

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

Machine Guns

Item number: 24/13/29

Title: 8th Australian Machine Gun
Company

October 1918



AWM4-24/13/29

6029

271

18,000-12/17-8723

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
~~DUPLICATE.~~
~~TRIPLICATE.~~

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

8th AUST. M. G. Coy.

FOR

OCTOBER 1918

Signature of Officer compiling

[Handwritten signature]

Signature of Officer Commanding

[Handwritten signature]

for 8th a. Machine Gun Coy.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sheet 62 ^c France	1918 Oct 1 st	n/night to 2am 6am	<p>Enemy taking advantage of continuous light rain, heavily shelled with gas on forward areas.</p> <p>31st Battalion attacked, moving forward, taking JONCOURT and MILLRIDGE to its left. O. C. Coy went forward with CO 31st Bn during the attack & sited gun positions.</p>	
NAUROY		12- m/day	<p>The guns of nos 1 & 4 Sections moved forward and occupied these, & were thus situated approx as follows - No 1 Sect at H 13 a - No 4 Sect at H 13 a and H 7 b.</p> <p>As it was the intention to again move forward, cooperating in a further operation at a later hour during the day, the sections did not dig in.</p> <p>Orders were received that the 8th Brigade would be relieved by the 5th Bgde. No definite orders as to a Coy relief were received.</p> <p>As the expected operation did not eventuate, the sections were disposed under shelter for the night and rough gun positions were manned.</p> <p>Enemy shell fire during the day & night was light and scattered.</p> <p>No 2 and 3 Sections remained at Railway Support Trench. Visual Signalling was established with Batten. H.Q.</p>	
BELLICOURT HERVILLY	2 ND	6am	<p>8 Guns of nos 1 and 4 Sections were relieved by 4 Guns of the 5th Coy. In accordance with 8th Bgde orders, the teams moved to, and occupied trenches in A 26 d in rear of BELLICOURT, and rested there.</p>	
		7pm	<p>Orders were received from Bn, and Teams proceeded to Rear HQ at HERVILLY, arriving at 10pm. A hot meal awaited the troops.</p>	
JEANCOURT.		10pm	<p>No 2 & 3 Sections earlier in the day (at 9am) had received Bn orders & moved back accordingly, to Rear HQ. The Company was now together.</p> <p>Orders received that the Company was to proceed by 3pm 3rd inst to area allotted to it in L 26 and 20.</p>	
			<p>Weather - Showery & cold during early part of day - became fine & settled later.</p> <p>Weather - Fine during day becoming showery at night.</p> <p>During operations Sept 29, 30th Oct 1st & 2nd the following features are worth recording -</p> <p>1. The transport of Gun gear etc on the 29th was by each Sub-Section fore-portion</p>	<p>Sub-section 4</p>

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sheet 62C FRANCE	Oct 2 nd		<p>-limber as far forward as was possible: It was found necessary to man-handle it from VILLERET, this being done with considerable speed.</p> <p>2. Liason during the whole operation was successfully maintained by the O.C and Runners with the C.O 31st Bn, thus enabling the guns to be kept in close touch with the Infantry units.</p> <p>3. At 30 minutes notice 4 guns of 101 Section were carried forward 300', a barrage worked out and placed down. This was maintained for 15 minutes, after which guns were withdrawn to their former positions.</p> <p>4. Rations & Water were brought from rear to forward sections by pack animals.</p> <p>The total casualties for the period were - 1 Officer (Lieut Macdonald W.D)</p>	
	Oct 3 rd	2 pm 6 pm	<p>Company moved forward and occupied trenches in area L 20.C and d.</p> <p>No 2 & 3 Sections were moved forward to L 16C central and attached to the 56th Bn (Corp Reserve)</p> <p>All sections spent remainder of day in settling down.</p> <p><u>Weather</u> Fine - inclined to fog towards evening.</p>	<p>See Appen 1 O.C. Corps Operation Report. "Appen 2 Rough Sketch. Coff</p>
JEANCOURT.	4 th		<p>No 2 & 3 Sections still standing by with 56th Bn at L 16C Central with remainder of Company at L 20. Shortages in clothing & equipment were taken after which men rested.</p> <p>Company standing by under 2 hours notice to move.</p> <p>Mens packs were brought from LE MESNIL by 14th Coy Transport.</p> <p><u>Weather</u> Fine - visibility poor owing to fog. Very cold at night.</p>	
	5 th	9 am	<p>Instructions received from Battalion to withdraw No 2 & 3 Sections - Sections were withdrawn to L 20C and d accordingly.</p> <p>Orders received that Coy will proceed under 8th Bde Group to ^{the} HUPPY area for corps spell.</p> <p>14th and 15 Coys marched to LE MESNIL.</p> <p><u>Weather</u> Dull - cold.</p>	<p>Instructions received</p>

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1918 Oct. 6 th		Coy remained at L 20c and d, expecting to move at any moment. Lt. Cleary & 3 O. Ranks left as Billeting Party for ^{the} Bathu. Weather - Cloudy & cold.	
LE MESNIL	7 th	1-45pm	Company marched under Bathu with Bn HQ and 25 th Coy to LE MESNIL, arriving at 6pm. Troops were billeted in bow huts, and hot tea issued out.	
	8 th		<u>Weather</u> Dull during day - heavy rain throughout the night. Company stood by during the day. Orders received to entrain at 7pm.	
		4pm	Transport moved out at 4pm to Railway siding at LA CHAPELETTE	
		6pm	Company marched (fuel marching order with blankets) to LA CHAPELETTE. Entraining of both transport & men was delayed until 10-30pm. 25 th Coy & Bathu HQ on same train.	
1-100,000 DIEPPE.	9 th	10 am	Tram moved out, travelling all night. 24 hours rations were on the train in bulk. Coy along with 25 th Coy and Bn HQ detrained at MARTAINNEVILLE and marched to outskirts of village, where hot tea and dry rations were issued. Then proceeded to billets in the village of RAMBURES. The whole Bathu being in this village has rather cramped the accommodation.	Appendix 3. Movements 8 th 9 th
RAMBURES			Remainder of day spent in settling down.	
	10 th	9-30am	<u>Weather</u> fine - calm. Section Officers parade. Troops spent morning in generally settling down. Water supply and sanitation attended to.	
			Lieut Winn rejoined Company. Draft of 9 (mie) O. Ranks received	
			<u>Weather</u> - Dull but otherwise fine	
	11 th	9-30am	Parade for promulgation of Standing Orders - Troops paid their rest for remainder of day. Coy supplied town prequet at night.	
			Some difficulty was experienced in finding transport lines suitable for Coy transport	
			<u>Weather</u> Dull - otherwise fine.	

Lithographed by

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
1-100,000 DIEPPE	1918. Oct. 12 th	9-30am	Parade for promulgation of further orders. 25 th Coy proceeded to billets in the village of NESLETTE, thus easing the cramped accommodation of this village.	
RAMBURES.			Sports Committees have been arranged, so as to provide games & entertainment for the troops during the rest. A committee was also formed to decide upon the best way of disposing, for the benefit of the men, of portion of the Coys. Comfort Funds. Leave to ABBEVILLE and PARIS is to be granted.	
	13 th		<u>Weather</u> Dull - occasional showers - cold. Church Parade arranged under 8 th Bgde, postponed on account of heavy rain. R.C. Services held in RAMBURES church.	
	14 th		<u>Weather</u> Heavy rain throughout the day & night. Morning spent in Training as per Syllabus (See Appendix). Afternoon spent by troops in recreation.	Appendix 4 Syllabus of Training
	15 th		Battalion N.C.O's School commenced. This Coy sent 6 NCO's & 30 Punks to attend. <u>Weather</u> Dull.	
	16 th		Training as per Syllabus. Company Football Team played a practice match. Owing to the inclemency of the weather training was carried out in billets.	
	17 th		<u>Weather</u> Showery throughout the day. Training as per Syllabus. Cardigan jackets were issued to the troops. Colonel Mason late 15 th Bgde joined the Battalion as Commanding Officer.	
	18 th		<u>Weather</u> Dull - cold. Training as per Syllabus. A practice match of Australian Football was played during the afternoon. <u>Weather</u> Fine.	List of names

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
1-100,000 DIEPPE	Oct 1918.	11-am	Battalion paraded and was addressed by the Commanding Officer. Sports Committee met to discuss and arrange entries for the forthcoming Sports Meetings to be held early in November. The Company will compete for the Challenge Cup in the Battalion Sports, in the 8 th Bde Group and the Divisional Sports. <u>Weather</u> Fine.	
RAMBURES	19 th		Owing to the inclemency of the weather Church Parade was not held. Coy is Battalion Duty Company. Battalion Quarter Guard supplied by 101 Section - 9-30 am. <u>Weather</u> Cold and Wet	
	20 th		The Company marched to Divisional Baths at NESLETTE, where a bath and change of clothing was obtained for each man. A Rugby Football match was played with the 25 th Coy. <u>Weather</u> Fine.	Appendix 5. Syllabus of Training
	21 st		Training was carried on as per Syllabus. The Company played the 15 th Company an Australian Football Match, the results being 8 th - 11 g-11 b to 15 th 1 g-1 b.	
	22 nd		<u>Weather</u> Fine	
	23 rd	11 am	Coy - duty Coy. Battalion Quarter Guard supplied by 102 Section. A Battalion parade of both personnel and transport was held. Inspection by CO. The construction of stables for the 15 th and 8 Coys Transport was commenced by RE's and Fatigue party. The Coy played the 15 th Coy a Soccer Football Match - Results 8 th - 6 - 15 th nil.	
	24 th		<u>Weather</u> Fine Training as per Syllabus - athletic training is being carried on by those intending to compete in the forthcoming sports.	
	25 th		The Battalion and Transport were inspected by the G.O.C 5 th Australian Division - General J.T Hobbs - after which the battalion marched past.	
	26 th		50 Tickets for a Concert at RAMBEURELLS were issued to the Coy. Training as per Syllabus. Shortages of clothing and equipment were taken. The Company played the 8th Rugby Football against 8 th Field Ambulance.	8 th FA Winning
	27 th	11-am	<u>Weather</u> Fine Church parades were held at RAMBEURELLS. <u>Weather</u> Fine	

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Place	Date 1918	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
1-100,000 DIEPPE RAMBURES	Oct. 28.		Company at Range near NESLETTE carrying out firing - stoppages. A 3 mile Cross-Country Run was held during the afternoon, resulting in the 8 th Company being victors. An Australian Football match was played against the combined 29 th & 32 nd Battalions team. Br. 10-4. 8 th . 5-10 <u>Weather</u> Fine. A cinema has been obtained by Bin and showing in the village	Appendix 6 Syllabus of Training
	29 th		Training as per Syllabus. <u>Weather</u> Fine	
	30 th		Battalion Route March - Companies and transport - Full marching order. In the afternoon the Coy played 5 th Pioneer's ^{Australian} Football. Results being 8 th Company winners - 5 th Pioneers -	
	31 st		<u>Weather</u> Fine Training as per Syllabus. <u>Weather</u> - Dull and misty.	
<p><u>Total Strength.</u></p> <p>Officers 13</p> <p>O. Ranks 214</p> <p><u>227.</u></p>			<p>Casualties 1. Other Rank</p> <p>Evac. Sick 11</p> <p>Rejoined unit 13</p> <p>Reinforcements Nil</p>	<p><i>Victor. name HT</i></p>
<p><i>M. J. Puccia</i></p> <p>for - <u>O. C. 8th A. M. G. Coy</u></p>				

Report on Operations from 29.9.15 to 2.10.15.

At 6.30 am on the morning of the 29th at 174 Sections were reported to C.O. 31st Bn in accordance with instructions received. At 7 am the 31st Bn commenced to move towards the line, the M.G. Sections bringing up the rear. The route was the Black Rd. leading to Villaret. up to this point each Section had the forward portion of its fighting equipment with them, but it was found impossible to get them any further forward, so the men had to carry them there on.

From Villaret the troops proceeded towards Bellecourt. A smoke Barrage was put down whilst we were between these two places. owing to the wind blowing in our direction the smoke was blown back over the our own troops, which made it difficult to maintain direction. Apparently this smoke was the cause of the Americans getting hopelessly lost & confused. A great deal of M.G. fire from the Right Flank was experienced, but little or no shelling.

On reaching Bellecourt it was found that the town had not been cleared of the enemy & that the left end of the town was still in their hands. The sections had to halt in village from about 10 am to midday. During this period the enemy heavily shelled this area village, but fortunately no casualties were inflicted.

About noon the 31st Bn commenced to move forward in artillery formation in the direction of Mauroy; on the right flank. The M.G. sections followed in similar formation by gun teams.

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 On reaching a line of trenches in G 170 the Section halted, whilst the Infantry moved forward & established a line on a second class road running through G 18C, with two Companies in support in G 24A. In accordance with the C.O. of the 31st Batt^y it was decided to put two guns in the front line & two back with the Support Companies. The other four were placed in position in trenches in G 170 so as to cover Hauron, (which was still held by the Enemy) & the valley running to it.

At ^{on the 30th} the Infantry moved forward to the Junker road running from Etricourt to Hauron. The guns were sent further forward. But the four guns in support in G 170 were taken forward to trenches in G 15C & a barrage placed on trenches in H 1C which lasted for 15 minutes. 3000^{lb} of explosives were used.

The two guns with Support Companies were moved up to the second class road in G 18C, as were two of the guns from G 170, the remaining two being in position in G 170.

Thus there were 6 guns in G 18C & two in G 170.

The enemy had consistently shelled this area with 5.9" & 4.2" also gas shells. One gun was blown out during the night of the 30th.

Coy HQ was formed G 170 S.O.

At dawn on the 1st ult. the 31st Batt^y again attacked & with the 32nd Batt^y on their right, took possession of Hill Ridge to Estrees.

APPENDIX

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 About 9 am the OC proceeded forward with the OC 31st Batt^y to the position for guns to be placed. The four guns of Ho. Sec to H 137 & the three of Ho. 4 to H 137 & H 78. The sections moved forward about 1 pm, but owing to another expected operation, did not dig in. As the operation did not eventuate by 6 pm, orders were given for them to do so.

The 31st Batt^y notified me that they were being relieved by a Bde of the 8th Bde that night.

About midnight I was informed through the 8th Bde that I would be relieved by a Section of Guns from the 5th Amc. Coy. Guns were sent out to meet them, but - missed. At 5 am they were located & the relief arrangements completed by 6 am. Under Order from the 8th Bde we moved back to the area in A 260. Eventually moving back to Service that evening.

During the whole of this period the position was maintained by runners & the OC with the 31st Batt^y.

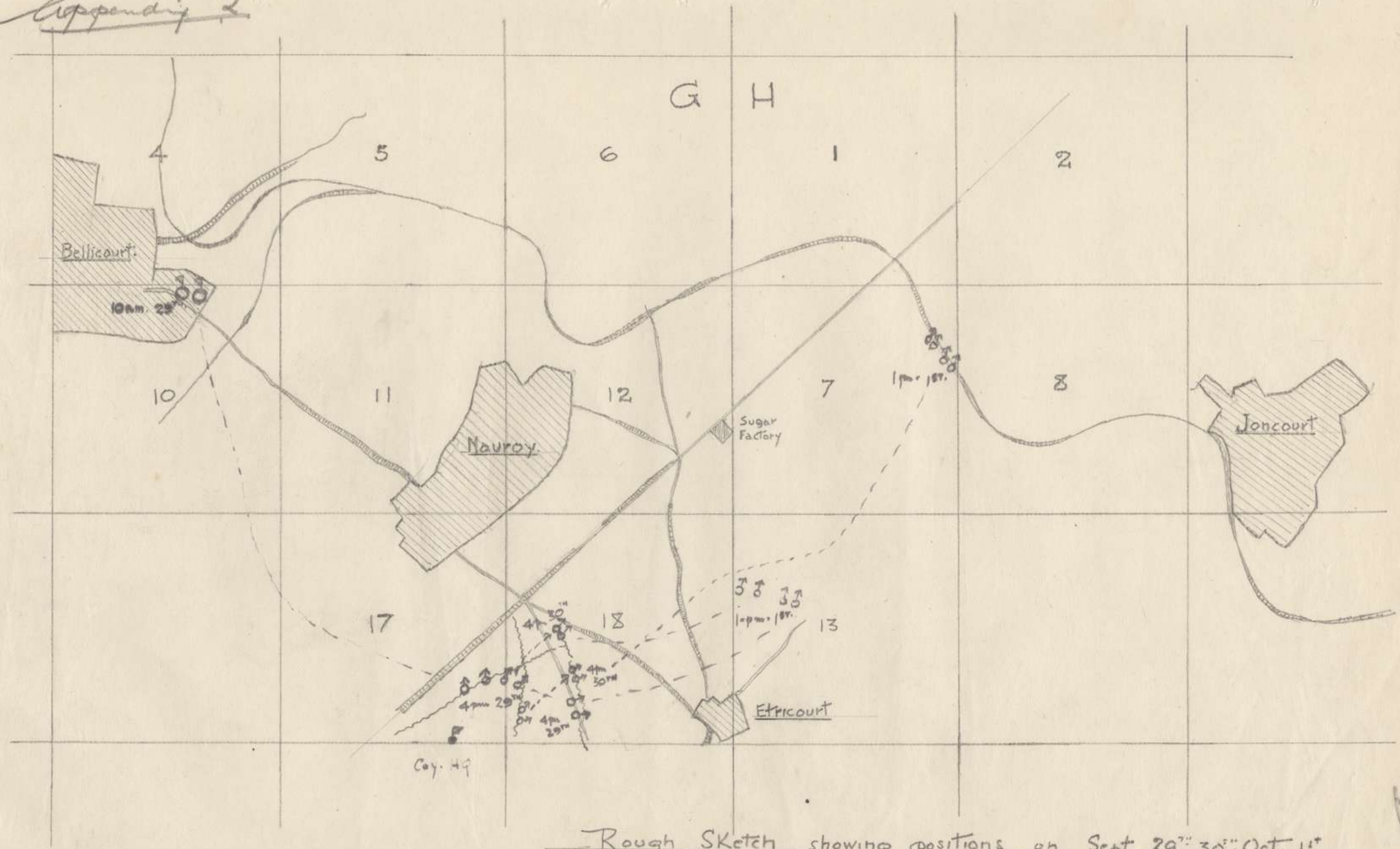
Casualties list War Diary etc.
 (Donnaea Hill Fire)
 4. or 5 (Donnaea Hill Fire)

4/10/15

A. K. Haffley
 D. C. 8th Amc. Coy.

Appendix 2

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Rough SKetch showing positions on Sept 29th 30th Oct. 1st

WIANCOURT 1:20,000

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Appendix 3.

APPENDIX 3¹¹⁵

8th Machine Gun Company.

15-10-18

Report on Movements October 8th - 9th.

On the day of the 8th the Company was standing by in huts at LE MESNIL awaiting the entraining hour.

At 4-30 pm the Transport, along with the 25th Coy and Battalion H Q Transport, proceeded under the Command of the Coy Transport Officer to the Railway Siding at LA CHAPLETTE.

At 6 pm the Company under Battr. marched to the Railway Siding arriving at 7-15 pm, when it was found that the entraining of both Transport and Company would be delayed some hours.

By 11- pm the entrainment was completed, the troops occupying closed in trucks, & the accommodation being 32 (thirty two) per truck. The train moved out at 11-15 pm.

24 hours rations were carried in bulk on the train.

Travelling lasted throughout the night and until 10 am on the morning of the 9th, when the Company and Transport detrained at MARTAINNEVILLE, and proceeded to the outskirts of the Village, where hot tea and dry rations were issued.

At noon the march was resumed, the Company duly arriving at its billets in the Village of RAMBURES at 2- pm on the afternoon of the 9th.

A. H. Hall Capt^r

O. C. 8th Machine Gun Coy.

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APPENDIX 4

Appendix 4

5TH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION.

SYLLABUS OF TRAINING

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TIME	0900 0915	0915 0935	0935 1000	1000 1015	1015 1030	1030 1115	1115 1200	1210 1250	1250 1300	REMAINDER OF DAY	
14 TH 1918	INSTRUCTION BY SECTION OFFICERS AND COMPANY COMMANDERS.		SQUAD DRILL	RIFLE EXERCISES	PHYSICAL TRAINING	SMOKE AND GETTING TECHNICAL GEAR READY	SECTION DRILL (M.G.)	MECHANISM	POINTS B. D. & A. CARE & CLEANING	COMPANIES MARCH FIRST COMPANY COMMANDER TO BILLET.	SPORTS AND GAMES
15 TH			RIFLE EXERCISES	SQUAD DRILL			I. A.	VISUAL TRAINING	SECTION DRILL (M.G.)		
16 TH			RIFLE EXERCISES	SECTION DRILL (LINE)			SPARE PARTS BOX	V. T. AND RANGE CARDS.	SECTION DRILL (M.G.)		
17 TH			RIFLE EXERCISES	COMPANY DRILL			ROUTE MARCH				
18 TH			RIFLE EXERCISES	COMPANY DRILL			I. A.	BELT FILLING.	DUTIES AT A GUN POSITION.		
19 TH	INSPECTION BY C.O. AT BILLETS.		BATTALION DRILL.								

RIFLE EXERCISES. I.T. 43-54 57-62
65-72.

SQUAD DRILL. I.T. 40-46 M.G. SECT DRILL I.T. 103.

5TH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION

SYLLABUS OF TRAINING

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Appendix 5
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10 TH			SQUAD RIFLE DRILL EXERCISES										
11 TH			RIFLE EXERCISES	SECTION DRILL (I.N.R.)	ANTI-GAS TRAINING	PHYSICAL TRAINING	SECTION DRILL (M.G.)	MILITARY VOCABULARY	MECHANISM				
22 ND							I.A.	TYPES OF FIRE	SEARCHING PRACTICE				
23 RD			COMPANY DRILL				FIRE ORDERS	TRAVEL SEARCHING FIRE (L)	TRAVEL SEARCHING PRACTICE				
24 TH			SECTION DRILL (I.N.R.)	MUSK. RAPID LOADING	ANTI-GAS TRAINING	PHYSICAL TRAINING	(L) I.A. ON RANGE IN RESP.	PICKING OF LIMBERS	LIMBER DRILL				
25 TH			LECTURE AND DEMONSTRATION IN GAS WARFARE AND TRAINING BY DIV GAS OFFICER										
26 TH			RIFLE EXERCISES	THEORY OF RIFLE FIRE	ANTI-GAS TRAINING	PHYSICAL TRAINING	BATTALION PARADE						

SECTION

I

RECREATION AND SPORTS

COMMANDING 5TH AUST. M.G. BATTALION
LIEUT. - COL. CTO

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5th Australian Machine Gun Bn
 Syllabus of Training Week 28. 10. 18 - 2. 11. 18

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Company	8 th	14 th	15 th	25 th	0830	0840	0915	0945	1000	1030	1130	1230	
12	3	4	5		Immediate Action on Parade								
2	1	1	1		Company Drill	Lecture March Discipline	Anti Gas Training	P. T.	Mechanism	Combined Drill			
3	3	3	3		Route March with Transport (Marching Order)								
4	4	2	2		Infantry Section Drill	Lecture theory of MG fire and Expunctions				Section Drill	Foot Inspection Barrage Drill First Stage		
5	5	5	4		Rifle Exercises	Lecture Clinometers and their Application to MG Work				T.O.E.T.	Laying Guns for Direction		
6	6	6	6		Kit Inspection								
							Anti Gas Training		Physical Training			Battalion Parade	

Inspection

Recreation and Sports

Notes Day 1 - Monday 28. 10. 18
 " 2 - Tuesday 29. 10. 18
 " 3 - Wednesday 30. 10. 18
 " 4 - Thursday 31. 10. 18
 " 5 - Friday 1. 11. 18
 " 6 - Saturday 2. 11. 18

Signed W.A. Denny Capt and Adj. Gen.
 Lt. Col.
 Commanding 5th Aust M G Battalion

APPENDIX 618