

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

Machine Guns

Item number: 24/14/6

Title: 9th Australian Machine Gun
Company

April 1917



AWM4-24/14/6

WAR DIARY

OR

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Army Form C. 2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<u>Houplines</u>	<u>1.4.17</u>	<u>6am</u>	<p>The following Indirect fire without observation was carried out during morning by Gun at C $\frac{288}{6045}$ Time 7.45 a.m.</p> <p>(1) ROAD from C $\frac{296}{6850}$ to C $\frac{300}{1862}$ (2) ROAD C $\frac{304}{9082}$ to C $\frac{306}{1020}$ (3) ROAD and TRAMWAY. C $\frac{306}{1020}$ to C $\frac{306}{5762}$. Indirect fire was carried out by Gun at C $\frac{220}{75.15}$ on CENTRAL SWITCH C $\frac{29d}{9552}$ to I $\frac{5a}{6492}$ (2) TRAMWAY. C $\frac{30c}{2740}$ to I $\frac{6a}{1010}$ (3) CENTRAL. CRES. C $\frac{29d}{4371}$ to C $\frac{29d}{4571}$ 1000 Rds 8-15 to 9.45 p.m. Quiet during day & night. Enemy all night threw up several Green Lights which broke into four. No special action followed these signals. Day. Cloudy. Visibility - Good.</p>	
<u>L'Epivette</u>	<u>1.4.17</u>	<u>6am</u>	<p>Right Sector: Gun fired from I $\frac{96}{5232}$ 1000 rounds on I $\frac{18a}{6698}$ and I $\frac{12a}{2080}$ from 8.15 p.m. to 10.15 p.m. Left Sector. Gun fired from I $\frac{96}{6094}$ 750 rounds searching vertically Lille. Railway. from I $\frac{116}{4004}$ to I $\frac{12c}{0975}$ from 8 p.m. to 10.30 p.m. Artillery more active than usual throughout day. During night enemy Machine Guns and rifle fire. Very quiet. Our Smoke Signals sent up at 3.15 p.m. observed by all Gun teams. Work proceeding on new dugouts, Emplacements etc.</p>	

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

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<u>Houplines</u>	<u>2.4.17</u>	<u>6 a.m.</u>	<p>Indirect fire in connection with O.P.</p> <p>The following targets were engaged by gun at C $\frac{28c}{6045}$. (1) Party of 6 enemy working at end of CENTRAL SWITCH. C $\frac{29a}{6500}$. On action being taken at 7.25 a.m. they disappeared from view.</p> <p>(2) Movement was observed in and round BRUYE. RUE at $\frac{I5c}{4845}$. This movement ceased when gun fired at 7.35 A.M. Our fire being clearly observed in the snow.</p> <p>(3) at 7.45 a.m. TRAMWAY. at $\frac{I6a}{1560}$ was fired on, enemy movement was observed at the spot. The following fire was carried out by gun at C $\frac{28c}{6045}$ without observation at 8 A.M.</p> <p>Entrance to TRENCH at C $\frac{29a}{9696}$. Indirect fire from gun at C $\frac{16a}{1540}$ on X ROADS. LA. Houlette.</p> <p>$\square \frac{13a}{5625}$ 250 Rounds 9 to 9.30 p.m. Enemy Artillery very inactive - Enemy M.G.'s also very quiet during night. Fresh wind. Snow. Visibility fair.</p>	
<u>Lepivette</u>	<u>2.4.17</u>	<u>6 a.m.</u>	<p>Right Sector: Gun fired from $I \frac{96}{52.32}$ 1000 Rounds on $I \frac{11c}{8070}$ from 8.15 p.m. to 10.5 p.m.</p> <p>Left Sector: Gun fired from $I \frac{4d}{1397}$ 760 Rounds on $I \frac{12a}{4595}$ and $I \frac{6d}{3703}$ to $I 12$ Central from 8 p.m. to 10.30 p.m. Artillery more active during the day. At 7.25 p.m. 30 F.A. Shells landed in the vicinity of Section Headquarters. Left Sector. Enemy Machine Guns fairly active throughout night. Work proceeding on new dugouts & Emplacements.</p>	

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

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<u>Houplines</u>	<u>3.4.17</u>	<u>6 am</u>	<p>Owing to weather no targets were observed in connection with O.P.</p> <p>The following indirect fire was carried out by Gun at C $\frac{280}{6045}$ between 8.15 & 9.15 P.M.</p> <p>1000 Rounds. (1) CEREAL TRENCH. C $\frac{300}{4050}$ to C $\frac{300}{5040}$ (2) ROAD C $\frac{300}{1568}$ to C $\frac{300}{6020}$</p> <p>(3) TRENCH. C $\frac{300}{5250}$ to C $\frac{300}{3565}$.</p> <p>Quiet during day & night. Snow fell during morning - remainder of day fine & clear.</p> <p>Visibility:- Indifferent during morning - fair during afternoon.</p>	
<u>Lepivette</u>	<u>3.4.17</u>	<u>6 am</u>	<p>Right Sector:- Gun fired from I $\frac{96}{5232}$ 1000 Rounds on I $\frac{11d}{9010}$ I $\frac{18a}{6598}$ and I $\frac{18c}{3000}$ from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.</p> <p>Left Sector:- Gun fired from C $\frac{280}{7570}$ 1000 Rounds on I $\frac{6d}{7065}$ to C $\frac{300}{3552}$ and C $\frac{300}{7518}$ to C $\frac{300}{7413}$.</p> <p>Artillery fairly active throughout day. At about 3.50 p.m. 20 enemy shells (F.A.) fell in vicinity of no 6 Gun position. Enemy Machine Guns again active, during night. Aircraft active.</p> <p>Work proceeding on new dugouts Emplacements, etc.</p>	

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

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Houplines	4.4.17	6 am	<p>Indirect fire in Connection with. O. P.</p> <p>Gun at C $\frac{288}{6045}$ opened fire at 7.45. AM. on enemy working party near TRAMWAY. at I $\frac{6a}{2085}$, party was dispersed, but reappeared at 7.55 AM. When fire was again opened on them - they immediately disappointed disappeared, and were not seen again.</p> <p>The following indirect fire was carried out without observation. at 7.30. AM.</p> <p>CENTRAL DRIVE. from C $\frac{300}{8020}$ to C $\frac{304}{8005}$. Indirect fire was carried out during night.</p> <p>Gun at C $\frac{280}{6045}$ fired on II. CEREAL TRENCH. C $\frac{302}{4050}$ to C $\frac{300}{5040}$. (2) ROAD C $\frac{300}{1568}$.</p> <p>to C $\frac{302}{6020}$ (3) TRENCH. C $\frac{300}{5050}$ to C $\frac{300}{3865}$. 1500 Rounds. 8.15 - 10.45. P.M.</p> <p>Gun fired from C $\frac{270}{7675}$ on TRAMWAY. C $\frac{236}{7607}$ to C $\frac{240}{9885}$. 750 Rounds 8.25 to 9.5. P.M.</p> <p>Still quiet during day and night. Enemy M.G.'s very quiet at night.</p> <p>Dull - morning - fine afternoon. Visibility fair.</p>	
Leprivette	4.4.17	6 am	<p>Right Sector Gun fired from I $\frac{96}{5222}$ 1000 Rounds on I $\frac{76}{3000}$ and I $\frac{120}{2050}$ from 8 to 10 pm.</p> <p>Left Sector: Gun fired from I $\frac{40}{5375}$. 750 rounds on I $\frac{120}{1093}$ and I $\frac{126}{7040}$ from 8 pm. to 10.30. pm.</p> <p>Enemy Artillery more active than usual throughout day. at 11. AM. about 20 shells landed in vicinity of HAYSTACK. FARM. and about 30 on WHITE. FARM.</p> <p>At the later the Kitchen and some M.G. stores were destroyed. During night. Machine Guns were very active. Work proceeding on new dugouts. Engagements etc.</p>	

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

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Howlplines	5.4.17	6 am	<p>Owing to poor visibility no targets were observed in connection with O.P.</p> <p>Indirect firing carried out during night.</p> <p>Gun fired from C $\frac{280}{6045}$. (1) Entrance to trench C $\frac{300}{5522}$ (2) ROAD C $\frac{300}{9858}$ to C $\frac{306}{7073}$ TRAMWAY.</p> <p>C $\frac{306}{1520}$ to C $\frac{306}{7075}$ 1500 Rds. 8 to 11-15 P.M.</p> <p>Gun at C $\frac{220}{7075}$ fired on TRAMWAY. C $\frac{226}{9501}$ to C $\frac{240}{9858}$ (2) TRAMWAY C $\frac{300}{2470}$ to I $\frac{60}{1010}$.</p>	
Lepizette	5.4.17	6 am	<p>Enemy artillery and M. G's quiet. Aeroplanes active. Fine Day - Visibility: Good.</p> <p>R.S. Gun fired from I $\frac{96}{5232}$ 1000 Rounds on I $\frac{40}{9010}$ and I $\frac{180}{6598}$ from 8 to 10 p.m.</p> <p>Left Sector: Gun fired from C $\frac{280}{7570}$ 1000 Rounds on I $\frac{60}{7065}$ to C $\frac{300}{3573}$ and C $\frac{300}{7575}$ to C $\frac{300}{7413}$ from 8 pm to 11 p.m.</p> <p>Artillery very quiet throughout day. Machine Guns during night, much less active than usual. Some aerial activity.</p> <p>Work proceeding on new dugouts. Emplacements. Etc.</p>	

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

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			<p style="text-align: center;">No Targets were observed in Connection with O.P.</p> <p><u>Houplines</u> 6.4.17.6.02 The following indirect fire was carried out from C $\frac{22a}{7575}$ on LA-VENTURE, RD. C $\frac{30a}{5220}$ to C $\frac{30a}{2250}$ 250 rounds 7.30 to 8. A.M. Gun at C $\frac{25c}{6045}$ fired on (1) X ROADS C $\frac{24c}{9555}$ (2) X Roads C $\frac{30a}{4022}$ (3) TRAMWAY C $\frac{22b}{5572}$ to C $\frac{29a}{9040}$ (4) Entrance to TRENCH. C $\frac{30a}{5572}$ 2000 Rounds 8 to 10.30 p.m.</p> <p>Gun at C $\frac{16a}{1040}$ fired on X ROAD. LA Houlette. II $\frac{18a}{5675}$ (2) X ROADS. FMDUGB VERQUIN. C $\frac{12b}{9006}$ (3) LIEMART. Fire Dump. C $\frac{15b}{9060}$ 1500 Rounds 8 to 10 p.m.</p> <p>Gun at C $\frac{22a}{9560}$ fired on X ROADS C $\frac{18d}{0515}$ to C $\frac{18d}{2570}$ 1500 Rounds 8 to 10 p.m.</p> <p>Gun at C $\frac{22a}{7575}$ fired on CEREAL. TRENCH C $\frac{30a}{4820}$ to C $\frac{30a}{5575}$ (3) CENTRAL. Switch. C $\frac{29a}{9802}$ to I $\frac{5a}{6492}$ (3) TRAMWAY. C $\frac{28b}{9501}$ to C $\frac{24a}{9558}$ 1500 Rounds 8 to 10 p.m. Enemy artillery and M.G's more active than usual. Aeroplanes active on both sides. Clear morning. Dull afternoon - Rain during night. Visibility fair.</p>	
<u>LEPINETTE</u>	6.4.17	6.02	<p>Right Sector. Gun fired from I $\frac{9b}{5232}$ 1000 Rds on I $\frac{11a}{9010}$ and I $\frac{12a}{2080}$ from 8 p.m. to 10.30 p.m.</p> <p>Left Sector. Gun fired from I $\frac{9b}{6094}$ 1000 Rds on searching. Vertically. Lille. RAILWAY line from I $\frac{11b}{4004}$ to I $\frac{12a}{0975}$ from 8.30 p.m. to 11 p.m. Artillery generally quiet throughout day. During night M.G's and Rifle fire were normal. At about 2.30 p.m. Enemy aeroplanes flew over our lines and was engaged by Lewis Guns & Rifle. Retaliated by firing on our lines. Work proceeding on new dugouts, Emplacements etc.</p>	

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



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<u>ARMENTIERES</u>	<u>7.4.17</u>	<u>6 am</u>	Inspection of arms and equipment, and Cleaning of Guns.	
" "	<u>8.4.17</u>	<u>6 AM</u>	Inspection of Rife and Muster Parade.	
" "	<u>9.4.17</u>	<u>6 am</u>	Routine of training - Gun Drill Etc. After-noon Bath Parade.	

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



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<u>Armentieres</u>	10.4.17	6. am	<p>Mustering Parade. Half Company marched to Steinvwerk Station. Half Company entrained to St. Omer. Detrained. St. Omer 2pm. and marched to Wizerres. in Column of route in rear of Brigade. The Half Coy. was Billed to Wizerres on the night 10th & 11th. Lieut D. A. Whitehead. O.C. Parade.</p>	
<u>Armentieres</u>	11.4.17	6. am	<p>Half Company marched to Steinvwerk Station. Half Coy entrained to St Omer. Detrained. St. Omer 2pm. and marched to Wizerres. in Column of route in rear of Brigade. The Half Coy was Billed to Wizerres on the night 11th & 12th. Lieut E. A. Harris. O.C. Parade.</p>	

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



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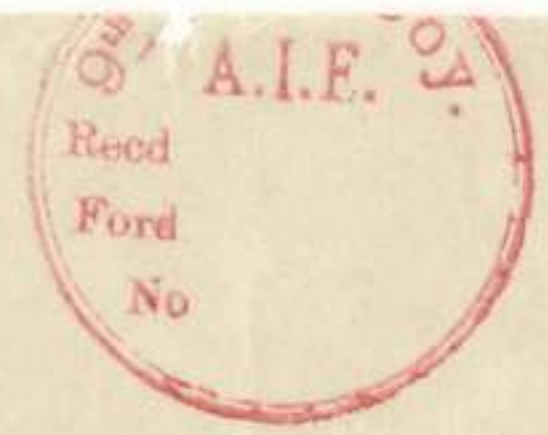
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<u>WATTERDAL</u>	<u>12.4.17</u>	<u>6.am</u>	During the absence of CAPT. J.M.WELLS, LIEUT. D.A.WHITEHEAD assumed Command of the 9 th A.M. Gun Coy whilst undergoing at WATTERDAL. Reorganization of Company. Lecture Discipline and factors essential to successful warfare.	
" "	<u>13.4.17</u>	<u>6.am</u>	Physical Training - Route March - Gun Drill - Stoppages - Mechanism and Immediate action - Gun Drill Spare parts box. Lecture introducing to offensive action. Promotions: No. 79. Corpl. McNulty to be Sergeant. vice Sgt. G.L. McKamara promoted 2 nd Lieutenant dt. 13.4.17. - No. 1. Corpl. E.A. Atkinson to be acting Sergeant vice Sgt O'Brien J.L. to England dt. 13.4.17. - No 23. Corpl Daniels. H.M. to be Sergeant vice Sgt. Harden. O.L. promoted 2 nd Lieutenant - dt. 13/4/17. - No 242. Supt. F.G. Slater to be Corpl. vice Corpl McNulty promoted Sergeant 13-4-17. <i>Officer</i> Captain	

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O.C. 9th M.G. Company



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<u>WATTERDAL.</u>	<u>14.4.16</u>	<u>6 AM.</u>	Physical training - Route March - Immediate action - Gun Drill - Mechanism and Minor repairs Immediate action - Gun Drill - Lecture. General account of attack on prepared position.	
" "	<u>15.4.16</u>	<u>6 am.</u>	Packing Waggons - Route March - Visual training - use of Cover. - Drill on rough ground. Lecture and Demonstration - selection of positions. Lecture in Continence of last lecture.	
" "	<u>16.4.16</u>	<u>6 am.</u>	Pack Saddle Drill - Route March - Ammunition supply. - Section in attack. Lecture. "Machine Gun attack in trench warfare"	
" "	<u>17.4.16</u>	<u>6 am.</u>	Physical training - Route March - use of Cover. - Simple and tactical exercises to bring out use of Cover.	

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<u>WATTERDAL.</u>	<u>18.4.17</u>	<u>6.AM.</u>	Physical training and route march. Demonstration of Infantry attack in trench warfare. Machine Gun attack trench warfare.	
" "	<u>19.4.17</u>	<u>6.AM.</u>	9 th Australian Machine Gun Company Cooperated in Brigade operations.	
" "	<u>20.4.17</u>	<u>6.AM.</u>	Physical training and Route March. Special attention was given to pack saddling and waggons - ammunition supply, and lecture on "Barrage Fire."	
" "	<u>21.4.17</u>	<u>6.AM.</u>	Physical Training and Route March. Attack in trench warfare with lessons learnt from Brigade operations	
" "	<u>22.4.17</u>	<u>6.AM.</u>	Company participated in Brigade scheme of attack.	

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<u>WATTERDAL</u>	<u>27.4.17</u>	<u>6 AM</u>	Tactical Scheme involving timber and ammunition supply - use of ground. Etc.	
" "	<u>28.4.17</u>	<u>6 AM.</u>	Recapitulations with lesson from training for the foregoing operations.	
" "	<u>29.4.17</u>	<u>6 AM</u>	Muster Parade. Company marched out in Column of Route. Company Billeted at <u>ARQUES.</u> on the night 24 th & 25 th .	
" "	<u>25.4.17</u>	<u>6 AM</u>	Company Marched out in Column of Route. Company Billeted at <u>SWATERBURG.</u> on the night 25 th & 26 th .	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<u>STEINWERK</u>	<u>26.4.17</u>	<u>6 am</u>	Company marched out in Column of Route and Billeted at WATERLANDS. CAMP. STEINWERK.	
" "	<u>27.4.17</u>	<u>6 am</u>	Days spent in WATERLANDS. CAMP. Sections organized for the line.	
" "	<u>28.4.17</u>	<u>6 am</u>	Half Company marched to LEBIZET taking up LETORQUET. Sector, relieving 75 th M.G. Coy.	

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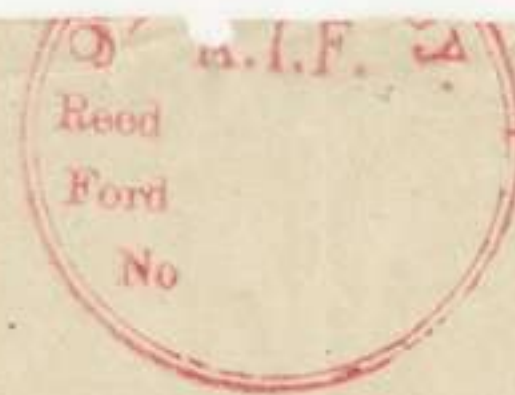
Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<u>STEINWERR.</u>	<u>29.4.17</u>	<u>6 AM</u>	Remaining half Company marched to occupy Bilets at LE BIZET.	
<u>LE TORQUET.</u>	<u>29.4.17</u>	<u>6 AM</u>	<p><u>Right Sector</u>:- No Indirect firing was done owing to lack of facilities. Yesterday and last night the enemy artillery was particularly quiet but at 7.10 a.m. today a severe bombardment was started by the enemy on the left of this Brigade front. Our artillery replied briskly.</p> <p>Work Done. Gun emplacements which were left in a very untidy condition were cleaned up and all stores checked & packed.</p> <p><u>Centre Sector</u>. Guns at RESERVE FARM. upon the S.O.S signal, fired 1000 rounds into GAP. E. Generally quiet during day and night until 4.15 pm when severe artillery bombardment by our Guns opened and continued until 5.30 PM.</p> <p>Rarely any enemy shells in CENTRE SECTOR. Situation Normal.</p> <p>Work Done:- Guns and Emplacements cleaned.</p> <p>Relief Completed 12 noon in CENTRE Sector from 75th M.G. Company.</p>	

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<u>LE. TORQUET.</u>	<u>29. 4. 17.</u>	<u>6am</u>	<p>Left Sector:- upon S.O.S. signal READING. FORT. GUN. fired into E. GAP also LAWERENCE. FARM. GUN opened fire on enemy front line and supports over F. GAP. READING. FORT. Gun fired 1100 rounds. LAWERENCE. FARM fired 2500 Rounds. Enemy artillery generally quiet throughout day & night. Machine Gun & Rifle fire quiet throughout day and night. Aerial activity during the day at about 4 a.m., enemy intensely straffed our Support line Line until 5.15 a.m. Kitchen at CHESHIRE. GUN. damaged by 2 shells. Situation: Normal. work. Done. Kitchen at Section Head quarters thoroughly cleaned, Stand for belt filling Machines erected. Improvements to Sgts Duguits, guns and arms cleaned Mild. WNW wind, prevailed throughout day & night weather: Warm. Clear day. Good for observations.</p>	

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H. Jones Captain
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<u>LE. TORQUET</u>	<u>30.4.17</u>	<u>6 am</u>	<p>Right Sector :- Gun at C $\frac{9d}{4717}$ fired 750 rounds on C $\frac{286}{9572}$.</p> <p>The day was practically quiet and also the night. At 11.10pm. the enemy commenced using many strange lights along the whole front.</p> <p>Situation Normal.</p> <p>Work Done. Guns and Emplacements cleaned and repairs made around Gun positions</p> <p><u>Centre Sector</u> Generally quiet during day & night. Considerable aerial activity during day. Situation Normal</p> <p>Work Done. Guns & emplacements cleaned.</p> <p><u>Left Sector</u> Desultory Artillery activity. Enemy Machine Gun & Rifle fire Generally quiet. Aerial activity throughout the day. what appeared to be an enemy plane shot down in flames over to our right.</p> <p>Day Hot, with haze. making observation poor until late in the afternoon when observation good.</p>	

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