Commanding Officer, 4th A.M.G. Battalion.

3. All details of relief to be arranged between Commanding Officers of Units concerned. Special consideration to be given to the fact that the enemy is less active between midnight and 3.a.m.

4. Consolidated return of Trench Stores and Ammunition handed over will be sent to Brigade Headquarters at BLANGY - TRONVILLE (N.22.d.3.6.) by Noon on 10th instant.

5. Completion of relief will be notified to Brigade Headquarters by following code words :-

FACT	MAJOR.
FADDIST	CORPORAL.
FADE	SERGEANT.
FILE	CAPTAIN.
FAIR	LIEUTENANT.

6. Reserve Dumps of Iron Rations and water detailed in this Office M/118 (Administrative Instructions - Reserve Rations) of 6th instant will be completed and report of same sent to Brigade Headquarters by Noon 9/5/1918.

7. ACKNOWLEDGE.

Major.
Brigade-Major.
4th Aust. Inf. Brigade.

Issued at 6.p.m. through Signals.

Distribution -

Extra copies to -

No. 18	12th Aust. Inf. Brigade.
19	13th Aust. Inf. Brigade.
20	14th Aust. Inf. Brigade.

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SECRET.*E*
4TH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION.

Operation Order No. 6.

Headquarters.
12th May, 1918.Reference Map 1/20,000 62 D.S.W.

1. The 4th Aust. Inf. Bde. are taking over the Divisional Front from the Right Divisional Boundary at U.5. central to the main VILLERS BRETONNEUX--WARFUSEE ABANCOURT Road, (exclusive), on night 13/14th May, relieving units of the 13th and 12th Aust. Inf. Brigades.
2. The 4th Aust. M.G. Coy will relieve the 13th. Aust. M.G. Coy. in the Right Brigade Sector on night 14/15th May.
3. The 13th Aust. M.G. Coy will relieve, on the same night, the nucleus garrison of 8 machine guns in the AUB-IGNY line, now provided by the 4th Aust. M.G. Coy.
4. 13th Aust. M.G. Coy. H.Q. and remaining 8 guns will move to BLANGY TRONVILLE when they will come under tactical command of 13th Aust. Inf. Brigade.
5. Details of reliefs to be arranged between Company Commanders concerned.
6. Reliefs to be notified by code wire.
7. ACKNOWLEDGE.

C. J. Duchatel Capt.

Adj. 4th Aust. Machine Gun Battalion.

Issued through Signals at 4 p.m.

Extra copies to
3rd. Aust. M.G. Bn.
37th French Div.

F. 13th Am Coy No. 6
SECRET 13-5-18

Company Operation Order No. 2
Ref map 1/20000 62d SW

1. The 4th Am Coy will relieve the 13th Coy. on the night of the 14/15 May.
2. The 13th Am Coy will relieve on the same night the 8 guns held in AUBIGNY LINE by the 4th Am Coy.
3. No 2 Section (1.2.3 & 4 guns) 2 guns of No 3 Section (5 & 6) 2 guns of No 1 Section (9 & 10) will send guides to be at X Roads in 026d at 6pm. and be in readiness for relief by 6.30pm.
4. On relief No 1 (2.3.4.5.6.7. & 12) guns & crews will relieve the guns in AUBIGNY LINE. No 2 section will take over the 4 right guns (2 in UIC & 2 in UIB). The other four under Sgt Lehane will take over the four positions in BOIS L'ABBE No 3 taking the two left guns. Lieut Neal will take charge of the 8 guns.
5. The remaining 8 guns will send guides to be at X Roads in 026d at 6.30pm.
6. On completion of forward relief the remaining two guns of No 1 Section will take over the two left positions in BOIS L'ABBE from No 3 Section.

- 6
7. on relief No 3 & 4 Sections & surplus men from No 1 & 2 will proceed to cooker & await orders.
 8. Guns and spare parts will not be handed over and receipts will be obtained for gear handed over. (Receipts in triplicate)
 9. Runners with copies of receipts will report completion of relief as soon as possible.
 10. Acknowledge
- Amory Capt.
of 13th Am Coy

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APPENDIX. 7 26

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APPENDIX. G 26



To

Headquarters.

Hq Aust. Mach. Gun Coy.

Herewith copy of Relief
Order No. 12. for your information.

31/5/18

McAllister
Lt.
for O6 S.A.M.C.

G

Relief Order No 128th Aus MG Company
Ref Sheet 62D 1/40000Headquarters
31-5-18

- 1 The 8th Aus MG Coy will be relieved in the line by the 4th Aus MG Coy on the night 1st/2nd prox., present dispositions being taken over.
- 2 Relief will commence at 10.15 pm and be completed by 11.45 pm.
- 3 Guides.
 - a) Right Half Sector.
A guide each from Right Forward and Right Rear Sections will be at Company H.Q. 018 a 3020 at 10.15 pm and these will lead two sections 4th Aus MG Co and limber to respective Section H.Q.s, limber to unload Coy H.Q. gear and proceed first to Right Forward Section H.Q. and then to Section H.Q. ^{be led by guide from left Rear Section to left Rear Section H.Q.} and then to Section officers and guides will be met at these Section H.Q.s, the latter to lead relieving teams with guns etc. to their positions.
 - b) Left Half Sector.
An 8th Aus MG Coy officer and 4 guides from left Rear Section and 2 guides from left Forward Section will meet two sections 4th Aus MG Coy and one foreportion limbered waggon at Quarry 012 b 9045 at 10.15 pm.
Left Rear Section guides will lead relieving teams with guns etc. to their positions.
One left Forward Section guide will lead the foreportion limber containing remaining guns etc. to left Forward Section H.Q. at P 8 a 4510 by roads running through 012 b, P 1 c + d, P 2 c and P 8 a.
One left Forward Section guide will lead the remaining section 4th Aus MG Coy to left Forward Section H.Q. where limber will be met, guns unloaded and teams led by guides to their positions.
- 4 The 8th Aus MG Coy will hand over all tripods direction and elevating deals, bell boxes, buck SAA grenades, French stores, maps, air-photos, Battle Orders Harassing Fire and SOS charts and Orders and land telephone wire obtaining receipts in duplicate for same. Remaining gear to be dumped at Section H.Q.s to be loaded on limber.
- 5 Relieved Teams 8th Aus MG Company will report at Section Headquarters and will proceed under Section Officers to Rear H.Q., excepting 2 men per section to be detailed to guard and load gear on limbers and who will proceed with same to Rear H.Q. Movement of sections East of Fouillois will be by gun teams at 100 yards distance.
- 6 Section Officers will report relief complete to Coy H.Q.; code word "Columbia" by telephone or by runner if necessary. Telephone will not be disconnected until the above has been carried out.

7 Transport officer will detail one limbered
 waggon to pass Coy HQ at 11.15 pm proceeding
 to Right Rear Section H.Q. O254 1595,
 Right Forward Sect. HQ O186 9040,
 and Company HQ,
 in order named, at which points gear will be
 loaded.

Also one foreportion limbered waggon
 to report at left Forward Section HQ
 P8a4510 at 11.30 pm to load gun gear
 and proceed to left ~~Forward~~^{Rear} Section HQ
 O126 9045 for the same purpose.
 Both limbers to return to Rear HQ independ-
 ently.

8 OC Rear HQ will arrange for a hot meal
 to be served to relieved men upon their
 arrival in camp.

9 Acknowledge.

M. J. W. Apperly
 for OC, 8th Aus MG Coy.

Issued at 12.5 am.

Distribution

Copy No	to	No 1 Section
2		2
3		3
4		4
5		Rear HQ
6		4th Aus MG Coy.
7		5th Aus MG Bn
8		War Diary
9		File

H
4TH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN COMPANY.

Operation Order No. 1.

May 30th 1918.

Reference Sheets 62 D., S.W. and S.E. 1/20,000.

1. The Company will relieve 8th Aust. M.G. Company in the Right Sector of 5th Aust. Division Front on the night of 1/2nd June.
2. All nucleus personnel as detailed will remain at BUSSY les DAOURS when Company moves into the line.
3. Transport and Rear H.Qrs. will also be at BUSSY.
4. Company will move from ALLONVILLE to BUSSY at 8 a.m. on the 1st inst.
5. Sections will move out independently from BUSSY to relieve.
6. Guides for 3 and 4 sections will be met at 8th Coy. H.Q. at 0.18.a.30.20. at 10.15 p.m. on 1st inst.
7. Guides for 1 and 2 sections will be met at Quarry 0.12.b.90.40. at 10.15 p.m. on 1st inst.
8. TRANSPORT FOR MOVE.
 - a. Guns of 1 and 2 sections will be loaded in No. 17 limber.
 - b. H.Qrs. will load all gear in half of B. 28. A.
 - c. Guns of 3 and 4 sections will be loaded into No. 21 limber.

Each section will be accompanied by its own limber when moving out from BUSSY to the line.
9. EXCHANGE OF GUN GEAR.

Each section will take over 14 boxes per gun and four Tripods.
10. The following Officers will rendezvous at 8th Coy. H.Q. at 9.30 p.m. 31st inst and will move to the H.Qrs. of the Section they are relieving, and will remain there through the night, returning to nucleus billets at BUSSY on the morning of 1st June, and guide their sections into the line on night of 1st June, :- Lieuts. HOPKINS, CREASY, WRIGHT and THORNE. Signalling Cpl. will accompany these officers and arrange to take over signalling lines from the 8th Coy.
11. 1 Signaller will accompany each of No. 1 and 2 Sections and will take phones with them to the respective section H.Qrs.
12. RUNNERS.

Each section will take in its two runners to Section H. Qrs. On arrival there 1 runner per section will be guided back to 8th Coy. H.Q. where he will remain.

Operation Order No. 1.

(Continued)

- 212.
13. Two Transport N.C.O's. will accompany 8th Coy. ration limbers to Section H.Qrs. and make themselves acquainted with the routes.
These N.C.O's. to be at 8th Coy. Transport Lines at H.36.c.30.70. at 6 p.m. on 31st inst.
14. Each section will take in at least one petrol tin of water per gun.
15. Rations will be delivered to each Section H.Qrs. after dusk nightly.
16. Particular attention is to be paid to Gas precautions and Gun Commanders should inspect respirators once daily in the new area.
17. Code name for completion of relief is "JACQUES", and this will be phoned to Coy. H.Qrs. immediately after relief.

18. Acknowledge.



Captain.

O.C 4th Australian Machine Gun Company.

Copies to :-

- 1 War Diary.
- 2 Bn. H.Qrs.
- 3/8 All Sections.
- 9 8th Aust. M.G. Coy.
- 10 4th Aust. A.I. Bde.

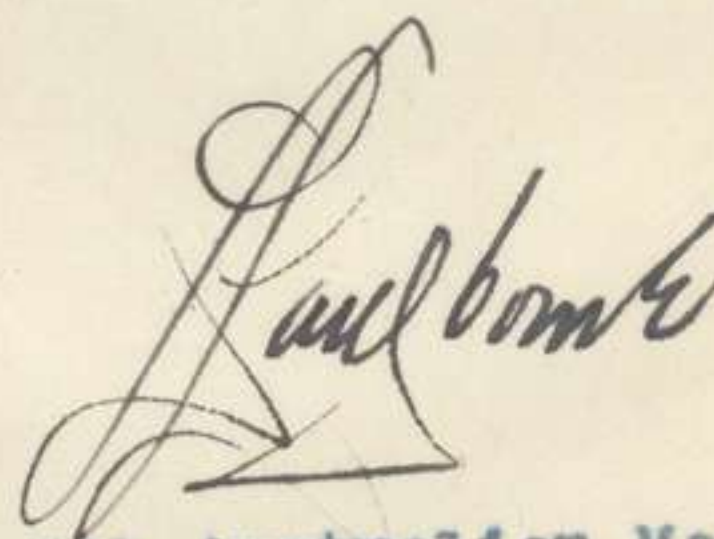
4TH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN COMPANY.

"Defence Scheme".

31st May, 1918.

Ref. Sheet 62 D. Edition No. 1.
Revised B. Local, 1/40,000.

1. The following will be read in conjunction with Defence Instructions of the 4th A.I. Bde.
2. If the Coy. is ordered to "Stand to", Sections will parade on road outside their respective billets and report to O.C. when ready to move. Transport to be harnessed up and to move off with Coy.
3. The defensive roll of the Division will be either the retention of the LA HOUSOYE Plateau or the covering of AMIENS. The advanced Battalion i.e., the 15th Battalion will be regarded as the nucleus garrison of the LA HOUSOYE, FRECHENCOURT Switch Defences. In the case of necessity No. 3 Section will occupy previously reconnoitered positions in the switch.
4. If the Division is ordered to operate on the left of the 2nd Aust. Division, Company may be required to move to position at QUERRIEQ - PONT NOYELLES. Detailed instructions regarding this will be issued if necessary.
5. Should it be necessary to form a defensive flank the 4th Aust. Inf. Bde. will carry out this defence. No 3 Section will move to positions already reconnoitered in the FRECHENCOURT Switch with 15th Battalion, and No. 4 Section in 15th Battalion sector approximately B.24. central to B.21. central. Coy. H.Qrs. and the remaining two Sections will be in reserve in B.25.
6. In the event of enemy attack south of the SOMME the Division will be required for prompt counter attack. In that case, Coy, will move out complete, to the "Positions of Readiness", for 4th A.I.Bde. i.e.: - H.13.b. and H.14.a.



Captain.

O.C. 4th Australian Machine Gun Company.

212
J
SECRET.4th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE AFTER ORDER.Reference Sheet 62D. 1/40000.

21/5/18.

1. Reference para 1. of Fourth Australian Infantry Brigade Order No. 12
Thereafter of 4th Brigade units in the BLANGY system will be
completed by 8.p.m. 22nd instant, as follows :-

15th Battalion	relieved by	37th Battalion
13th "	"	" 38th "
16th "	"	" 39th "
14th "	"	" 40th "
4th T.M. Battery	"	" 10th T.M. Battery.

ROUTE.

- (a) 15th Battalion will move independently to FRECHENCOURT.
(b) Remainder of Brigade will move via BLANGY - southern bank
of Somme - GLISY BRIDGE - LAMOTTE - road junction in G. 25. A. -
ALLONVILLE.

2. TRANSPORT AND NUCLEUS.

- (a) 15th Battalion transport and nucleus will move under command
of Major J.J. CORRIGAN, D.S.O. via road junction in N.4.d. - QUERRIEU.
(b) Nucleus and transport of remainder of Brigade will move under
command of Major R. HARWOOD, D.S.O. vba LAMOTTE - road junction in
G. 25. A. - ALLONVILLE.
(c) All nucleus and transport to be clear of LAMOTTE by 9.a.m.

3. 10th Aust. Inf. Brigade are moving via TRONVILLE CHATEAU bridge.

4. Fourth Army Routine Order No 2039. on march discipline and traffic
control will be strictly observed.

5. Trench shelters and rations dumps in BLANGY system will be handed
over as they stand to 10th Aust. Inf. Brigade and receipts forwarded
to Brigade Headquarters by 23rd instant. (9.a.m.)

Trench shelters in wagon lines and nucleus area will be left standing
and handed over to units of 11th Aust. Inf. Brigade. Receipts will be
sent to Brigade Headquarters by 23rd instant. (6. a.m.)

6. Billeting parties (of all units of Brigade except 15th Battalion &
4th F. Coy A.E.) will report to Staff Captain at Area Commandants Office
AL LAMOTTE at 9.30.a.m. on 22nd instant.

15th Battalion and 4th Field Coy A.E., will take over direct from
opposite numbers in FRECHENCOURT and send advanced parties for that
purpose.

7. ACKNOWLEDGE.

R.W. Lovell Main

Brigade-Major,
4th Aust. Inf. Brigade,

Issued at 8.p.m. through Signals.

Distribution.- extra copies to -
10th Aust. Inf. Brigade.
11th " " "
Area Commandant LAMOTTE.
" " ALLONVILLE.