

**AWM4**

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

Machine Guns

**Item number:** 24/13/27

**Title:** 8th Australian Machine Gun  
Company

August 1918



AWM4-24/13/27



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R.20,000-5/18-11069.

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.  
DUPLICATE.  
TRIPPLICATE.

Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

OF

8th Aust. M.G. Coy.

FOR

August 1918

Signature of Officer compiling

*M. J. ...*

Signature of Officer Commanding

*A. K. Haefl Capt*



WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Coisy	AUGUST	9.30am	Parade. Inspection of S.B.Rs. All defects rectified. All clothing shortages taken.	
		1		
		2pm	Bathing Parade. 50 O.Rs bathed + supplied with clean clothes. During afternoon Company played cricket v 3 Aust M.T. club. In evening 4. Divisional H.Q. defeated Company at Soccer 4 points to 2 points.	
		2.9.30am	Parade Inspection of arms + equipment.	
		2pm	Bathing Parade. Remainder of Company bathed + provided with clean clothes. Rest of afternoon devoted to sport.	
		6pm	As per orders received from B.H.Q. 4 officers + 16 gun teams of 1 NCO. + 4 men, with fighting limbers complete marched out for movement to train with tanks for operation coming off in near future. Weather cloudy with showers throughout the day.	
		3.9.30am	Inspection of arms for Nucleus at Coisy. Weather wet.	
		9am	Movement. No 1 section paraded + marched to Tank grounds + gave demonstrations how to pack + unpack gear in + out of Tanks.	
		2pm	Whole Company paraded + practised loading + unloading of tanks.	

M.H. Stanford Lt



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Coisy	AUGUST		Day cloudy, with heavy showers.	
		4.5.30pm	Nucleus of Company marched out of Coisy for Blangy Trouville, via Allonville + Lamotte, arrived at 8.30pm. All men billeted in the town, billets only fair.	
			At Fremont. Meeting of officers of Vickers Gun Companies to discuss question of Vickers guns working with Lewis guns.	
Blangy Trouville	5		Billets cleaned up + as far as possible made weather proof. Extra billeting accommodation obtained for 3 Sections of Company training with tanks.	
		3.30pm	Nos 1, 2 + 3 Sections marched out from Fremont to rejoin Company at Blangy Trouville arriving at 8.30pm. Raining throughout whole march. Men marched very well. No 4 Section remained with tanks.	
	6		Orders received with reference to operation. 4 Guns to go forward with tanks. Remaining 12 Guns act as Divisional Reserve, to be in readiness to move forward with fighting line. New boots obtained from Bn. Q.M. + repairs to those requiring same.	

M. H. Stanford Lt. M



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Blangy Ironville	August 7		Day devoted to rest, preparatory to moving forward for the operation. At 12 noon orders received to make up 6 teams from Nucleus of the Company. These teams are to take up positions forward of Villers Bretonneux, + carry out harassing fire during night prior to zero hour, the object being to cover the withdrawal of guns of 2nd Aust. Division, who are going forward with infantry guns + gear drawn from Battalion H.Q.	
		3pm	Teams as above marched out under Lt. M. A. Lillcrappp.	
	8		At 4.20 am the attack commenced, the infantry moving forward after a 3 minute bombardment.	
Villers Bretonneux	7/15am		The 12 Reserve guns moved forward from Blangy Ironville + took up position in the railway cutting immediately in rear of Villers Bretonneux. Attack very successful, troops going forward very rapidly + gaining their final objectives well on time. Vickers guns moved forward with tanks to the final objective.	

M. H. Stanford  
R. W.



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Villers Belouvent	AUGUST 8		<p>Guns of this Company reached their final objective without casualties. One tank allotted to the Company carried right through without mishap. Through the other tank breaking down guns + gear in it had to be loaded + unloaded 3 times before finally reaching their positions. By 12 noon the whole of the Aust. Corps objectives had been taken + in parts the line had been pushed out beyond lines originally intended. Large number of prisoners taken + a number of guns.</p>	
		2.30 pm	<p>The Company moved into Villers Belouvent + billeted in the outskirts of the town. Standing by the remainder of the day. Enemy shelled main road west of Warfussee Abancourt with heavy calibre shells at intervals during the day.</p>	
	9		<p>Everything very quiet. Few shells on Warfussee Abancourt. 1st + 2nd part of 5th Aust Div pushed out line forward of Harbouinieres advancing in part 8000 yds. 4 Guns of this Company withdrawn from line at 10 pm. rejoined Company in Villers Belouvent</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">7</p>



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Villers	August	9:30am	Guns & gear overhauled; ladders repacked preparatory to move.	
Belonment	10	3pm	Company marched out for Daours arriving at 4:45 pm. Billeted at Factory on banks of canal.	
Daours	11	9:30am	Parade. Shortage in clothing issued. General swimming parade of Company in Canal. Afternoon rest & recreation.	
	12	9:30am	Parade. Ladders packed with necessary gun gear & stores only, in readiness for move forward. Belts overhauled. Afternoon swimming parade & rest.	
	13	7am	Conference of O.C.s Companies at Battalion HQ. Orders received for move forward to Rosieres. All packs blankets & surplus gear to be left behind at Daours.	
		9:30am	Parade. Whole Company paraded & marched to Battalion Dump, Daours with packs, blankets, which were stacked there with other surplus gear.	
		10:30am	Parade Company in fighting order moved out. Lunch in Bois-de-Vaine. Arrived at bivouac in rear of Rosieres at 6pm. Men marched well in spite of heat.	

M.H. Stanford Lt

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Roveres/Combined Sheet 1/40,000 X2.5 a Cental	AUGUST	9.30am	Parade Guns filled + limbers packed (1 Forward position to each 2 guns) in readiness for sections to join up battalions of 15 A I B de to which they are attached for coming operation. Standing by for remainder of day awaiting final orders.	
		8pm	Order received cancelling move until further notice.	
	15.	9.30am	Inspection of Rifles + revolvers + S. B. Rs. Standing by.	
		3.30pm	Operation cancelled + orders received to move out + occupy billets in Hamel. Billeting Officer sent forward.	
		5.30pm	Company marched out. Order received on march changing destination from Hamel to Q28 a Cental (Sheet 62 D). Company arrived there at 8 pm. bivouaced in + around wood. Bombing + shelling all around the camp during night.	
		10.30pm	Relief Order received notifying that 8 AM.C Coy will relieve B Coy 17th Imp. Batta in line at PROYART. night 16/17th.	

W.H. Stanford  
S.I.



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Q28a Central Sheet 62 D	AUGUST	16 9am	O.C. + Section Officers proceeded to 'B' Coy 17th Balm (M.G.) at Morcourt. Details of relief arranged. Section Officers went forward and interviewed Section Officers making all arrangements for guides etc.	
		6pm	First section moved out of Camp <sup>at 6pm</sup> for the line remaining sections following at 15 minutes interval. Relief completed very satisfactorily by 10.30 pm. Enemy very quiet during relief. At 11pm. enemy artillery opened up. Shelling very scattered. Bombing planes active in gullies around MORCOURT.	
		17	During day all gun positions visited. Positions of rear guns good, but some of forward guns not too well sited. Difficulty in placing forward guns being due to large captured shell dump covering most of ground in square R2c + R8b. This ground is heavily shelled at night by enemy. Enemy quiet during day except for snipers. At intervals during night fairly heavy shelling on area R2c R8b + gully running through R1d + R8a. Vickers gun at R2d34 destroyed by shell fire.	Sheet 62 DSE



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Q16 Sheet 83 Sheet 162 DSE	AUGUST	18	<p>9.30am Conference of C.O. &amp; O.C. Companies. Divisional Sector divided into 3 sectors. 3 MG's in line in depth 1 Coy in reserve. This necessitated rearrangement of some of gun positions by different companies. All these positions changed over during afternoon &amp; evening. 8 AM G Coy Sector lies between Canal &amp; grid line running between R. 8 &amp; R. 14. Coy HQ moved forward to R 8 c 6085. Fair amount of sniping in forward areas in daylight. Enemy MGs active during night sweeping roads &amp; tracks in forward areas. At 9.45pm enemy heavily shelled areas R1d &amp; R2a &amp; gully. Vickers gun knocked out by direct hit at R2d 8030 (approx) 1 OR Killed 1 OR wounded. Same areas heavily shelled at 10.30pm &amp; 12 midnight.</p>	
R8c6085 Sheet 162 DSE		19	<p>At 2.15am &amp; 4.15am areas R1d, R2a &amp; gully again heavily shelled. Enemy artillery also active on PROYART &amp; back areas. Our artillery carried out shoot by day &amp; night fire being much more intense than the enemies. During day 2 night rear guns moved to new positions giving better fields of fire.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
R806085	19		<p>After dusk usual activity by enemy M.C's and artillery. One Vickers gun completely destroyed by direct hit in same position as gun knocked out on previous night. Our M.C's carried out harassing fire giving special attention to LUC WOOD.</p>	
	20		<p>Forward guns visited + in view of heavy shelling of gun positions in bank in R2d, and the fact that the same ground could be covered by these guns if moved further back, it was decided to withdraw 2 of these guns to positions in bank at R2C 1055 + R1B 80 15. This change was carried out between 9.30pm + 11pm.</p> <p>O.B. 1st A.M.C Coy visited Coy HQ with reference to coming operation + probable take over from this Company. Enemy quiet than for several days. Shelled gully at R1d + R8c + also bombed gully at 11.55 pm. Our M.C's carried out harassing fire on back areas. LUC WOOD + trench systems in LONG WOOD. Enemy M.C's not quite as active as previous nights. I.O.R wounded.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	AUGUST			
R86085	21		Rear Gun visited. Enemy attitude quiet. Coy relieved on the line by 1st Aus MG Coy. Relief complete by 9.50 pm. Coy returns to Q21 d 5.0. Weather fine	
136680	22	10am	Bathing Parade at Canal near Marcourt. 5.30 Parade marching order. Moved to Hamlet and camped in tents in tree plantation at 136680	
	23	10am	Section Officer's parades. Work - Make & mend, cleaning gear and arms, overhauling gun gear and packing waggons. Shortages taken.	
	24	10am	Parade. Fighting order. Rifle inspection - Good results.	
		11am	Issue of revolver ammunition, underclothing, service stripes and colour patches. 4 pm Pay. Mens boots repaired at Batt HQ	
		6pm	Football match with 25th Aus MG Coy. Weather fine	
	25	10am	Parade. SBR inspection. Troops rest. 6 pm Football match against 5th Pioneers. A working party supplied to Batt HQ for construction of new pattern steel machine gun emplacement.	
Q 29 d 87	26	5am	Reverse, 6.45 Coy moved to Q 29 b. Rear party under Lt Bowden left to strike camp. Arrived Q 29 d 87 at 10 am. OC + Adjutant proceed to carry out liaison with 14th MG Co + 8th Bde.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Q29d87	27	12 noon	Limbers Packed ready to move into line. 10 pm Relief of 14th Coy complete. Coy H.Q. at R19656. Enemy gassed forward areas heavily and fired over all remaining ammunition before carrying out retirement.	App. 2
R19656	28		Enemy retired several thousand yards. OC & adjutants carried out reconnaissance and section officers were ordered to co-operate with infantry battalion in the line and to advance with them. Fighting limbers and horses were attached to sections to enable them to carry out the pursuit. Eight extra men per section, making gun teams up to 1 PCO + 5 men, were brought into the line. Weather rainy & dull.	
N25d23	29		Capt Bradford proceeded to Divisional H.Q. and Capt Mack assumed command of Coy. Reconnaissance of forward area carried out. Rear H.Q. moved temporarily to R29c 3060. Forward H.Q. established at N25d 23. 5.30 pm Rear H.Q. + transport moved to N25d 23. Communication established with all sections. No 3 Sect. in reserve at Coy H.Q.	No reference



8th AUSTRIAN  
MACHINE GUN  
COMPANY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
M16d5070	30	10am	Parade Battle Order. Section returned from line to Coy HQ and Coy proceeded to bivouacs in Gully at M16d 0020.	
	31	10am	Parade. Overhauling gun gear and repacking liners. Shortages taken. Troops rest. 3pm Nos 3 & 4 Section move to positions at N11a with respective battalions (30th and 32nd).	
			Casualties for month	
				Killed 2 OR
				Wounded 5 OR
				Evacuated 7 OR
			Rejoined unit	Officers and 15 OR
			Other Reinforcements	nil
				A. K. Haef Capt OC 8th Aust MG Co



## WAR DIARY

OF

APPENDIX

8th Aust. MG Co.

FOR

August 1918

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.

Subject.

- 1 Trace map showing dispositions  
20/8/18.
- 2 Company Order in connection  
with relief of 14th MG Coy 27/8/18



APPENDIX

62 D. SE  
14

SECRET

5<sup>TH</sup> A.M.G. BN.

DISPOSITIONS OF M.G.'S

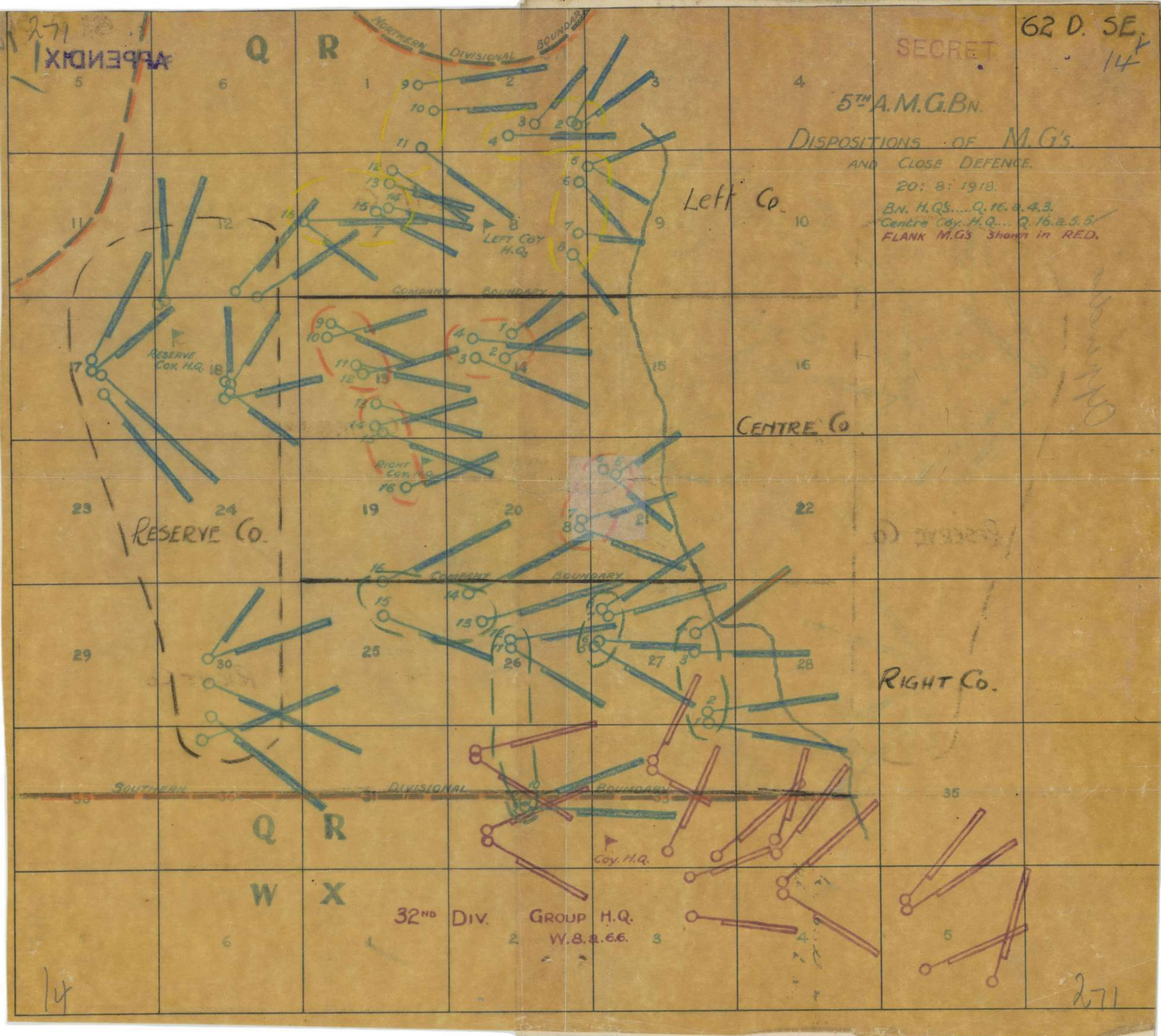
AND CLOSE DEFENCE.

20: 8: 1918.

Bn. H.Q.s.... Q. 16. a. 4. 3.

Centre Coy. H.Q.... Q. 16. a. 5. 5.

FLANK M.G'S shown in RED.



Left Co.

CENTRE Co.

RIGHT Co.

RESERVE Co.

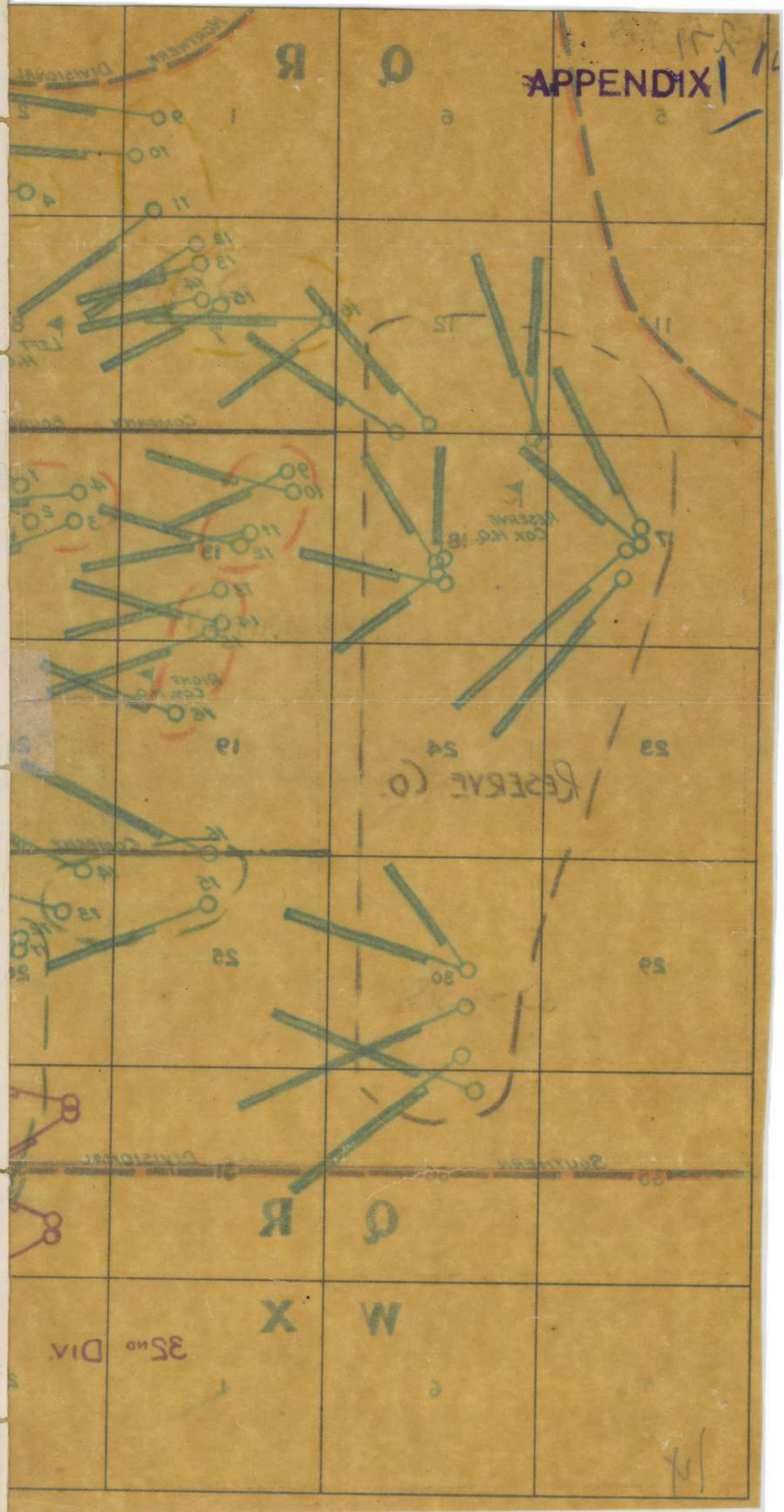
32<sup>ND</sup> DIV. GROUP H.Q.  
W. 8. a. 6. 6.

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APPENDIX





8th Aust MG Coy  
Map Ref HARBORNIERES  
1/20000

Headquarters  
27 8 18

- 1 The 8th Aust MG Coy will relieve the 14th Aust MG Coy in the line of the night 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> August 1918.
- 2 Sections will be disposed as follows  
No 1 Section Lt Fullard Sect HQ R35 a 62  
" 2 " " Bulgan " " R24 c 0550  
" 3 " " Cleary " " R28 a 55  
" 4 " " Hill " " R18 a 9.4  
Coy Headquarters at R19. b. 5. 6.
- 3 Strength Gun teams of 1000 and 2 men  
two runners per section  
Coy HQ 4 signallers 2 runners  
Relay post at R27 a 1. 9. 3 signallers
- 4 Guides for Nos 1, 2, and 3 Sects will be at  
Relay post at 5 pm 5. 15 pm and 5. 30 pm  
respectively, No 4 Section will meet  
guide at Coy HQ at 7 pm
- 5 Tripods, elevating and traversing deals,  
Belt boxes and trench stores will be  
taken over on positions, Receipts to

to be forwarded to Coy HQ as  
early as possible.

- 6 Transport 3 fore portion limbers No 1  
2, and 3 section to be packed ready  
to move by 4. 30 pm 1 full lumber  
No 4 Sect and Coy HQ gear to be packed  
ready to move by 6 pm
- 7 Rations The unconsumed portion  
of today's rations to be carried in by  
gun teams, future dumps will be  
at Relay post for No 1, 2, and 3 section and  
R17 a 25. 28. at 9 pm for No 4 section
- 8 Reports No 4 Section will send reports  
to No 2 Sect HQ No's 2 and 1 section will  
forward reports to No 3 section, No 3 Sect  
will collect all reports and forward  
them to Relay post, Reports to reach  
Relay Post by 6 pm.
- 9 Water to be taken into line in three  
10 Completion of relief to be notified to  
Relay post by runner, except No 4 Sect  
who will notify Coy HQ direct

Issued at 3 pm.

CHM No 4 Sect  
AVB No 2 Sect  
HLL No 3 Sect  
G No 1 Sect

W. Dudgeon Capt  
OC, 8th Aust MG Coy

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