

AWM4

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

Machine Guns

Item number: 24/14/3

Title: 9th Australian Machine Gun
Company

January 1917



AWM4-24/14/3

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Army Form C 3. 14

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<u>Armentieres</u>	<u>25.12.16</u>	9 p.m.	Company in Billets for rest. Special Dinner prepared for men. Excellent day spent.	
" "	29.12.16	9 p.m.	Lt. Coleman and Walker. Lt/Col Taylor C.S. and Sgt. Bennet transferred to new M.G. Coy. Grantham.	
" "	8.1.17	9 p.m.	Company move to Steenwerck for Rest. Billed in Farm Houses. Snowing.	
" "	11.1.17	9 p.m.	C.S.M. Brown & Sgt Badger gazetted 2/Lt Sgt Lockhart promoted to Coy St Major.	
" "	18.1.17	9 p.m.	Company return to Armentieres and move into line.	

Captain
 O.C. 9th M.G. Company

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<u>Houplines</u>	<u>19.1.17</u>	<u>6 a.m.</u>	<p>Right Sector:- 760 A. Gun fired 1000 rounds from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. searching. Cross roads near L' Aventure at C 30 C 90/93 also on tram tracks near this road. Gun position at S.P.Z shrapnelled at 10 a.m.</p> <p>Centre Sector:- 800 P.m. Gun fired 750 rounds from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. from indirect fire position at C 22 A 8/2 onto road BRUNE RUE Road. C 29 C 8/6 and on light Railway. C 24 a 6/0.</p> <p>Quiet during morning. Enemy bombardment by 4.5" shells at 3 p.m. M.G. active at night</p> <p>Left Sector:- Quiet during the day except for enemy T.M. Enemy trench mortar reported at C 17 0 6/7 in building behind Chicken Run. Two menigo taken. Wind Easterly. Light swell.</p>	

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<u>Hoplites.</u>	<u>20.1.17</u>	<u>6 a.m.</u>	<p>Indirect fire was carried out at times shown.</p> <p>6.30 p.m. to 9 p.m.: from Cemetery night C28.c 6/5 on BRUYE. RUE 1000 rounds. 6.30 p.m. to 10 p.m.: From Bay pan C22 a 8/2 on trolley Track C24 a 6/0; road near BRUYE. RUE. C29.c 8/6 and on lavender C30 a 5/2.</p> <p>Reported enemy's bombardment 11.30 a.m. 3.30 p.m. and 9.30 p.m.</p> <p>Very little enemy Machine Gun fire during night.</p> <p>Minesweeper and Shrapnel landed near gun in 16 Locality causing 2 Casualties.</p> <p>One Medium T.M (ours) landed in Bay 26 near Gun in Locality 7.</p> <p>Wind: - East. Light. - Dull - poor for observation.</p> <p>Cold. throughout night.</p> <p>Ptes. MILLS and GARDNER. Wounded.</p> <p>Sgt. O.J. Thomas to. Bisle. College E.P.G.</p>	

J. H. [Signature] Captain
O.C. 9th M.G. Company

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<u>Houplines</u>	5.21.17	6 a.m.	<p>Incident - night a day firing was carried out :-</p> <p>Gun C 28.c 5/6: 6.30 p.m to 9 p.m. From Train tracks. west.</p> <p>LAVENTURE. C. 30.c 90/93; also along Communication trench</p> <p>C 29.B. 9/3 to C. 30.A. 9/5: 1000 rounds</p> <p>Gun C 22 A. 8/2: 5.30 p.m to 9 p.m.; on ① BRUNE. Rive road unfiled</p> <p>② TROLLEY. TRACK. C 24 a 6/0 ③ CROSS. ROADS. C 30 A 1/8 ④ Enemy's</p> <p>Communication trench. C 23 D 3/6 to C 24 C 2/6 (unfiled)</p> <p>Gun top of Cambridge. Ave. heavily shrapelled during day.</p> <p>River Gun shrapelled during day.</p> <p>Generally quiet along the line.</p> <p>Enemy Machine Guns not very active during night, but searched roads in early morning.</p> <p>Light: - fair; wind - dead throughout night.</p>	

J.M. [Signature]

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<u>Houplines</u>	<u>22.1.17</u>	1.30 p.m.	<p>The usual indirect night and firing was carried out.</p> <p>The following Guns fired S.O.S.</p> <p>Locality 15. on enemy attacking our front trench.</p> <p>Support position near CAMBRIDGE. at GAPS in front line.</p> <p>RIVER GUN at G GAP.</p> <p>The Situation normal on right and Centre Sector.</p> <p>Report from Officer left Sector:—</p> <p>I have to report re the action of No. 4 Section during the enemy's raid today about 1.30. the enemy's bombardment commenced and quickly increased in intensity particularly on the left near No. 10. Gun Position.</p> <p>The intensity of the bombardment pointed towards the likelihood of an attack and consequently all Gun teams stood to about 3.20. p.m.</p> <p>No. 9. Gun Position T. 87. about the time of the attack an order was passed along the trench to retreat. The Infantry commenced to move out; but the N.C.O. in charge of the Gun Cpl. BENSON. decided to remain as it was doubtful from whom the order originated. The Gun team thereupon opened fire at the enemy moving across NO-MAN'S LAND.</p>	

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Houplines	22.1.17	1.30 p.m.	<p>This Gun swept the wire entanglements to the left of the position thereby covering the front occupied by B. and A. Coy. This fire was very effective. The Gun ceased fire after the attack had been driven back. During the operations the O.C. A. Coy. sent for the Gun. to be brought up to his sector; but the N.C.O. in charge decided that he could be of much more assistance from where he was and therefore did not go.</p> <p>No. 10. Gun Position T.88. This place was subjected to heavy bombardment. About 3.30 P.M. the Gun position was blown up. About this time the Infantry commenced to withdraw and a sergeant passed the orders on to the Gun Team. The later there upon withdrew and reported to No. 12. position S.S.88. The Gun team was badly shaken. One man Lance Daniels is suffering from shell shock, one Pte. FIELDS from slight shell shock; and one man Pte MATTHEWS. I have not yet been able to trace.</p> <p>No. 11. Gun Position S.S.87. a Bomber was told off to protect the right of the position. Fire was opened from this position on our front line between the S.O.S. Signals. The O.C. Coy. ordered the N.C.O. in charge of this Gun team to withdraw with the Infantry to the subsidiary line</p>	<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);"> Captain O.C. 9th M.G. Company </p>

2449 Wt. W14957/M90 750,000 1/16 J.B.C. & A. Forms/C.2118/12.

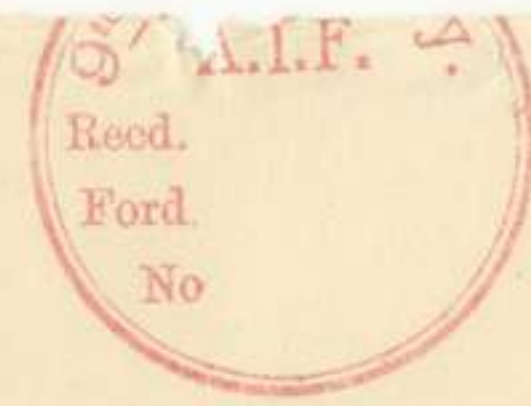
Since the above report Pte MATTHEWS. has been reported killed in action.

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Houplines	<u>22.1.17.</u>	1.30 p.m.	<p>And take up a position there. The N.C.O. of the Gun team informed me of this at first opportunity; but no attempt was made on the part of the O.C. Coy. to tell me what he had done. The Gun Team remained in the Subsidiary line awaiting orders until about 9 p.m. So I instructed them to go back to his usual position.</p> <p>No. 12. Gun Position S.S. 88. a Bombardier was detailed off to protect the right left of the Position. The Gun opened fire on "Q" Gaps on the S.O.S. Signal being sent. Fire was continued until about 6.30 p.m.</p> <p>The enemy Artillery were searching for this position and several Shells landed in the vicinity.</p> <p><u>Ammunition Supply.</u> Owing to the shortage of Gun numbers the Ammunition supply could not be kept up without the assistance of an Infantry party. One Ammunition Carrier per Gun team was sent back to <u>ADVANCED H.Q. P.S.</u> while the spare number was filling belts by hand. A Party of Infantry was collected by Lieut Whitehead who sent it up with a large supply of Ammunition. This brought our supply up to establishment again.</p> <p>All N.C.Os and Men worked splendidly</p>	

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<u>Houplines.</u>	<u>23.1.17</u>	<u>7. pm</u>	<p>The usual Indirect night and day firing was carried out.</p> <p><u>Intelligence.</u></p> <p>Generally quiet throughout day. Very little enemy Machine Gun fire; some aerial activity over our lines.</p> <p>Weather: Clear: Very light easterly Wind.</p> <p>Ptes. HENNINGHAM. and M^c CROANAN. wounded.</p> <p>Enemy shell road by our advanced Headquarters very heavily.</p>	
		<u>3-4. pm</u>		

[Signature]
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<u>Houplines.</u>	<u>24.1.17</u>		<p>The usual Inadvert night and day firing was Carried out.</p> <p>The right sector was quiet during the day and night except for slight shelling at 2.p.m. and Machine Gun fire at night.</p> <p>In the Centre sector positions were bombarded with H.E. and Schrapnel 12.15.p.m. and 2.p.m. Little enemy machine Gun fire at night.</p> <p>River positions on left in S.S.88. Shelled by enemy's field Guns causing two Casualties and doing slight damage to trenches. This was possibly caused by the appearance of a quantity of new Material.</p> <p>Visibility: good during morning not so good during afternoon</p> <p>Aerial activity by enemy during morning</p> <p>Pte. VOGES. Wounded</p> <p>Pte. JARRETT Sev. Wounded</p>	

J.H. [Signature] Captain
O.C. 9th M.G. Company

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<u>Houplines</u>	<u>25.1.17</u>	<u>9.30 a.m.</u>	<p>The usual Indirect night and day firing was carried out.</p> <p>About 9.30 a.m. 15 shells (F.A.) landed round No. 12. position S.S. 88; One dud landed on top of emplacement. at 3.45 p.m. 10 shells (F.A.) landed just to the left of this position.</p> <p>Evans gun Machine Gun active during early part of night.</p> <p>Weather: Bright.</p>	

J. M. Han
 Captain
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<u>Houplines.</u>	<u>26.1.17</u>	<u>6 a.m.</u>	<p>The usual indirect night and day firing was carried out.</p> <p>Quiet throughout the day except for intermittent artillery fire.</p> <p>Very little Machine Gun fire during night.</p> <p>S.O.S. Gun in S. 83. stood to from 2.15 a.m. to 2.45 a.m. owing to report that enemy were moving towards GAP. L. Enemy aircraft again active.</p> <p>Weather: clear, cold, light wind. Visibility fair.</p>	

J.M. [Signature]
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<u>Houplines.</u>	<u>27.1.17</u>	<u>6.00p.</u>	<p>The usual Indirect night and day firing was carried out.</p> <p>Enemy very quiet during day, but during early part of night his Machine Guns were more "active" than usual.</p> <p>Pte HAMILTON. wounded.</p>	

J.M. Law Captain
O.C. 9th M.G. Company

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<u>Houplines</u>	28.1.17	6 a.m.	<p>No Night firing was carried out, as all Guns were starting to on their S.O.S. line.</p> <p>Indirect fire by day was opened from CERETRY. RIGHT. C. 28.0 60/45 on an enemy working party of 12 men, observed on the BRUYE. RUE. road. I. 56. 55/80. These men immediately disappeared into a trench.</p> <p>No observation could be made as to Casualties.</p> <p>Quiet during the day; enemy retaliation to our barrage started 6.8. p.m. and lasted 3 hours. No damage was done to M.G. emplacements.</p> <p>Wind: North East. Light: fair. bright towards noon.</p> <p>Very cold throughout day and night.</p> <p>Lieut. HARRIS. J. and SMITH. N.L. Wounded.</p>	

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<u>Houplines</u>	<u>29.1.17</u>	<u>6 a.m.</u>	<p>The usual indirect night and day firing was carried out.</p> <p>Quiet during day. At 3.30 p.m. 3 Mine defenders fell close to Gun position at T.8.7. Little enemy Machine Gun fire during the night.</p> <p>Light. Easterly wind. Bright light. Cold.</p>	

J. M. Laws
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p><u>Houplines.</u></p>	<p><u>30.1.17</u></p>	<p><u>6am.</u></p>	<p>The usual Indirect night and day firing was carried out.</p> <p>Fairly quiet during day except for small Artillery Bombardment in Parts. Very quiet during night. Very little evening Machine Gun fire reported.</p> <p>Wind: East. Light: dull.</p> <p>Snowing and Cold during day and night. Owing to weather conditions no Indirect fire could be carried out during day.</p>	

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Houplines	31.1.17	6 a.m.	<p>The usual Indirect night and day firing was Carried out.</p> <p>Generally quiet during day. Intense bombardment by enemy Minnewerfer and H.E. from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Quiet during remainder of night. During Bombardment. ten minnewerfers landed in vicinity of Gun position at C. 23. a. 20/30. (No 13 loc) One landed 10 yds from Concrete emplacement but no damage was done. These were probably "Stray shells" from Bombardment on left sector.</p> <p>Our Aircraft Very active. Clear. Day.</p> <p>Light Northerly Wind. Temperature much milder.</p> <p>Sgt. SILVERTON. and Cpl. CARSON Wounded</p> <p>Pte. SADLER. Killed.</p>	

J. M. [Signature]
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