

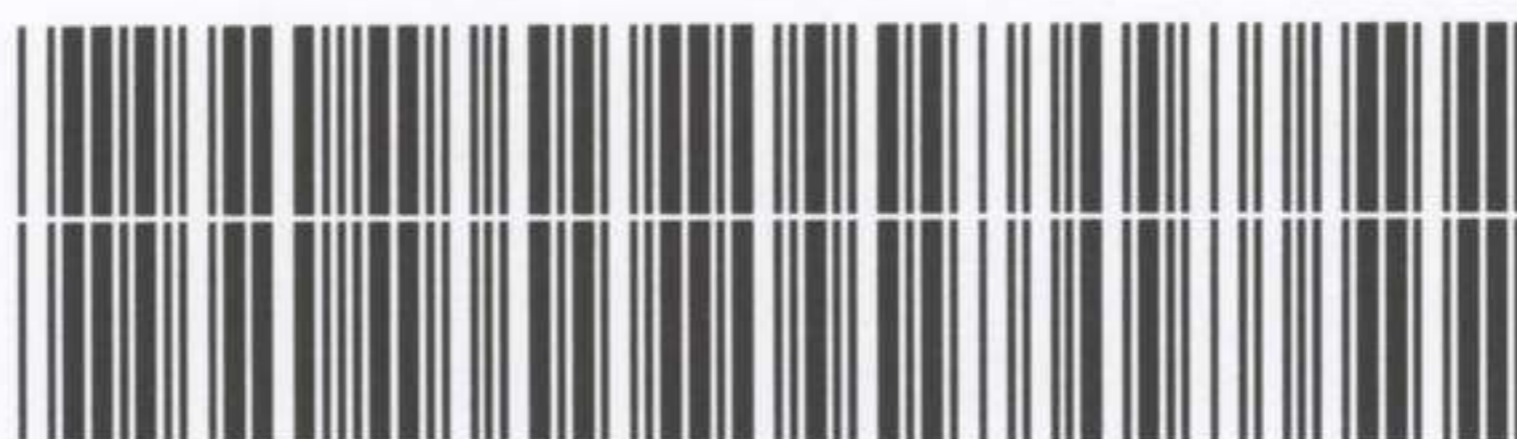
**AWM4**  
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,  
1914-18 War**

Machine Guns

**Item number:** 24/9/7

**Title:** 4th Australian Machine Gun  
Company

January 1917



AWM4-24/9/7



1st January 1917.

Programme of training carried out.  
Orders received to proceed to Ribemont.

2nd January 1917.

Left<sup>for</sup> Ribemont at 8.45 a.m. & arrived  
at 1.30 p.m. Difficulty experienced in  
getting Billets.

3rd January 1917.

to

6th January 1917.

Programme of training carried out.  
Orders received to proceed to Mametz.

7th January 1917.

Left Ribemont at 7.50 a.m. for  
Mametz via Dernancourt, Azeulles,  
Beaucourt & Tricourt. Arrived at  
Mametz at 1.30 p.m. and Company  
went into huts.

8th January 1917.

In accordance with orders from  
Brigadier, Company was employed  
in cleaning up huts, making foot-  
paths & building cookhouses etc. in  
order to make Camp comfortable.



9th January 1917

to

20th January 1917.

Company Employed on Brigade  
& Camp fatigues, digging drains, laying  
duckboards, strengthening footpaths etc.  
Brigadier inspected Camp on 12th & 15th.  
and G.O.C. Div<sup>n</sup> inspected Camp on 17.1.17.  
Snow fell heavily on night of 16th - 17th.  
& has rendered ground difficult for working  
parties.

21st January 1917.

Orders received regarding cessation  
of fatigues to enable men to have few days  
rest.

22<sup>nd</sup> January 1917.

Preparations made getting guns, bar  
etc in order to relieve Coy in line.

23<sup>rd</sup> January 1917.

Orders received to complete relief of  
12th Bde M.G. Coy on 24th/25th Jan. 1917.

24th January 1917

No 2 Sec<sup>n</sup> gun teams and 2 teams  
from No 3 took over relief of front line positions.  
Rest of Company moved out and established  
Headquarters at C B Central.



24th Jan. 1917 (Contd)

Gun positions taken over as follows N 21 d. 4½. 4½. N 20 b 8.1.  
N 20 d 6. 6½. N 20 d 2.2.

An intermediate line of defence consisting of 6 guns, positions in course of construction, and 2 gun positions in Reserve line in course of construction.

25th January 1917.

Apparently no system exists by which the intermediate line of defence is being constructed. Under the direction of the Brigadier, a fatigue party of 1 Officer & 50 men has been detailed to work on these positions.

26th January 1917.

Fatigue party working on all positions under supervision of a Corporal of Engineers.

27th January 1917. & 28th Jan. 1917.

Everything very quiet on our front.

29th January 1917.

Enemy heavily shelled Trenchcomb



29/1/17 (Cont's)

sector with 4.2 and 5.9 shells.  
under the direction of one enemy  
aeroplane.

E Valley & Shire Trench received  
considerable attention.

Gun in Shire Trench was buried  
& slightly damaged but was immediately  
replaced by a new one.

Enemy started shelling at noon &  
continued throughout the day without  
any retaliation on our part until  
about 8 p.m.

29th January 1917.

Considerable shelling on E Valley  
& Queuedecourt. Medium trench  
mortars & 18 pounders bombarded  
enemy lines at 4 p.m. with the  
object of cutting enemy wire on  
enemy strongpost on front on Shire  
Trench. No considerable damage was  
done to wire.

31st January 1917.

Three indirect guns laid & ready  
for fire on enemy rear communications  
in front of Shire Trench. Obser-  
vation today particularly good.

Michael Capt