

AWM4

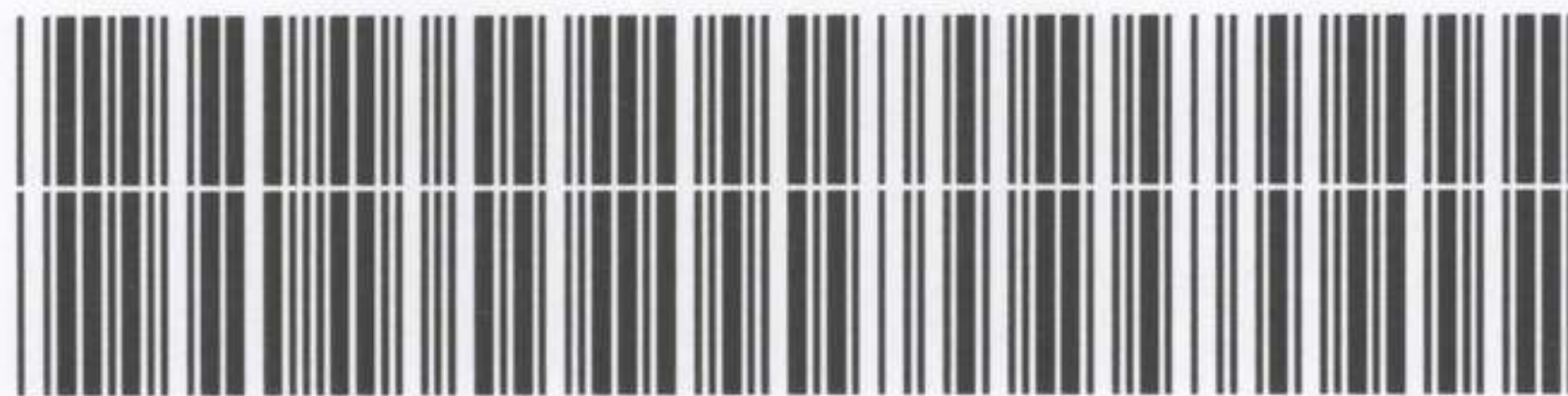
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War**

Machine Guns

Item number: 24/11/19

Title: 6th Australian Machine Gun
Company

September 1917



AWM4-24/11/19

6th
MACHINE GUN COY.,

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118 ⁰²

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~~

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CALAIS	SEP			
	1		Training as per syllabus	
WARDREQUES	2		Church Parade	
	3		Training as per syllabus	
	4		do	
	5		do	
	6		Divisional Exercise	Evacuations - 2 ORs Sick
	7		Gas Test - in the field	
	8		Training as per syllabus	
	9		Church Parade & Marching out parade	Evacuations 3 ORs Sick
	10		cleaning & packing up	
NEAR YPRES	11	8.30 AM	Company (less transport) left Wardreques per Motor Services arrived BELGIAN CHATEAUX at 1 pm. Camped at H 23 B 82.	
	12	early morn	Reconnaissance in conjunction with battery commanders for selection of Battery positions as part of forthcoming Divisional attack Sites for batteries (8 guns each) selected as follows -	
				E Batty J 7A 8.4
				F " J 7A 85.58
				G " J 7A 85.78

1875 Wt. W593/826 1,000,000 4/15 J.B.C. & A. A.D.S.S./Forms/C. 2118.

Handwritten signature

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

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.

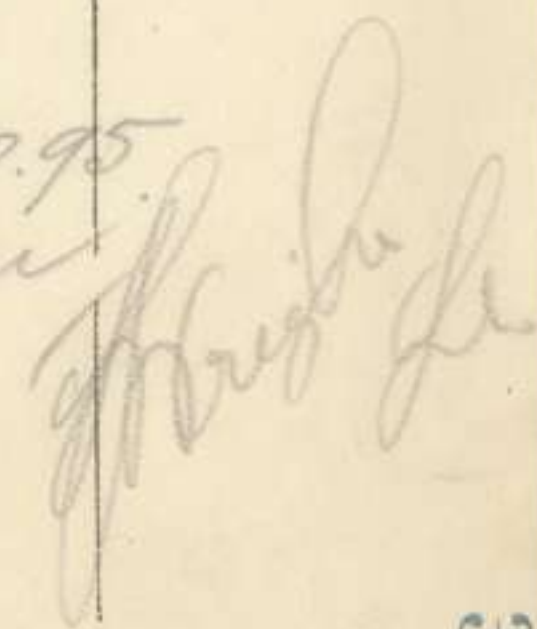
Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CALAIS NEAR YPRES	1917 SEP 12		Transport arrived. In evening work of preparation commenced - Material was carted from Birr Cross Roads to positions	
	13	Early Morn	25% of Gun teams left for Reinforcement camp CAESTRE - 2 off 25 ORs. Ammunition carted by pack horses from BIRR CROSS ROADS to a dump at Bellewarde Ridge Work on gun positions & belt filling positions. Barrage charts etc in preparation	
	14	do	Ammunition carted from Hell Fire corner to Bellewarde Ridge Bordeuoy Track T 12 C 45 do do T 11 D 30	
		even	do do do do Bellewarde Ridge Work on gun pits & belt filling positions - Barrage charts continued	
		night	ammunition carted carried from Bellewarde Ridge to gun positions	
	15	do	Ammunition carried from do do 12 ORs marched in from Battalions. To be "attached"	
	16	even	8 Guns relieved 8 guns of 239 th M.G. Co - 47 th (London) Division in Idiok Reserve Trench I 12 C 95 to do harassing fire & practice barrages part of 2 nd Aush Divnl scheme under Capt Dick 14 th Aush M.G. Co Relief completed by 7.30 pm. Four guns sent to IIBL HOUSE	

[Handwritten signature]

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

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
NEAR YPRES	1917 SEP 16		Work of preparation carried on	
	17	8.30 PM	do do Practice Barrage, in conjunction with artillery, fired	
	18	3 PM	do do do Work of preparation carried on	1.00. Returned to Aust.
	19		Eight Guns moved from Idish Reserve + formed Left Battery (4) of "creeping Barrage Group" (2nd Divisional Scheme) at T 7 A 85.78 under Lt H A Robinson. Company "Group" Hd Qrs. under Capt D F Rae. Group Commander were established at ZIEL HOUSE. Telephone communication was made between Battery - Group HQ - Advanced Brigade H.Q. Battery reported all complete at 9.30 PM. Remaining 8 Guns, under Lt J. E. Hopper went forward to point T 8 C 40.95 + formed M Battery of "S.O.S. Barrage Group" under Capt A Infenian (22nd Aust M G Co). Telephone connection was established - Battery -	

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II.
No. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title Pages
Date will be prepared in manuscript.

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
NEAR YPRES	1917 SEP. 19		Intelligence officer (22 nd Co) - Group commander - 7 th Bde H.Q. Group HQ Battery reported all complete at 10:00 pm Rain fell during night	WESTHOEK J.D. 60.35
	20	5:40 AM	Was ZERO HOUR. By Battery opened up in accordance with Group Operation Order & fired according to allotted time table Just before zero one gun was put out of action by H.E. (no casualties) 12:15 PM DMGO directed battery to stand by on switch target No 21 for S.O.S. 12:45 PM Damaged gun was replaced 3:5 " F.O.O. Heavy Artillery Group reported Germans massing near ZONNEBEKE (SOUTH) Battery opened fire at 3:17 on F.O.O. reporting Germans advancing. 3:50 PM DMGO directed battery to cease fire & "stand by" 6:27 " do " " open in response to request from Brigade for S.O.S. 7:17 PM Brigade request to stand off. Battery ceased	See attached Report
			Expenditure - PAGE 5. casualties - 1 OR. Wdd 1 Gun put out of action	

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
No. Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II.
and the Staff Manual respectively. Title Pages
Date will be prepared in manuscript.

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	VOL A 13 PAGE 5.	Remarks and references to Appendices
NEAR VPRES	1917 SEP 20.		N Battery (continued)		
		7.24 PM	S.O.S signals were noticed & battery opened fire & continued till 8.12 pm when firing ceased. During night which was quiet SAA was replenished & belts refilled. Expenditure 51,000 rounds. Evacuations 1 OR (Driver) Wdd.		
			M Battery (S.O.S. Group) 1.30 PM S.O.S. Barrage Line raised 100 yards in conformity with artillery } 3.10 PM Battery fired a special barrage at request 7 th Aust I Brigade, till 3.20 PM on S.O.S. Line 6.5 S.O.S. signal. Battery opened & fired till 6.35 PM. 7.22 do do do " 7.52 PM. casualties - 1 OR killed. Expenditure : 84,000 Rounds 22 ORs marched in from Battalions, to be "attached". Located at camp.		
	21	do.	4.50 AM Battery opened on S.O.S. Line - protective barrage. 6.00 PM " zero line shifted 3° right. 6.45 PM S.O.S. Wire from 5 th Aust I Bde. Message to Battery delayed in transmission. Battery opened at 7.2 PM & fired till 8.15 PM. A salvaged Vickers gun was mounted & used against enemy air-craft. Expenditure 28,000 rounds. casualties : 1 OR killed. 1 OR Wdd. 1 OR evacuated sick.		

MACHINE GUN COY.,
2nd AUSTRALIAN DIV.
Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II,
No. 1 and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages
will be prepared in manuscript.
Date.....

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

102

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	VOL. A. 13. PAGE 6.	Remarks and references to Appendices
NEAR VPRES	1917 SEP. 21	4.35 PM	<p><u>N Battery</u> Battery ordered to cut out & rush as much as possible</p>		Evacuations 1 OR Sick (from Castric Camp)
	22	9 AM	<p><u>N Battery</u> A salvaged Lewis Gun was used against enemy aircraft</p>		
		2.20 PM	Battery ordered by DMCO to move out & return to camp. H. 23. B. 8. 2.		
		6 PM	<p><u>M Battery</u> Battery ordered to relinquish positions & return to camp casualties - 2 ORs H. 23.</p>		
	23		Company resting. Evacuations - 1 OR Sick		
	24		do 12 Men + Horses assisted 4th Aus Div in carrying ammunition to forward area. Evacuations - 1 OR Sick		
	25		<p>Two sections, under Lt E J Hopper went into previous positions of 'M' Battery, to assist (in conjunction with 24th Aus Div MG 60) in Creeping Barrage Group - 4th Aus Divisional attack (M Battery) Telephone communication was established Battery - Group HQ - DMCO (4th) on the Hook Ridge. Battery reported all complete at 7 PM.</p>		

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.

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	VOL A 13 PAGE 7	Remarks and references to Appendices
NEAR YPRES	1917 SEP 26	AM 5.50	was ZERO HOUR Battery opened in accordance with 4 th Bptl Operations Order & carried out allotted task. Expenditure 28,000 Rounds Battery then "stood by". 7 PM 5 Guns & Tripods were loaned to 4 th Aust Bty to replace casualties. At 9 PM the 5 crews returned to camp casualties :- 1 Officer (Lt J E Hopper) Wtd, 1 OR killed, 1 OR Wtd.		
	27	8.30 AM	Remaining officer, 3 Guns & crews ordered to return to camp 22 ORs "attached" marched out & returned to 24 th Btk.		
	28		Shortages Taken. 5 ORs from 24 th 5 " " 22 nd 5 " " 23 rd 5 " " 24 th	} marched in & taken over "Attached"	
			Instructional work for 20 ORs attached		

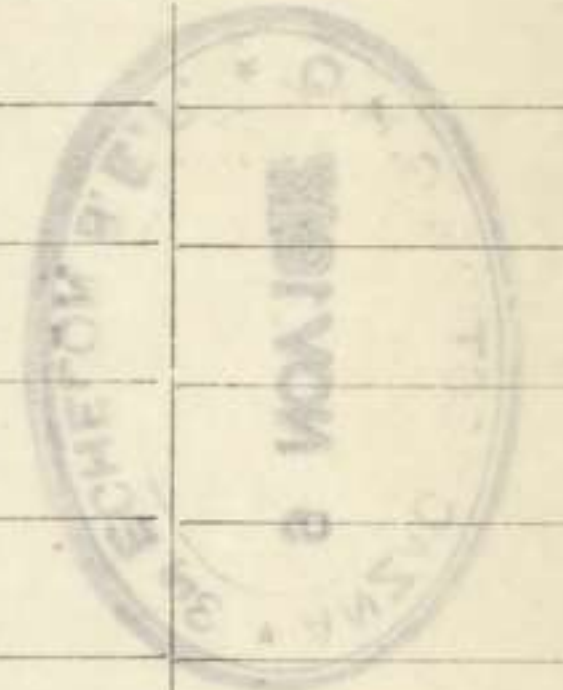
WAR DIARY

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.)

Place	Date 1917	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
NEAR VPRES	SEP 29		Instructional Work continued Reconnaissance of forward area in connection with forthcoming Divisional Attack	
	30	9 PM	Instructional Work continued Brigade Conference	
<u>Summary for Month :-</u>				
			Strength 1/9/17	10 officers 192 ORs "Attached"
			Taken on from Hospital	2
			" " " Base	5
			" " " Transfer	1
			" " " Battalions	66
			Struck Off	11 " 200 "
			Sick 7 ORs Transfer 1 OR	} 34 Returned to Batt's
			Killed in action 3 ORs	
			Wounded 1 Officer 6 ORs	
			Strength 30/9/17	10 " 183 " 32 ORs



Handwritten signature

Report on preparation of 6th Machine Gun Coy.
for attack on morning of 20th Sept 1917.
2nd Aust Division

6th	
MACHINE GUN COY.	
2nd AUSTRALIAN	
No.
Date

On the morning of the 20th of Sept a reconnaissance was made in conjunction with the Battery Commander for the selection of battery positions.

It was decided to establish a battery at each of the following points J7a 8.4. J7a 8.5.58. and J7a 8.5.78. called E.F. and G. batteries respectively.

In the evening preparation work commenced. Under arrangements with the Engineers tools + materials were carted by them to Birn Cross Roads from this place they were picked up by the batteries and carried to their positions E and F batteries almost completed their gun pits that evening owing to G. battery losing their way little was done on their position.

On the morning of the 13th at 5 a.m. 84,000 rounds of S.A.A. were carried to a dump at Bellward Ridge by pack horses from Birn Cross Roads. One driver was wounded the wound was not severe enough for his evacuation. Work continued during the evening on gun pits and belt filling positions.

E battery had 4 men wounded but only one was evacuated.

On the morning of the 14th 600,000 rounds were moved from Hell Fire Corner - 250,000 to Bellward Ridge 110,000 to Corduroy track (120 4.5) and 240,000 to commencement of corduroy track from Birn Cross Roads (110 30).

In the evening 450,000 rounds were moved Hell Fire Corner to Bellward Ridge work went on at belt filling positions and ammunition was carried from Bellward dump to Battery positions.

Ammunition was still being carried to battery positions on the 13th inst.

During the evening of the 16th G battery and half E battery relieved the 239th Machine Gun Co to do harassing fire and practice barrages. Eight guns were situated at Sabot Reserve and (4) four guns at Ziel House.

At 8.30 p.m. on the 17th practice barrage was fired in conjunction with the artillery.

Preparation of gun positions continued.

Practice barrage was carried on in conjunction with the artillery at 3 p.m. on the 18th E and F batteries carried up guns and material and placed same at Ziel House.

On the evening of the 19th half of E and F batteries moved in and took up positions and laid on first barrage.

68th
MACHINE GUN COY.
2nd AUSTRALIAN DIV.
From S.O.S.
Date.....

- E battery on B F on C barrage and took over guns at Ziel House and Schot Reserve.
- Batteries were position by 8.15 P.M. This was done so as to maintain a Machine Gun S.O.S. barrage.
- Eight guns of G Battery and four guns of E battery then moved and took up positions for attack and laid on their first barrage F battery on C barrage and G battery on D barrage
- Batteries reported all correct by 9.30 P.M.
- Telephone communication was laid between batteries and groups and groups with Brigade Signal Station (R.C.) Batteries reported O.K. every hour
- At 12.27 a.m. on the 20th a message was received from the D.M.G.O giving zero time and a watch giving correct time. All batteries were notified
- E F and G battery lines were broken once before zero hour Batteries opened at time given and continued at given rate G group had one gun put out of action just before zero time At 9.45 a.m. a message from D.M.G.O ordered F battery to stand by on N barrage for S.O.S.
- At 12.15 P.M. a message from D.M.G.O. ordered G battery to stand by on switch target 21 for S.O.S.
- Smashed gun was replaced at 12.45 P.M. At 12.50 P.M. cpl W.E. Peters of E battery was slightly wounded
- A message was received at 2.47 P.M. from D.M.G.O. ordering F battery to lift barrage 100 yards and when done to fire this was carried out. At 3.5 P.M. a message intercepted from a F.O.O. of Heavy Artillery Group stating that Germans were passing the other side of Zornbake batteries were warned
- At 3.17 P.M. a message was intercepted from F.O.O. of H.A.G. that Germans were advancing from South. of Zornbake F and G batteries were ordered to open fire
- At 3.50 P.M. I spoke to the D.M.G.O. about target and then received orders to cease fire + stand by.
- A message was received from D.M.G.O at 6.21 P.M. S.O.S. called for from Brigadier - F and G batteries opened fire
- A message was received at 7.17 P.M. from Brigade with orders to stand off S.O.S.
- S.O.S. signal was noticed at 7.20 P.M. from Brigade ~~with orders~~ F and G batteries opened fire.
- I ordered F and G batteries that if they required filled belts to get them from E battery which was not in action.

6th
MACHINE GUN COY.,
2nd AUSTRALIAN DIV.

3.

At 8.24 pm batteries ceased fire At 5.15 a.m. on the morning of the 21st a message was received from D.M.G.O. for E and F batteries to open at 5 a.m. for 1/2 an hour at 50 rounds per minute. E and F batteries were ordered to cut out and get as much rest as possible.

E and F batteries moved back to transport lines at 5 P.M. At 6-5 P.M. E and F batteries (14th M G Co) were all clear of Bellward Ridge.

At 9 a.m. on the 22nd a Lewis gun was salvaged and used against enemy aircraft.

A message was received from D.M.G.O. for Group Commander to come and see him. Future movements were discussed and the anti aircraft positions of the 13th Light Horse were visited.

At 2.20 pm. G battery was ordered to move out and return to transport lines.

Summing Up

6th
MACHINE GUN COY.,
2nd AUSTRALIAN DIV.
No.
Date.

The work was carried well by all ranks. The positions of Lieut Montague 14th M.G. Co. O.D. E Battery were excellent and are deserving of special mention. The greatest problem was the getting of the ammunition to the battery positions, the first orders were that 200,000 rounds were to be taken to each battery and an extra 40,000 for each battery for harassing fire this meant that 760,000 rounds had to be taken from the Fire Corner to Bellwarde Ridge. This work was finished on the night of the 14th inst due to the excellent work of Lieut J.D. Campbell Transport Officer of the 6th M.G. Co. The fire was carried out according to instructions and everything went well.

The casualties were extremely light there being only 3 wounded in the group two were evacuated and one remained on duty. It was found that the present establishment of Signallers is not sufficient to maintain the necessary communications and I suggest that it be increased to eight signallers per Coy.