

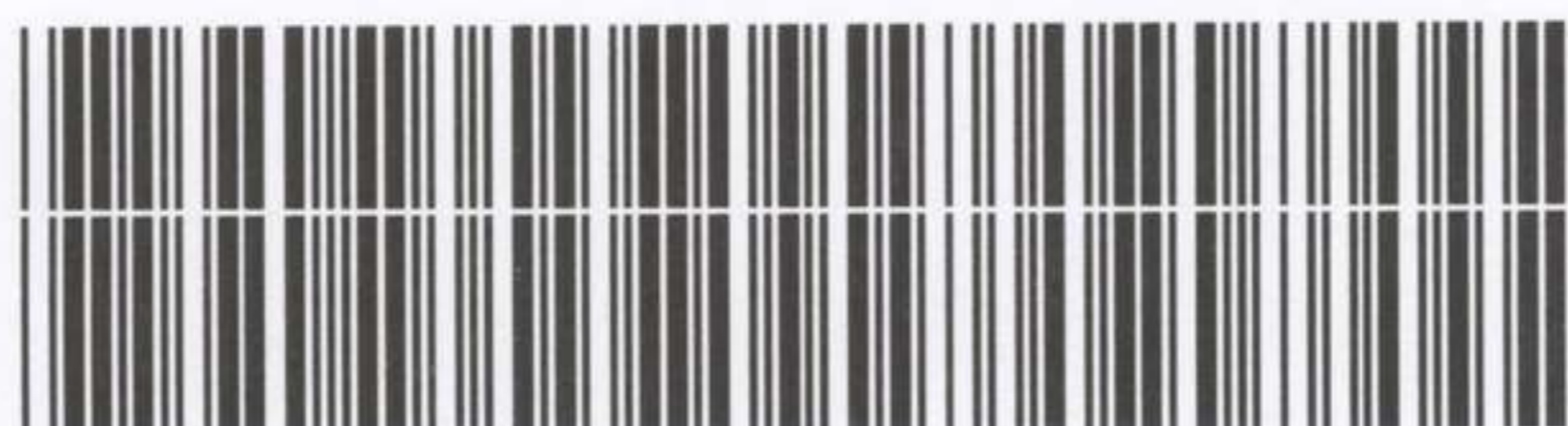
**AWM4**  
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,  
1914-18 War**

Machine Guns

**Item number:** 24/25/2

**Title:** 25th Australian Machine Gun  
Company

October 1917



AWM4-24/25/2

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

OR  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>Monday October 1<sup>st</sup> Sheet 28. Belgium + France H. 18. c. 4. 4.</p>	<p>Company resting in Machine Gun Camp. Checked all Machine Gun Gear to ascertain shortages &amp; etc. 2 Lt Phillips attempted to reconnoitre country. Sheet 28 D 27. d. 2. 8. enemy attacked &amp; unable to complete reconnaissance Despatched 3 pack animals to place quoted above at 5.30 pm carrying Machine Gun material for forthcoming operations.</p>	<p>Lt Benn / Lt.</p>
<p>Tuesday October 2<sup>nd</sup>. as above</p>	<p>Coy resting in Machine Gun Camp. 5.30 pm Lt Phillips in charge of 20 men proceeded to Sheet 28 D 27. d. 2. 8. &amp; dug Gun positions along the line, &amp; also carried up all necessary Machine Gun material, &amp; established S.O.S. line. Party worked till 3 am following morning.</p>	<p>Lt Benn / Lt.</p>
<p>Wednesday October 3<sup>rd</sup> as above.</p>	<p>Coy still resting in Machine Gun Camp. 5 pm 20 other ranks in charge of Lt Phillips left M.G. Camp to take up position in the S.O.S. line for operations the following day. Position reached uneventfully. 7.30 pm finishing touch made to positions, Guns laid <sup>and</sup> ready to open fire. Lt Campbell reverts to the ranks at his own request.</p>	<p>Lt Benn / Lt.</p>
<p>Thursday October 4<sup>th</sup> as above.</p>	<p>Zero time 6 am for attacking Infantry. <sup>2nd Aust. Div. C</sup> Enemy laid a heavy Artillery Barrage <sup>30 minutes</sup> prior to this, evidently preparing for an <sup>8.10 am</sup> attack himself. Machine Gun Barrage laid at <sup>8.10 am</sup> 6 am &amp; maintained for 50 minutes. This Barrage had results from information gained, which were most effective, as it caught the enemy massing for his attack on our trenches. 4 other ranks killed during the operation. The S.O.S. line was very heavily shelled during the operation. Sgt Benn reverts to the ranks at his own request.</p>	<p>Lt Benn / Lt. M.C. 25 on M.S. Co.</p>

28TH AUSTRALIAN  
MACHINE-GUN  
COMPANY.

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WAR DIARY

25<sup>th</sup> Aust MG Coy Army Form C. 2118.

274

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

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Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Friday October 5 <sup>th</sup> . Sheet 28 Belgium & France H18. c. 4. 4.	Still holding the S.O.S. line & supporting the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Aust. Division. Numerous <sup>counter attacks</sup> developed on the preceding day & also today, but were effectively smashed by machine gun barrage handed over S.O.S. line to the 5 <sup>th</sup> Aust. Mac. Gun Coy. at 11 am & withdrew to Machine Gun Camp. Mat. reference quoted in column. Coy Sgt. Major Miller reported back from School of Instruction, England.	M Bump Lt.
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> October. as above	1 other rank marched in from Hospital Base. Coy resting.	M Bump Lt.
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> October to	Nothing of interest to report. Coy resting in Machine Gun Camp.	Sgt. Eldridge I. P. M Bump Lt. " De Ross J. R. M Bump Lt. " Blackwood C. promoted in the Field to Rank of Lieut.
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> October as above	The Co (Lt Berry) in company with D. No. 9. O. <sup>5<sup>th</sup> Div.</sup> reconnoitred S.O.S. line sheet 28 J. 4 c 3. 2. For	M Bump Lt.
Thursday October " as above	Coy in reserve Machine Gun Camp.	M Bump Lt.
Friday October 12 <sup>th</sup> as above	2 other ranks marched in from Hospital. No 520 Pte. GEDGAWD. C. awarded military medal for work done during the operations of 26 <sup>th</sup> & 27 <sup>th</sup> September 1917.	M Bump Lt. P.C. 25 <sup>th</sup> M O L.

25th AUSTRALIAN  
MACHINE GUN  
COMPANY.

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WAR DIARY

or

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

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25th Aust MG Coy

Army Form C. 2118.

274

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Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sunday October 14 <sup>th</sup> Sheet 28 Belgium + France H. 18. C. 4. 4.	Coy in reserve ready to support 5 <sup>th</sup> Aust. Div. now holding the line, in front of Polygon Wood.	M Bump Lt.
Monday October 15 <sup>th</sup> place as above.	Nothing of interest to report. Same as above.	M Bump Lt.
Tuesday October 16 <sup>th</sup> place as above	Corporal Wright promoted to the Rank of Temp. Sergeant. The Co. (Lt. Berry,) Lt. Field, Phillips & De Ross reconnoitered S.O.S. line Sheet 28. J. 4 Square Prior to taking over the position from the 10 <sup>th</sup> A. M. G. C. on the 18.10.17. Received memo from G.O.C 5 <sup>th</sup> Aust. Div. complimenting transport lines.	Driver Hooper whilst chopping wood, early morning unfortunately, cut off 2 fingers. evacuated to hospital.
Wednesday October 17 <sup>th</sup> place as above.	11 reinforcements marched in from Base & taken on strength of this Unit. Coy preparing machine gun material & etc. ready to go forward on the 15:10:17. Lpl Medhurst promoted Temp. Corp. & appointed acting Transport Sgt. in lieu of Sgt Best transferred to "C" section.	M Bump Lt.  M Bump Lt. OC. 25 <sup>th</sup> M.G. Co. ... .. 20.

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WAR DIARY

or

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

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*274*  
*1st Aust MG Coy* Army Form C. 2118.

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Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>Thursday October 18<sup>th</sup> Sheet 28. B &amp; D. H.18. c. 4. 4.</p>	<p><sup>S.O.S.</sup> The Company moved into the line, as per Operation Order Appendix 3. attached, &amp; relieved the 14. Australian Machine Gun Coy. The relief was complete by 5.30pm &amp; without incident (no casualties). Map attached Appendix 4. Shows various gun positions. S.O.S. lines fields of fire etc.</p>	<p>App. 3. attached. Operation Ord. 4. Appendix 4. Machine Gun Map. M.B. Bump H.</p>
<p>Friday October 19<sup>th</sup> H. as above.</p>	<p>Still holding the S.O.S. line as above. The remainder of the Company in reserve at Machine Gun Camp H.18. c. 4. 4. Enemy shelled gun positions fairly heavily throughout the day. Casualties Nil. Rounds expended. Nil.</p>	<p>M.B. Bump H.</p>
<p>Saturday October 20<sup>th</sup> as above.</p>	<p>Company holding S.O.S. line as above remainder at M.G. Camp. No 3008 Private Hoeking L.P. Killed in Action, whilst acting as Sentry on his gun, also No 517 Private Stephenson J.F. wounded in company with the above. Hostile aircraft fairly active throughout the day. In some cases his planes were extremely daring, &amp; came quite low over the gun positions, two of our machine guns were detailed off for anti-aircraft work, dealt most effectively in driving off enemy planes. One gun claims to have hit hostile plane.</p>	<p>M.B. Bump H. H. 25<sup>th</sup> M.S. Leo.</p>

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Original*

WAR DIARY

25<sup>th</sup> Trench No 9 Coy Army Form C. 2118.

274

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~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required.)

Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>Saturday October 20<sup>th</sup> Sheet 28 B &amp; F. H. 18. C. 4. 4</p>	<p><i>Continued</i> Received a request from O. b. Front Line to engage a minniewerfer located at D. 37. C.O. 7 (approx) which had been causing them considerable trouble. "C" Battery consisting of 4 Guns were detailed off to deal with target, as videl (appendix 4 M.G. Man). The signal to open fire was 3 Green Flares sent up from the Front Line, the target was engaged on the given signal, &amp; it was reported successfully, as the minniewerfer did not fire again from that position.</p>	<p><i>R. B. Bump Lt.</i></p>
<p>Sunday October 21<sup>st</sup> as above.</p>	<p>Still holding P. O. S line as above, remained of Company at M. G. lamp. No casualties. Hostile Aircraft extremely active. Our Machine Guns engaged on anti- aircraft work repeatedly drove off enemy planes. At 5pm an P. O. S. signal went up which was very hard to decide as to whether it was in our sector or the right sector. "C" &amp; "D" Batteries (as per appendix 4) immediately fired on their P. O. S line 3 minutes later the P. O. S. signal was again repeated, &amp; it was definitely ascertained that it was on the right sector. When error was discovered fire was immediately ceased: guns O. b. &amp; Section officers repositioned front line guns as per Appendix 4 with a view of relieving them the following night.</p>	<p><i>R. B. Bump Lt.</i> O.C. 25<sup>th</sup> M.G. Co.</p>

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Original*

WAR DIARY

*25<sup>th</sup> Aust Mt G Coy*

Army Form C. 2118.

274

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.)

Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>Monday October 22<sup>nd</sup> Sheet 28. B. &amp; F. H. 118. C. 1. 1.</p>	<p>Company still holding P.O.S. line, remainder at Mt. G. Camp. Canadians French, 5<sup>th</sup> Army launched an offensive at 5.30 am objectives Passendale Heights. No 518 Private Oliver W.G. slightly wounded in head, &amp; remaining on duty. No other casualties to report. Relieved on the P.O.S. line at 5 pm by the 8<sup>th</sup> Aust. M.G. Coy. Proceeded to the front line &amp; relieved 14<sup>th</sup> Aust Mt G. Coy. Number of guns taken over 12, as per appendix &amp; M.G. map. Both reliefs were quite satisfactory &amp; were without casualties.</p>	<p><i>M. Bump H.</i></p>
<p>Tuesday October 23<sup>rd</sup> as above.</p>	<p>12 Guns holding the front line as per appendix &amp; remainder of Coy at Mt. G. Camp. Casualties Nil. Hostile planes very active throughout the day. Enemy artillery fire fairly heavy, especially around Company Headquarters. Very hard to maintain communication with the guns, as the enemy has excellent observation. All reconnaissances have to be done under cover of darkness, or early dawn.</p>	<p><i>M. Bump H.</i></p>
<p>Wednesday October 24<sup>th</sup> as above.</p>	<p>12 Guns holding the front line as per above, remainder of Coy at Mt. G. Camp. Section H.Q. (Linn Field) blown up by hostile shell fire at 5 pm. Casualties. No 423. Corp. O'Neil D.G., No 428. Private Edge H. No 691 Pte Williamson A. Killed. No 432 Supt Dunford R.G. No 415 Pte East P.E. Wounded &amp; evacuated.</p>	<p><i>M. Bump H. OR 25<sup>th</sup> M.G. Co.</i></p>

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WAR DIARY

25<sup>th</sup> Aust. M. G. Coy

274  
Army Form C. 2118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence  
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	Wednesday October 24 <sup>th</sup> 1917.		The bodies of the killed were unrecoverable. 1 Gun was also lost, buried in the Pic Booc, No 511 Like Jeffreys S. P. engaged on Anti-aircraft work also Wounded. Units Boxes (56) clipped.	UBump/ht
	Thursday October 25 <sup>th</sup> 1917.		12 Guns still holding the front line as per appendix 4, remainder of unit at M. G. camp. Intelligence Summary appendix 5 attached. A party of Officers 7 <sup>th</sup> Aust M. G. Coy reconnoitered gun positions, with a view to relieving the following evening.	UBump/ht
	Friday October 26 <sup>th</sup> 1917.		12 Guns still holding the front line as per appendix 4 remainder of unit at M. G. camp. Intelligence Summary appendix 5 attached. Company relieved by the 7 <sup>th</sup> Aust. M. G. Coy. Relief was complete by 7.30 pm, & without incident. 1 Gun & team blown up by enemy shell fire 8 am. Casualties - No 7348 The Downing W. Killed. No 476 Like Robinson S. B, No 597 The Picken R. B. S, Wounded and evacuated. Company on relief returned to Machine Gun Camp.	UBump/ht
	Saturday October 27 <sup>th</sup> 1917.		Company resting & preparing for movement to another area tomorrow.	UBump/ht OC. 25 <sup>th</sup> M. G. Co.



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274

WAR DIARY

25<sup>th</sup> Aust. M. G. Coy.

Army Form C. 2118.

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or  
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(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> 1917. H. 18. C. 4. 4.	October		No 250. Sgt Lindqvist P. J. left Unit to report to C. I. C. London with a view to qualifying for a Commission. Boy moved by <sup>March</sup> route to Halifax Camp sheet 28. 26. 14. c. 3.5. as per movement order No 4 appendix 6 attached.	M. Bumpkt.
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> 1917. Halifax Camp. H. 14. C. 3. 5.	October		Boy resting and reorganizing. Overhauling machine gun material, checking shortages + etc.	M. Bumpkt.
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> 1917. as above	October		Company still resting & reorganizing, 2 Anti Aircraft guns mounted at Roberts Dump adjacent to Camp. Enemy planes bombed Camps, Dumps, & Railways in his area very heavily during the night, which favours the enemy eg: bright moonlight.	M. Bumpkt.
Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> 1917. as above	October		Company commenced training. Recruits squad formed under Lieut Blackwood. of all men who have had no previous machine gun knowledge. Enemy repeated his aerial visits & did much damage in bombing local Dumps, Railways + etc. Routine. Parades. Pay, Bathing, & Cleaning of limbers.	M. Bumpkt. H. 25 <sup>th</sup> M. S. Co.

Operation Order No. 1.

17:10:17.

By Lieut S. S. Berry Of 25<sup>th</sup> Aust. M. G. CoyRef Relief of 14<sup>th</sup> Mac. Gun. Coy on the  
P. O. P. line on 18:10:17.OrganizationPara. (1)

The Coy will be organized into 3 Batteries, known as A, B & C respectively. "A" Battery will consist of 4 Guns & Personnel of "C" Section & will be commanded by 2<sup>nd</sup> de Ross.

"B" Battery will consist of 4 Guns & Personnel of "D" Section & 2 Guns of "B" Section. Commanded by 2<sup>nd</sup> Field.

"C" Battery will consist of 4 Guns & Personnel of "A" Section & 2 Guns of "B" Section, his team will include Sergeant Ludvigsen & will be commanded by 2<sup>nd</sup> Phillips who will also perform the Duties of Adjutant

Para (2)Detail

Mes Hudson, & Davis L.A.S., will be detailed as signallers.

Mes Nyer & Crowley J. will be detailed as runners.

The Bedford attached A.M.B. will be detailed & will prepare 1 stretcher & necessary material. Section commanders will detail & prepare 4 men & Gun Commander per Gun.

In choosing N.C.O.'s Section Commanders are advised to leave a nucleus of reliable N.C.O.'s behind, on the other hand, reliable N.C.O.'s must be sent forward.

Each Section will furnish 4 Guns complete with spare parts Condenser tubes & bags, luminous sights, tripods will not be required.

Para 3.Material Required

APPENDIX. 3.

Para (4)  
Supply.

Q. ms will prepare 48 hours rations per man, on the morning of the 18<sup>th</sup>, they will be made up into bags of 5, & must be ready by 10 am to allow of them being packed on Pack Horses. Each bag will be marked with the Gun Commanders name on distinctly. 3 Jars of Rum will be also taken forward.  
Quantity of candles required.  
Quantity of Oil required.  
Quantity of. Blannette required.  
4 Bullseye lanterns will also be prepared. Clinometers, per. Guns to be issued to Op Batteries.

Para (5.)  
Dress

Fighting Order. Water Bottles filled unexpended portion of the days rations will be carried.  
Waterproof Sheet & overcoat will only be carried, & rolled under Haversack.  
Section commanders will be responsible for checking, Such points as Identity Discs, Gies Dressings, & Gas Helmets, Gun material etc.

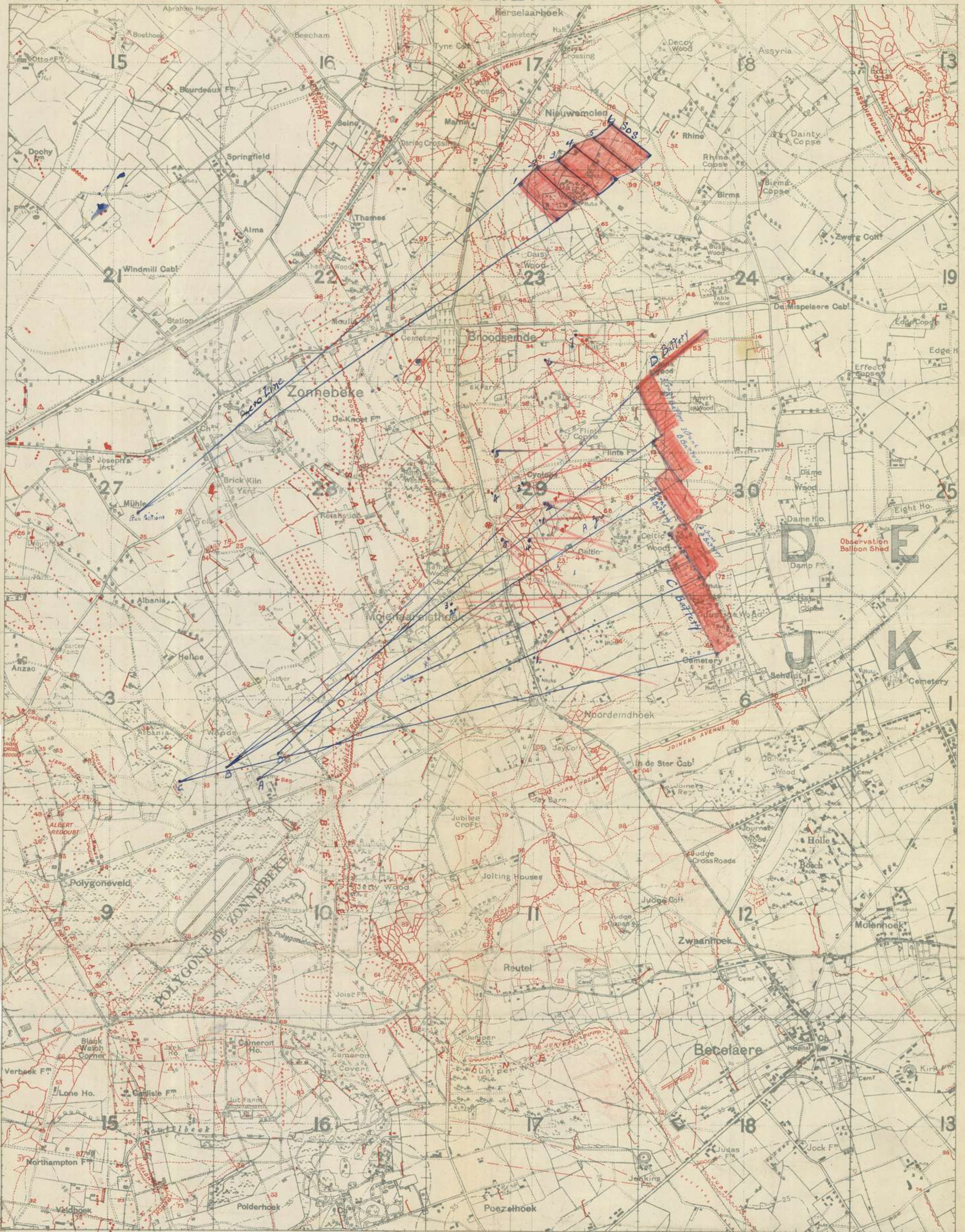
Para (6)

The company will parade at 1.45 pm 18.10.17. ready to move off.

Para (7)

Section Commanders will hand to Lt Smyth a duplicate Copy of the Personnel selected to go forward. Required by 5 pm to day.

ALBURY / Lt  
H. 25<sup>th</sup> M. & Co.



5th FIELD SURVEY CO. R.E. (1353) 9-6-17

Battery Positions (possible strong points)   
 Probably Timber or Camouflage   
 Probably Concrete.

Scale 1:10,000. YARDS 500 400 300 200 100 0 500 1,000 1,500 2,000

Machine Gun   
 Trench Mortar   
 Anti Tank Gun   
 Observation Post   
 Dugout   
 Supply Dump   
 Ammunition Dump   
 Buried Cable

3H2A

*Attendant*  
*✓*

*Handwritten 1917*

McKenzie  
5/

25<sup>th</sup> Aust. M. G. Coy.

Intelligence Summary.

10 am on 24:10:17 to 10 am 25:10:17.

1. Disposition: Same as before
2. Casualties: 3. O. R. Killed  
2. O. R. Wounded.
3. Rounds Expended: Aircraft 500.
4. Aircraft: Enemy planes flying very low all day & firing on working parties etc. In the early part of the day they seemed to do as they pleased. Our aircraft gun engaged them and had the effect of turning one straight back.
5. Artillery: Our guns opened a corp barrage at 5.30pm and also opened burst of fire at 8.15pm & 8.45pm for about 5 minutes. Retaliation was fairly heavy in the evening.
6. Miscellaneous: Left Sector N.O blown in yesterday afternoon hence casualties & survivors badly shaken. Reserve gun blown out. Am arranging to replace from S.O.S.

McKenzie Lieut  
of 25<sup>th</sup> Aust. M. G. Coy.

274

McKenzie  
5/

25<sup>th</sup> Aust. M. G. Coy.

Intelligence Summary.

10 am 25:10:17 to 10 am 26:10:17.

1. Disposition: As before
2. Casualties: Nil
3. Rounds Expended: Nil
4. Aircraft: Enemy very active over our lines last night.
5. Artillery: Enemy shelling very heavy yesterday evening and a large number of Gas shells used. This morning at 5.40 am our Artillery opened an intense bombardment on our left which is still continuing.
- Miscellaneous: One Gun position was blown in last night, but fortunately no casualties or losses.

McKenzie Lieut  
of 25<sup>th</sup> Aust. M. G. Coy.

APPENDIX. 5

12

274  
 Movement Order No. 4  
 By OC 28<sup>th</sup> Aust. M. G. Coy 27.10.17.

1 Move The company will move tomorrow  
 28<sup>th</sup> inst to Halpisc Camp 2614. c. 3. 5.

2 Parade Parade 12.45 pm. Full marching  
 Order. Water bottles filled + unexpended  
 portion of the days rations to be  
 carried.

3 Camp Lines will be left intact unless  
 otherwise ordered. Section Commanders  
 will be responsible that the lines  
 are left scrupulously clean etc.  
 all spare gear + equipment will  
 be handed in to I.M.V. by  
 9 am. Kits + Blankets etc of  
 men deceased, wounded, + evacuated  
 will also be handed in.

4 Transport Section commanders will arrange  
 independently with Transport Officer  
 re the carrying of H. & Gear etc, at  
 present on their limbers these  
 arrangements to be completed by  
 10 am tomorrow morning.

5 Advance Party Lt Dight, Sgt Hanson + 2 OR  
 detailed from A Section will  
 report to Capt B. D. Taplin Staff  
 Capt at Area Commandants office  
 Halpisc Camp 2614. c. 7. 7. at 12 noon  
 tomorrow. 28<sup>th</sup> inst.

6 Blankets Blankets will be rolled by Sections  
 in bundles of 10. Correctly labelled  
 + secured + packed on <sup>fighting</sup> limbers by  
 10 am, under the supervision of  
 Section Commanders.

274

Head Quarters details supervised  
by G. S. M. & their blankets  
carried on H. Q. limber.

Lantern

The lantern will be closed  
at 11 am.

Reveille  
Meals

7.30 am.

Breakfast. 7.30 am

Lunch 11.30 am.

Copies To.

of

2<sup>nd</sup> in Command 2

"A" Section 3

"B" " 4

"C" " 5

"D" " 6

Transport officer 7.

S.M.

Trans. Com. 3

R. B. B. Lieut  
of 25<sup>th</sup> Aust. M. G. Coy



Continuation of attached  
Movement order No 1

Transport

The Transport office will  
arrange transport space for  
the following.

3 Tripod cases } orderly room  
1 Trunk 2' x 13" x 10" } gear  
etc

9 cases 2'6" x 2' x 2" Canteen Stores  
Officers Mess  
Signal Car

about 16 camp dishes, 3 fantasies  
& all gear of Coy's books.

O.M.S. Stores about 2 1/2 yards  
all minor gear of 16 Otr &  
blankets of 16 O Details.

G.S. Wagon wired for, wheels  
together with H.Q. lumber & cook  
cart, should be sufficient for  
the above.

Water Cart will move full.

A. Bunt. Lieut  
1st Lt. Cust. M. I. Coy

