

AWM4

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

Machine Guns

Item number: 24/13/32

Title: 8th Australian Machine Gun
Company

January 1919



AWM4-24/13/32

CONFIDENTIAL

ORIGINAL

271

WAR DIARY

OF

8TH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN COY

FOR

JANUARY 1919

COMPILING OFFICER

Arthur Wilson

W. H. ... Capt.

COMMANDING OFFICER

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.

or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
1-100,000 VALENKIENNES ST. REMY CHAUSSEE	1919	10-45 ^{am}	A Roman Catholic Church Parade was held at ST. REMY Church. In the afternoon the Battalion Australian Football Team played the combined 59 th -60 th Battalion Team at DOULERS. The results were 59 th -60 th - 7g-6b. M.G. Bn 1g-3b. This match is the commencement of the first round of the 15 th Brigade Group Sports. <u>Weather</u> Settled, but dull and cold.	
	1 st		2 nd Section Parades - Inspection - P.T. and Recreational Training. The Battalion Educational classes were held. <u>Weather</u> Fine during the morning, showery with cold winds afternoon & night.	
	3 rd	9am	Parade - P.T. Recreational Training. The Battalion Rugby Team played in the afternoon the 59 th -60 th Bn Team, the results being M.G. Bn 17 points 59 th -60 th Bn - nil. <u>Weather</u> Fine during the day - showery & cold at night.	
	4 th	9am	Parade Kit Inspection. A lecture on "Democracy" was given in the Cinema Hall by Canon J. B. Masterman MA. 50 men from this Company attended.	
		6-30pm	The 2 nd Battalion Concert was held. The Concert Party was concentrated and attached to Batten HQ. They are to be known as the Tripod Troubadours. A subscription was made by each Company for the purpose of buying costumes, etc. <u>Weather</u> Fine and sunny during the day - showery at night.	
	5 th	11am	C of E and OPD Voluntary Church Parade was held in the Cinema Hall. R.C. parade at DOULERS. <u>Weather</u> Showery throughout the day and night.	
	11-15am			
6 th	9am	Parade P.T. Recreational Training. 4 officers (Lts Bowden, Makelham, Olds & Nankervis) & 2 Other Ranks left the Coy to attend the Corp. Educational School. Members of the Battalion Team from this Coy went with the Team to play the Corp Australian Football Team. The Corp team was victorious. <u>Weather</u> Showery.		

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ST. REMY.	1919 Jan 7 th		<p>Checking from Mobilization Store Table was carried out. The Battalion Educational School added Trigonometry French and Shorthand classes to its curriculum. Bn Australian Football Team played the 58th Pn Team. Results Bn 77 - 58th - 7. The Pn Tug of War Team also defeated the 59-60th Pn Team. <u>Weather</u> Fine during the day - showery at night.</p>	
	8 th		<p>Checking from Mobilization Store Table was completed. <u>Weather</u> Fine</p>	
	9 th	9am 6-p.	<p>Coy paraded to Battalion Baths. No 1 Section debated Transport on the subject of Is Professionalism detrimental to Sport. This took place in the Coy Recreational Room. The Transport received the judgment. The Company Recreation Rooms are now well established - Quoit, Bridge & Whist Tournaments have and are still being held.</p>	
	10 th	9am	<p><u>Weather</u> Rain during the day, becoming more settled at night. P.T. and Recreational Training. The Company is forming a rifle team of 10- to compete with Bath Teams in the 15th Bde Group Competitions. Bn Australian Football Team played the 58th Pn Team - match resulting in a draw - 42-42 all. Bn Tug of War team defeated the 58th Pn Team. Bn Soccer Team played an English RE Soccer Team. Bn-4 - English RE'S-2-</p>	
	11 th	9am	<p><u>Weather</u> Fine and frosty. Coy Parade. orders read. P.T. and Recreational Training. O.C. Coy. (Lt Wain) went on Paris leave. Lt Ewing now acting O.C. An officer (Lt Cowlish) attended Divisional Musketry Conference.</p>	
	12 th		<p><u>Weather</u> Rain on & off. Voluntary Church Parades were held. Troops rest. <u>Weather</u> Cloudy but otherwise fine.</p>	<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Bucknhead Lt.</p>

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Place	Date 1919	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ST. REMY	Jan 13 th	9 am	<p>Shooting Practice was held on the Range obtained by the Coy in this Village. This practice was with a view to selecting the 10 best shots who in their turn will shoot against the other Coys. A team to represent the Battalion in the 15th Bde Sports will be selected. Some good results were obtained.</p> <p><u>Weather</u> Cloudy but settled. Cold.</p>	
	14 th		<p>In the morning the Company was paid. Two football matches were played in the afternoon. Australian Team were defeated by the 57th Pz Team 10g.6h. to 6g.9h. The British Soccer ^{Team} defeated an English Soccer Team.</p> <p>Men who enlisted in the first half of 1915 left the Coy today en route for England and the port of embarkation. It is expected that the other half of the 1915 men will be leaving shortly.</p> <p><u>Weather</u> Dull but settled.</p>	
	15 th		<p>Owing to the inclemency of the weather P.T. and Recreational Sports were not carried out. The Rifle Shooting practice also had to be postponed.</p> <p>In the evening in the New Educational Hall the Coy debated with the 15th Coy on the subject of "Is professionalism detrimental to Sport". The Coy secured the judgment. Major Wright was adjudicator.</p> <p><u>Weather</u> Raining throughout the day and night.</p>	
	16 th	9 am	<p>The Company Rifle Team under Battalion carried out a shooting practice. Men were selected for the Battalion Team. Revolver Practice was also carried out.</p> <p>P.T. and Recreational Training.</p> <p>Lt. Gell joined the Coy.</p>	
	17 th		<p><u>Weather</u> Fine during the day - raining at night.</p> <p>P.T. and Recreational Training.</p> <p>Shooting Practice was carried out.</p> <p>A lecture was given by Brig Gen Mc Nichol, on Repatriation, at DOULERS. Members of this Coy attended.</p> <p><u>Weather</u> Fine during day - rain at night.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ST. REMY.	1919 Jan 18 th	9am	<p>PT and Recreational Training.</p> <p>Afternoon Bath Soccer Team defeated the English 128th Labour Coy Team - 3 to 2.</p> <p>Another Bath concert was given in the Cinema Hall. This show was most successful and reflected great credit on Lt Hill (14th Coy) and his party. The 58th Pn Band played selections and added greatly to the success of the evening.</p> <p>The Company is holding a Rifle competition commencing on Monday 20th. It is open to all at 1 franc entry. Winner to get 2/3^d and second 1/3. Range 100⁺ - 6" Bull.</p> <p>Much difficulty has been experienced of late by the P.M.S in receiving Rations. Delays have been frequent and have often necessitated two trips and at all hours. There is also a shortage of vegetables. Potatoes can be obtained at a very high price at CHARLEROI. Very little can be obtained locally.</p> <p>19th</p> <p>Voluntary Church Parades were held.</p> <p>Lt Hill received instructions to report to the Corp Horse Concentration Camp for duty.</p> <p>No 1 Section debated with No 4 Section on the subject "Is the White Australian Policy inadvisable" No 1 Sect took the affirmative, No 4 the Negative. No 1 received the judgment.</p> <p>Weather Fine - severe frost.</p> <p>20th 9am</p> <p>PT and Recreational Training.</p> <p>A challenge issued by the 6th Alpine Chasseurs French Regiment to shoot against our M.A Battalion has been accepted. It will be a match of 2 guns from each, coming into action & opening fire on a target at an unknown range. The most hits in a two minute time limit from the command action. The shoot will be held at SEMOUSIES on Wednesday 22nd inst.</p> <p>A try out between the Coys was held with the object of choosing the Coy to represent the Pn. The 25th Coy failed to appear. It was held on this Coys range - the results being 8th - 85 points 15th - 30 points 14th - 15 points. This Coys Sub-sections will represent the Pn.</p> <p>The Pn Australian Rules Football Team was beaten by the 57th Pn Team. 5th M.A. 2g. 57th Pn. 12g 9h.</p> <p>The match was played at ST REMY on the Battalion's Grounds.</p> <p>The Pn Tug of War team defeated the 57th Pn Team.</p> <p>Weather - Fine - heavy frost.</p>	<p>Photo record of</p>

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Place	Date 1919.	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ST. REMY (CHAUSEE)	Jan 21 st .	9-am 10am	<p>P.T and Recreational Training</p> <p>No 1 Section carried out their shooting for the Company Rifle Competition. In the afternoon the sub sections representing the Bn in the challenge shoot had another practice on the Coys range. Some very good times were put up. Action from the stationary lumber and first shot fired in 25 to 30 seconds. This shooting match has been postponed until Thursday 23rd inst.</p> <p>Lt Clutterbuck joined the Coy.</p> <p>Weather Fine & clear - heavy frost.</p>	
	22 nd	9am	<p>Company Bathed. Clean change issued.</p> <p>No 2 & 3 Sections and Transport carried out their shooting for the Company Rifle Competition. The M. G. Sub-section carried out practices both morning and afternoon.</p> <p>Weather Fine and clear - frosty.</p>	
	23 rd	9 am 11-30am 2-pm	<p>P.T and Recreational Training</p> <p>Two Sub Sections under Lt Cornish with Lumber & Guns left for SEMOUSIES Range to compete against the 6th Bn French Chasseurs Alpins.</p> <p>The competition was opened by the French coming into action, 20 yards run, using American pattern Hotchkiss 8 mm guns (2). They fired their first shot in 7 secs & in the total time of 2 minutes fired 850 rounds scoring 169 points. Points were given by the French method of counting 8" Bull-5. Inner 4. Middle 3. Outer 2 Target. 1 counting by rings, not names as Bull Inner etc. The range was about 200'.</p> <p>Then Company's guns then came into action, the same run, firing their first shot in 25 seconds & in the total time obtained 516 points out of 1050 rounds fired.</p> <p>There was a good attendance of all ranks. It is expected that another competition, by wish of the C.O. 6th French Chasseurs Alpins, will be arranged.</p> <p>Lt Winn's promotion to Temp Captain was contained in orders. He returned from leave to Paris & resumed command of the Company.</p> <p>Weather Slight snow during the morning. Bull - very cold.</p>	<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Photo taken by Lt</p>

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Place	Date 1919	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ST. REMY (CHAUSEE)	Jan. 24 th	8-15am	a draft of 2 N. COs and 13 Ptes 2 nd half of 1915 men left the Coy en route for England and the Port of Embarkation. They joined the other Coys quotas at ST REMY CHURCH and then proceeded to DOULERS.	
		9am	Shooting was carried out by Coy HQ in connection with the Coy Shooting Match.	
		9-15am	PT and Recreational Training was carried out by the remainder of the Coy.	
			<u>Weather</u> Heavy frost - very cold - dull.	
	25 th	9am	The Company paraded to the Rifle Range to watch the Final Shoot for the Coy Rifle Competition. 50 competitors in all took part, 21 shooting in the final. The match was won by Pte Kennett of the Transport and Pte Pledge of No 3 Section being 2 nd . The scores were Pte Kennett 29 points - Pte Pledge 27 - Possible 30.	
		6-30pm	The Battalion concert party gave another concert in the Cinema Hall. An excellent show was staged. The attendance was large & enthusiastic.	
			<u>Weather</u> Slight frost - dull.	
			A 2 nd shooting match has been arranged with the 6 th Bn Chasseurs Alpins to take place on Monday 27 th inst at 10-30am on this (8 th Coy) units range. Lt Cornish will again with 2 Sub sections from this Coy represent the Bn. Two Practices will be carried out & will be as follows -	
			<p><u>Practice 1. Application. Conditions.</u> Target a screen 4 ft square Range 400 yards Rounds 30 Time 10 Seconds from command fire</p>	
			<p>allotment of Points. Each hit on target under and including 15 - 2 points per hit Each hit on target above 15 - 3 points per hit. In the event of a stoppage allowance is made for length of time taken to remedy the stoppage. Possible 75 points</p>	

L. J. ...

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ST. REMY (CHAUSEE)	Jan 25 th		<p><u>January 25th Continued</u> <u>Practice 2. Traversing - Conditions</u> Target. Screens 20 ft x 3 ft marked off into 12 - 20 inch bands (vertical) Range 400* Rounds 70 Time 30 secs from command fire</p>	
			<p>allotment of points. Each hit on target - 1 point No spaces missed - add 30 points One space missed add 25 points Two spaces missed add 20 points and so on. Possible 100 points</p>	
	26 th		<p>Rectifying stoppages - time as in Practice 1. Voluntary Church Parades were held.</p>	
			<p>The Company has challenged the 14th Coy to a shoot - teams of 12 - 100* range - 60 foot stake <u>Weather</u> Snow began falling at an early hour + continued to do so throughout the day and night. Windy.</p>	
	27 th		<p>Rifle shooting practice was carried out. The match arranged with the 6th French Chasseur alpins has been postponed.</p>	
			<p><u>Weather</u> Snow ceased falling during the morning. about 5" fall - to date Remainder of day calm.</p>	
	28 th		<p>The Company team of 12 shot against the 14th Rifle Team. The points were as follows 14th Coy 307 8th Coy 310. 8th therefore won. A return match will take place on Saturday 1st February 1919.</p>	
			<p><u>Weather</u> Settled - cold.</p>	
	29 th		<p>Shooting practice was again carried out. The Coy has challenged the 15th Coy to a rifle match on the same conditions as the 14th Coy match. <u>Weather</u> - cold slight snow towards evening.</p>	<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Practice resumed</p>

