

**AWM4**

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

Machine Guns

**Item number:** 24/2/1

**Title:** 2nd Australian Machine Gun Battalion

March 1918



AWM4-24/2/1

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.)

2ND. AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	17.3.18		<p>Following upon General Staff Circular No. 12 authorising the Battalion organisation for Machine Gun Units, the following Officers assembled at Bn. H.Q. TAHUNA CAMP:-</p> <p>C.O. Lieut. Col. A.W. Ralston C.M.G., D.S.O. late 20th. Bn. appointed to command from 1st. March 1918.</p> <p>Second-in-command. Major L.F.S. Hore M.C., late Corps M.G.O.</p> <p>Adjutant. Lieut. C.R. Field, 22nd. M.G. Coy.</p> <p>Assistant Adjutant. Lieut. J.C. Dunningham, 5th. M.G. Coy.</p> <p>Transport Officer. Lieut. H. De. B. Newcomen, 6th. "</p> <p>Quartermaster. Lieut. W.J. Small, 5th. "</p> <p>R.S.M. 204 C.S.M., J.W. Myers, 6th. "</p> <p>R.Q.M.S. 1567 R.Q.M.S. J.B. Watt, 6th. "</p> <p>With the exception of the Asst. Adjt., whose appointment was confirmed by Division, the provisional appointments are shown in Appendix I attached.</p> <p>Operative H.Qrs. were formed at 2nd. Aust. Div. H.Qrs., and Administrative at TAHUNA CAMP.</p> <p>The Work of taking over the existing M.G. Coys i.e. 5th. 6th. 7th. and 22nd., and forming them into the 2nd. Australian Machine Gun Battalion was proceeded with. Owing to being a new establishment a H.Q. Orderly Room had to be established. A wire was immediately despatched to Stationery, BOULOGNE, for the necessary equipment. Meanwhile, sufficient gear, owing to the generosity of the surrounding units, was procured. <i>CRS.</i></p>	
	18.3.18		<p>Battalion Order No. 1 re relief of the 5th. Coy. by 7th. Coy. issued and, later, Amendment No. 1 postponing the relief one day owing to minor operations. See appendix II attached.</p> <p>Battalion Order No 2 re minor operations by 5th. Brigade issued to all concerned, see Appendix III attached. A certain amount of difficulty is being experienced at present owing to the lack of Signal Staff, all our work being carried out through Div. Channels. It is to be noted with reference to the Bn. Order that the tasks for guns are stated but choice of position and gun is left largely to the discretion of the Coy. Commander who is better able to judge on the positions.</p> <p>During the day the N.C.Os. and men detailed from the various Coys. to form H.Q. Establishment reported. As Capt. H.L. Beale, 6th. Field Ambulance, who had been provisionally appointed R.M.O., had been evacuated sick, Major E. Culpin reported in his place from Reinf. A.A.M.C. <i>CRS.</i></p>	
	19.3.18		<p>The C.O. and Adjutant visited the guns of the left sector.</p> <p>Returns showing the strength of the Coys. were obtained and a memo forwarded to Division reporting the formation of the unit, together with a statement showing the numbers of O.Rs. required to complete establishment, i.e. 66. For this purpose the Brigades in the Division were asked</p> <p>2449 Wt. W14957/M90 750,000 1/16 J.B.C. &amp; A. Forms/C.2118/12. to supply 22 men each.</p>	<p><i>Appendix</i></p> <p><i>XI</i></p>

# WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118. 100

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.)

2ND AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	20.3.18		<p style="text-align: center;">right</p> <p>C.O. and Adjutant visited the guns of the <del>left</del> sector. The Second-in-Command also made a tour of inspection.</p> <p>Memo of Machine Gun Defences issued to 5th and 6th. A.I. Bgdes, and 5th. 6th. 7th and 22nd. Coys. This gives new dispositions and tasks for each guns, and guns <del>are-fired</del> consecutively throughout the Division front irrespective of their tasks.</p> <p>A map accompanying this memo showed guns and their tasks in conventional signs, each position being numbered. <i>(Appendix IIIa)</i></p>	
	21.3.18		<p>The first returns of the new organisation were submitted to Division. <i>Appendix IV CRF</i></p> <p>The C.O. and Major Ordish reconnoitred for Battery positions in LADOUVE VALLEY, for purposes of flank defence and possible operations against WARNETON.</p> <p>Adjutant's work at present consists of orders and memo. re operations.</p> <p>Appointment of Lieut. J.C. Dunningham to position of Asst. ADJT. appeared in Div. Order No. 1643 22.3.18. He is employed in the Administrative work of the Battalion which is conducted from TAHUNA CAMP - Sheet 36 N.W. B.9.C.30.70.</p> <p>Location of Bn. H.Q. was advised to Division, this being one of the necessary returns laid down for that date. <i>CRF</i></p>	
	22.3.18		<p>Task Map (provisional) was made up for possible operation against WARNETON on lines of Artillery Barrage Map.</p> <p>On account of the German Offensive, all leave was cancelled until further orders. <i>CRF</i></p>	
	23.3.18		<p>Memo issued to Coys. (F/22) reference M.G. Defence. The S.O.S. Barrage across S.W. of WARNETON is to be put down by (a) by usual S.O.S. Signals.</p> <p>(b) at any time when an unusual amount of L.G. or rifle fire is heard on the portion of front covered.</p> <p>This latter Proviso has been found necessary by experience owing to probability of mist obscuring signals and uncertainty of telephone communications.</p> <p>All company commanders have been instructed to prepare fighting maps for present battery positions and alternative positions for groups of guns.</p> <p>The men supplied by the various Brigades to complete establishment arrived and were posted to Coys. <i>CRF</i></p>	
	24.3.18		<p>Battalion H.Qrs., (Operative portion) moved to RED LODGE, Map Ref. Sheet 28 T.18.D.7.4.</p> <p>These H.Qrs. now consists of 3 Officers (C.O., Major H. Ordish and Adjt.) 3 batmen, 4 runners, 1 clerk and 11 Signallers attached from Div. H.Q. Telephone communications are somewhat indirect until direct lines by M.G. Coys. are put down. This work is being carried on at present and should be completed soon. Bn. Order No. 3 issued, reference relief of 8th M.G. Coy. and portion of 15th M.G. Coy. (5th. Division on right) See appendix No. <del>IV</del> attached. <i>CRF</i></p>	

# WAR DIARY

Army Form G. 2118. 100

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 2ND. AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	24.3.18		The Second-in-Command made arrangements for getting into touch with the 38th. Welsh M.G.Bn. on our right. <i>CRS.</i>	
	25.3.18		Major H. Ordish visited guns of the 7th Coy. in line right. Adjut. issued Maps to 5th. and 22nd. Coy. 5th. Coy. moved up to relieve 8th. A.M.G. Coy. and 15th. A.M.G. Coy. in accordance with Bn. Order No. 3. Relief reported complete at 10.15 P.m. <i>CRS.</i>	
	26.3.18		C.O. and Major. H. Ordish visited Coy. H.Q.s. of new <del>sector</del> sector taken over by 5th. A.M.G. Coy, but did not inspect guns as all routes are overland. Arrangements made for guns of 5th. M.G. Coy. (left sector) to barrage line U.11.B.76.18. to U.11.D.85.50 (Sheet BAS. WARNETON 1/10) as S.O.S. in case of enemy raid which is expected in this locality. 6th. M.G. Coy. (centre sector) have made all arrangements to combine for the same purpose. 7th. A.M.G. Coy. Order No. 13 re minor gas operations (Appendix 5) attached, in conjunction with 7th. Bgde. Order No. 158. 3 Travelling Kitchens and 1 Maltese Cart to complete establishment were drawn from the Transport Officer, 1/5 K.O.Y.L.I. 5 light draught horses were also exchanged with 2nd. Div. Sig. Coy. for 5 heavy draught horses. <i>CRS.</i>	
	27.3.18		During the night our guns fired on various targets as shown in Intelligence, Appendix No. VI attached. The 5th. A.M.G. Coy. fired at various times coincident to the movement of our transport (bringing gas cylinders to the line) to neutralise the noise. This method appears to be used extensively by the enemy. 9 a.m. C.O. and Major Ordish visited left sector. Draftsman commenced duty at Bn. H.Q.s. 6 P.m. Word received that conditions are favourable for gas bombardment with 4" Stokes Mortars (Div. Order No. 165) and later that Zero Hour will be 10.30 p.m. 7th. A.I. Bde. (right sector) Order No. 158 (Livens PROJECTOR GAS ATTACK) Wire received that 10.30 P.m. will be Zero Hour. In both these attacks our M.Gs. are co-operating by firing on selected targets and searching enemy areas.	
	28.3.18		11.15 P.M. 7th. Bgde. Operations cancelled. <i>CRS.</i> Our M.Gs. on left sector fired in support of 4" Stokes-Mortars Gas Attack on targets selected and in right sector a firing programme was carried out, as cancellation of the order was not received until 30 minutes after Zero. Targets engaged were as follows:- RIGHT SECTOR! Road Junctions at U.12.B.25.70 and U.12.b.42.26. KINGSCLERE. U.6.b.22.30 and Pill Boxes at U.12.A.84.76 to U.12.B.25.82. <i>CRS.</i>	

# WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118. 100

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.)

2ND. AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	28.3.18		<p><b>LEFT SECTOR:</b> <del>As shown in Appendix VI VII</del>                      Warning received of expected early relief.                      All Coys. warned to be ready to hand over, and maps are being prepared to hand to relieving units.                      Intelligence Summary for period ending 6 a.m. to-day is attached (Appendix <del>VII</del> <sup>VIII</sup>)</p>	
	29.3.18		<p>During the night, 22<sup>nd</sup> Company cooperated with 38<sup>th</sup> Division by putting up a front Barrage on their S.O.S lines as shown on Intelligence Summary for the period. Appendix VIII attached                      Various targets were again engaged during the night on centres of movement.                      Reference Div memo (Corps S/4102) This orders that only are Eighty of the supply of S.H. at a gun position should be used for Barrage and the remainder reserved for direct fire. of which half should be belted &amp; the other half in bulk. This with a reserve of 20,000 round. which is the standard aimed at for each gun position in this Sector. only 2500 may be allotted for barrage &amp; only 1250 may be belted. which would give 5 minutes fire at S.O.S. rate. This matter was represented to G.S.O. by the C.O today. &amp; it was pointed out that the instruction nullifies the experience of machine Gunners for over 18 months. as well as brushing aside in one sweep, the whole teaching of Cameron M.G. School &amp; the</p>	<p>App VIII attd</p>

## WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118. 100

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
	29. 3. 18.		<p>organization &amp; training which has taken <del>place</del> up. the energy &amp; enthusiasm of all machine gunners for the past 8 months.</p> <p>It is suggested that a general instruction on broad lines should replace this, insisting that a reserve of say 8000 rounds be kept for direct fire, and only half the belt supply used for barrage fire. This in our opinion would suffice.</p> <p>If Divisional memo. issued today draws attention to the necessity of machine gun crews being housed in pill boxes wherever possible. The gun must in this case be fired from the pill box or from a position close by.</p> <p>It is found, naturally, that in many cases pillboxes are not well sited (from our point of view) for machine guns. "field of fire" must be well watched when considering the siting of guns. C.R.S.</p>	
	30. 3. 18.		<p>During last night harassing fire was carried on as usual.</p> <p>The 5<sup>th</sup> H.M.G. Coy. carried out a "camouflage" shoot. to drown the noise of wagons as on previous nights.</p> <p>The 22<sup>nd</sup> H.M.G. Coy. cooperated with 38<sup>th</sup> Div. (on right) minor operation, firing 22000 rounds. &amp; fired 4,500 rounds in cooperation with the 7<sup>th</sup> Brigade</p> <p>Gas attack. C.R.S.</p>	

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

# 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.

## or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	31.3	18.	<p>During the night firing was carried out in connection with Gas attack as shown in Intelligence. CR.</p> <p>Orders were received for relief of 5<sup>th</sup> A.M.F. Coy. by the 57<sup>th</sup> M.G. Coy. &amp; Battalion Order No 4. (+ Addendum No 1) issued CR.</p> <p>On relief the 5<sup>th</sup> A.M.F. Coy. is detached from the Battalion &amp; will move as part of 5<sup>th</sup> A.I. Brigade group under command of G.O.C 5<sup>th</sup> A.I. Bde.</p> <p>Relief of 5<sup>th</sup> A.M.F. Coy reported complete. CR.</p>	<p>App. No X att.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">IX</p>
		10 AM.		
		12 M'night		

Crossed  
 apt.  
 2 ambulances

100

7

2ND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

DIVISIONAL HEADQUARTERS  
16th. March, 1918.

Appendix L.

5th. A.I. Brigade  
6th. A.I. Brigade  
7th. A.I. Brigade  
22nd. Aust. M.G. Coy.  
A.D.M.S.  
"G"  
2nd. Aust. Div. Sig. Coy.  
C.O. 2nd. Aust. M.G. Battalion  
2nd. Aust. Div. Train.  
D.A.G., A.I.F.

A Battalion organization for machine gun units has been authorised and Lieut-Col. A.W. RALSTON, C.M.G., D.S.O., has been appointed to command same and Major L.F.S. Here, M.C., as second in command.

Lieut. Col. RALSTON will at once take over the administration 22nd. Aust. M.G. Coy. and will arrange direct with Brigades as to the taking over of the other machine gun companies of the Division.

Headquarters, 2nd. Australian Machine Gun Battalion, will be located at TAHUNA CAMP 36. B.9.C.1.8.

The following appointments have been approved provisionally:-

Adjutant.	Lieut. C.R. FIELD, 22nd. Aust. M.G. Coy.
Q.M.	Lieut. W.J. SMALL, 5th. " "
Transport Officer	Lieut. H. DeB. NEWCOMEN, 6th " "
R.S.M.	No. 204 C.S.M. J.W. MYERS, 6th " "
R.Q.M.S.	No. 1567 Q.M.S. J.B. WATT, 6th. " "
R.M.O.	Capt. H.L. BEALE, 6th. Field Ambulance.

The abovenamed Officers and Warrant Officers will be instructed to report for duty to C.O. 2nd. Aust. M.G. Battalion at TAHUNA CAMP by 10 A.m. 17th. instant.

Lieut. Col. RALSTON will organise the Battalion Machine Gun Battalion in accordance with AUSTRALIAN CORPS G.S. Circular No. 12 of 11th. instant and will report to Divisional Headquarters when the Organisation is completed.

Sgd. C.M. JENNINGS, Captain  
D.A.A.G.  
2nd. Aust. Div.



100

8

APPENDIX  
SECRET.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION ORDER No. 1.

Copy No. ....

\*\*\*\*\*

Ref. Maps - Sheet 28 - 1/40,000.  
Sheet 36 - 1/40,000.

Headquarters,  
18th March, 1918.

With reference to 2nd Australian Division Order No. 162:-

1. The 7th Aust. M. G. Coy. will relieve the 5th Aust. M. G. Coy. in the Right Brigade sector of the line on the night of 21st/22nd March, 1918, relief to be completed by 4 a.m. on 22nd March, 1918.
2. Trench Stores, Maps, Aeroplane Photographs, all necessary charts and information regarding Gun positions and tasks, will be handed over and necessary receipts obtained.
3. On completion of the relief, 5th Aust. M. G. Coy. will take over all duties, etc. now being carried on by 7th Aust. M. G. Coy. as portion of Divisional Reserve.
4. Subject to above instructions the details of relief will be arranged mutually between M. G. Company Commanders concerned.
5. Completion of relief will be reported by 7th Aust. M. G. Coy. to Headquarters, Right Brigade in Line, and by both M. G. Coys. to C.O., 2nd Aust. M. G. Battalion at Divisional Headquarters.
6. ACKNOWLEDGE.

*H. Ardesh Major*  
for Lieut-Colonel,  
Commanding Second Australian Machine Gun Batt'n.

Issued at 12 noon.

DISTRIBUTION.

- | <u>Copy No.</u>         | <u>To.</u>               |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1.                      | 5th Aust. M. G. Coy.     |
| 2.                      | 7th Aust. M. G. Coy.     |
| <u>FOR INFORMATION.</u> |                          |
| 3.                      | 2nd Australian Division. |
| 4.                      | 38th Division.           |
| 5.                      | 5th Aust. Inf. Bde.      |
| 6.                      | 6th do.                  |
| 7.                      | 7th do.                  |
| 8.                      | 6th Aust. M. G. Coy.     |
| 9.                      | 22nd Aust. M.G. Coy.     |
| 10/13.                  | File.                    |
| 12/14.                  | War Diary.               |
| 15/17.                  | Spare.                   |

\*\*\*\*\*

*Appendix II*

*War Diary*

FIRST AMENDMENT TO SECOND AUST. M. G. BATTALION ORDER No. 1.

SECRET.

\*\*\*\*\*

Copy No....

Ref. Maps - Sheet 28 - 1/40,000.  
Sheet 36 - 1/40,000.

Headquarters,  
18th March, 1918.

Para. 1. -

For night 21st/22nd March,  
Road "Night 22nd/23rd March."

For "4 a.m., 22nd March"  
Road "4 a.m., 23rd March."

ACKNOWLEDGED.

*H. Anderson Major*

DISTRIBUTION.

for Lieut-Colonel,  
Commanding Second Aust. M. Gun Battalion.

To all recipients of 2nd Aust. M. G. Bn. Order No. 1.

\*\*\*\*\*

100

Appendix III

APPENDIX  
SECRET.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION ORDER No. 2.

Copy No. 9

Headquarters,  
18th. March, 1918.

Ref Maps - Sheet 28 - 1/40,000.  
Sheet 36 - 1/40,000.

1. The 5th. Aust. Inf. Bde. will carry out a raid on the Enemy lines on a date and time to be fixed.
2. Machine Guns of 5th. and 6th. Aust. M.G. Coys will co-operate by carrying out tasks as under :- (See Map 'A' attached)

<u>Company</u>	<u>Task</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
5th. Aust. M.G. Coy.	To enfilade Barrage line U.24.c.25.15 to U.30.a.75.85.	4 Guns (D Batty) in vicinity of U.22.a.70.05.
	Barrage bridge over River LYS at U.30.a.80.90.	2 Guns (No.27 in vicinity of U.23.a.02.50 and No.28 in vicinity of U.16.d.55.12.)
	1 Gun firing on U.29.d.80.65	Gun No. 19 at C.3.d.75.85.
	1 Gun firing on U.29.d.90.95.	Gun No. 20 at C.3.b.64.14.
	1 Gun firing on U.29.d.90.80. (Total traverse of 3 deg.)	Gun No.21 at U.29.d.90.65.
6th. Aust.M.G. Coy.	To enfilade barrage line U.23.d.85.45. to U.24.c.25.15.	4 Guns (E Batty.) at U.16.a.20.20.
	Enfilade barrage U.29.a.92.55. to U.29.b.25.20.	2 Guns in immediate vicinity of U.16.c.35.55.
	Fire on area round U.24.a.36.72. roughly bounded by UVULA Trench on W. and S. and Tramline on N. and E.	2 Guns ( No.43 and 44 in vicinity of U.9.d.90.02

3. Rate of fire:- 75 rounds per minute from 0 to + 5 minutes, 100 rounds per minute from + 5 to +10 minutes. 250 rounds per minute from +10 to + 20 minutes.

The positions given for the guns are approximate only and may be varied by Company Commanders so long as the task is carried out, any change to be notified to Battalion Headquarters. All guns must be prepared to switch on to their normal S.O.S. lines at any time.

Company Commanders of 5th. and 6th. Coys will be responsible for supply of ammunition and all other stores including water, oil etc. required ammunition to be supplied on basis of 4000 rounds per gun employed.

App III

P.T.O.

5. Zero day and hour will be notified later.
6. All arrangements to be completed by 8 a.m. on morning of 20th. inst. and report to be made to Battalion Headquarters.
7. Acknowledge. (5th. and 6th. Aust. M.G. Coy. by wire).

*C Ross Field Lt.*  
*advt.* for Lieut. Colonel,  
 Commanding Second Australian Machine Gun Batt'n.

Issued at 8 p.m.

DISTRIBUTION.

<u>Copy No.</u>	<u>To</u>
1/2.	5th. Aust. Inf. Bde.
3.	5th. Aust. M.G. Coy.
4.	6th. Aust. M.G. Coy.

FOR INFORMATION.

5.	3rd. Aust. Division.
6.	6th. Aust. Inf. Bde.
7.	22nd. Aust. M.G. Coy.
8/10.	War Diary
11/12.	File
13/15.	Spare.

SECRET.

1ST AMENDMENT TO 2ND AUSTRALIAN M.G. BATTALION ORDER No. 2.

Copy No. <sup>10</sup>.....

\*\*\*\*\*

Ref. Maps. - Sheets 23 & 36 -  
1/40,000.

Headquarters,  
20th March, 1918.

Para. 2. -

In 5th task for 5th Aust. M. G. Coy., "Remarks" Column:-

For "Gun No. 21 at U.29.d.90.65."

Read "Gun No. 21 at C.4.a.49.86."

ACKNOWLEDGE.

*Hardish*  
Lieut-Colonel,  
Commanding 2nd Aust. Machine-gun Battalion.

Issued at 3 p.m.

DISTRIBUTION.

FOR INFORMATION.

- | <u>Copy No.</u> | <u>To.</u>           |                             |
|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1/2.            | 5th Aust. Inf. Bde.  | 5. 2nd Australian Division. |
| 3.              | 5th Aust. M. G. Coy. | 6. 6th Aust. Inf. Bde.      |
| 4.              | 6th Aust. M. G. Coy. | 7. 22nd Aust. M. G. Coy.    |
|                 |                      | 8/10. War Diary.            |
|                 |                      | 11/12. File.                |
|                 |                      | 13/15. Spare.               |

100  
 SECOND AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION    S E C R E T  
 -----

Headquarters,  
 23. 3. 18.

OPERATIONS - MACHINE GUN DEFENCES.

1. Reference to the M.G. S.O.S Barrage across the South West of WARNETON provided by guns numbered 28. 35 to 40 and 43 to 48: This barrage will be put down
  - (a) At any time that an unusual amount of Lewis gun or Fifle fire is heard on that portion of our front which is opposite to the above S.O.S. barrage.
  - (b) On S.O.S. signal from above portion of our front.
  - (c) On S.O.S. telephone message.
2. The following preparation will be at once made by Company Commanders concerned:-

Construction of Fighting Maps showing the full arc of fire to extreme range and, as the ground to be covered is practically all on the one level, both the Q.E. and the range will be shown on the arc for each 100 yards from 1500 yards up upwards.

A. B. and C. Batteries - Probably covering from FRELINGHLEN TO HOUPLINES.

D. Battery - 2 Fighting Maps (1 from position of U.22.a.57.44., to be the left gun position of the battery and one from U.22.a.75.12. to be the left gun position for alternative battery site)  
 This map will probably cover from WARNETON to PONT/ROUGE.

E. Battery - (a) Fighting map probably covering from U.16.a.10.20., U.6.central to DEULEMONT.  
 (b) Also arrangements to barrage U.5.c.40.83. - U.5.d.25.35. with 4 guns should this be required for the formation of a defensive flank at any time.

Guns No. 22 & 23. - Fighting map from position of No. 23 U.28.D.15.80. U.28.D.15.80 as the left gun position of a battery - Probably covering from DEULEMONT to FRELINGHLEN.

Gun No. 44 - (a) Fighting map for this position as left gun of a battery, probably covering from STEIGNAST FARM in U.5.A. to U.18. central.  
 (b) Also arrangements to barrage U.5.C.40.83. - U.5.D.25.35. with 4 guns should this be required for the information of a defensive flank at any time.

3. The fighting maps detailed above to be prepared on Tracing Cloth of Artillery Tracing Paper in triplicate. Copies for Section and Company Headquarters, and one copy to be forwarded to Bn. Headquarters.

4. Company Commanders are reminded of the necessity for the usual barrage charts for batteries, and indirect fire sheets for individual guns, showing the clearances and how arrived at being maintained at Company and Section Headquarters.

111A

-2-

5. All necessary information in connection with guns and tasks must be kept completed and up to date, so that a full and accurate relief may be carried out at any time.

The above requirements include- Fighting Maps, all calculation sheets and charts showing clearances and how arrived at, Task Maps, Intelligence Summary Book maintained in connection with target maps and harassing fire, work in hand, work required etc., full and complete written orders and range cards at each individual gun, and gun charts at each battery gun.

6. Acknowledge.

(Sgd.) C. Ross Field, Lieut.  
for Lieut. Col.  
Commanding 2nd. Australian M.G. Bn.

DISTRIBUTION.

- 5th. Aust. M.G. Coy.
- 6th. Aust. M.G. Coy.
- 7th. Aust. M.G. Coy.
- 22nd. Aust. M.G. Coy.

*app 111a*

100

*Appendix IV*

SECRET

2ND. AUSTR. MACHINE GUN BATTALION

Ref. Maps. Sheet 28 E.W.  
and S.E. (Parts of) ORDER No. 3  
1/20,000

Copy No. *12*.....

Headquarters,  
24.3.18

**APPENDIX**

With reference to 2nd. Aust. Divn. Order No. 163.

1. The 5th. A.M.G. Coy. will relieve the 8th. A.M.G. Coy, and that portion of the 15th. A.M.G. Coy. which is in position on the front to be taken over by the 5th. A.I. Bde. on the night 25/26th. March 1918. Relief to be completed by 12.30 a.m. on 26th. March.
2. Trench Stores, Maps, Aeroplanes Photographs, Charts and all necessary information regarding gun positions and tasks will be taken over from the Companies to be relieved.
3. As the 16 guns of the 5th A.M.G. Coy. will be occupying the same frontage that is now taken up by 28 guns, the following positions only will be occupied in the relief pending further instructions:-  
Guns numbered on 5th. Aust. Div. Maps - Nos. S1 to S10 inclusive:  
~~4. Subject to the above instructions the~~  
(10 guns). Nos. E 3, 4, 7, 10, 12 and 15 (6 guns) - Total 16
4. Subject to the above instructions the details of the relief will be arranged mutually between Coy. Commanders concerned.
5. Completion of Relief will be reported by 5th. A.M.G. Coy. to Head Quarters, 5th. A.I. Brigade, and also to 2nd. M.G. Batta. H. Qrs.
6. Any further instructions varying or adding to the above will be forwarded in the form of telegram or memo.
7. **A C K N O W L E D G E .** (5th. A.M.G. Coy. by wire)

*[Signature]*  
.....Lieut.  
A/Adjt. 2nd. A.M.G. Battalion.

Issued at 12 noon.

**DISTRIBUTION.**

Copy No. 1. 5th. A.M.G. Coy.

For information.

- |             |                  |
|-------------|------------------|
| Copy No. 2. | 2nd. Aust. Divn. |
| 3.          | 5th. A.I. Bgde.  |
| 4.          | 8th. A.I. Bgde.  |
| 5.          | 5th. A.M.G. Bn.  |
| 6.          | 1st. Aust. Divn. |
| 7.          | 6th. A.I. Bgde.  |
| 8.          | 5th. A.M.G. Coy. |
| 9/10.       | File.            |
| 11/13.      | War Diary.       |
| 14/16.      | Spares.          |



100

APPENDIX <sup>app vs</sup>

7TH. AUST. M. G. COY.

S E C R E T .

ORDER No. 13.

26.3.18

Programme of Firing to be carried out in support of LIVENS GAS PROJECTOR ATTACK.

<u>Guns.</u>	<u>Targets.</u>	<u>Remarks.</u>
19	(Cross roads & Dugouts C.11.D.68.55.)	TRaverse 1 Deg. R&L.
20	Dugouts C.11.D.55.40	do
21	Bridge C.11.c.42.90	Traverse 1 Deg. R & L. and search 200 yds. back.
22	Trenches & dugouts C.11.c.82.26	Traverse 1 Deg. R & L.
23	FRELINGHEIN SQUARE C.11.c.78.80.	Traverse 1 Deg. R & L.
29 & 30	DURIEZ FARM C.5.d.30.90	Concentrate.
31 & 32	SCREENED FARM	Traverse 1 Deg. R & L.

Rate of Fire. Rapid from Z plus 5 to Z plus 12  
 Medium " Z plus 12 to Z plus 22  
 Slow " Z plus 22 to Z plus 30

(Sgd.) F.W. Moulsdale, Capt.  
 o.C. 7th. A.M.G. Coy.

2ND. AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION

S e c R E T .

## APPENDIX

Intelligence Summary for period ending 6 a.m. 27.3.18.

1. Our activity. Our Machine Guns fired on the following targets during the night:-

Map	Target Location	AMMunition expended.	Remarks.	Coy.
28	L. 36. b. 30. 52 to O. 36. a. 78. 72 O. 36. a. 34. 26 O. 36. d. 19. 60	16.000 rounds	8 P.m. - 10.15 P.m. 12.15 a.m. - 4 a.m.	5th.
28	U. 12. d. 10. 20 U. 12. d. 52. 80  U. 12. d. 53. 80) U. 18. a. 99. 53) U. 18. C. 99. 78)  V. 13. a. 10. 55	1.500 rounds. 1.500 rounds )  7.500 rounds  4.000 rounds	7.30 P.m. - 9.30 p.m. 4.30 a.m. - 6 a.m. ( Cross Roads (7.30-9.30 a.m. (4.30-6 a.m.  Cross roads	6th.
28	U. 30. a. 60. 60) U. 30. A. 76. 90) U. 30. B. 20. 28)	5.000 rounds	TRIANGLE BRIDGE BRIDGE	7th.
36	C. 11. a. 52. 46) C. 11. C. 45. 90)	4.500 rounds	FRELINGHEIN BRIDGE.	
36	C. 17. c&d	8.000 rounds	On gaps in enemy wire at request of 38th. Bn. M. G. Corps.	22nd.

2. Enemy Activity. The enemy bombarded our front with H.E. and shrapnel for 20 minutes between the hours 11.20 P.m. and 11.40 P.m.
3. Enemy Aircraft. 400 rounds were fired on enemy aircraft in left sector.
4. Disposition. "B" Battery Nos. 9. 10. 11. 12 guns are now established at C. 3. c. 9. 2.

(Sgd. ) C. Ross Field, Lieut  
AdjT. 2nd. A. M. G. Bn.

2ND. AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION

S E C R E T

Intelligence Summary for period ending C a.m. on 28.3.18.

1. Our activity. Our Machine Guns fired on the following targets during night:-

MAP	LOCATION	TARGET	ROUNDS	TIME	REMARKS	COY.
	Ploegsteert					
&	U.12.b.28.70	Road Junction	3000	10.30/	Fr 10/30-	
Korte-	U.12.b.42.26	" "	3000	11 P.M.	11PM	5th.
wilde	U.6.b.22.30	Kingsclere	6000	1/4pm.	firing was done	
1/10.000	U.12.a.84.76)	Occupied			in conjunction	
	U.12.b.25.82)	Pill Boxes	6000		with Gas	
					operations.	
28	V.13.a.10.5	Cross Roads	4.000	7/9pm/		
S.W.	U.18.c.99.78	defence works	2.500	4.5/6am		
	U.12.d.53.80)	WARNETON SQ.	2.000	7.30/9pm		6th.
	U.18.a.99.53)	BRIDGE	3.000	4.30/6am		
	U.12.d.10.20)	Roads in WARNE-	3.000	7/9pm		
	U.12.d.52.80)	TON, WARNETON SQ.	3.000	4.30/6am		
28	C.11.d.86.40	Junction roads	3.000	7/4 pm		
&	C.5.d.20.92	DURIEZ FARM	10.000	10/11.30pm		
36	C.11.c.80.82	Square	7.000	7/5 pm		7th.
	C.6.b.25.48	Junction	6.000	10.30/11.30pm		
	C.11.b.35.90	Roads	6.500	10.30/11.30pm		
	HOUPE-Sth. half of C.5			10.35/	Co-operating	
LINES	Nth. half of C.11		20.000	11 pm.	with L. special	22nd.
	(portion east of LYS)				Coy. R.E. in Livens	
					Projector Gas	
					Attack.	
36	C.11.c & d	Gap in wire	8.000	during	Arrangements	
				the	with 38th Bn.	
				night.	M.G. Corps	

2. Enemy activity. Enemy Artillery was above normal on some portions.

3. Works. Our works - Improvements to various gun positions.

(Sgd.) C. Ross Field, Lieut.  
Adj. 2nd. A.M.G. Bn.

Intelligence Summary for period ending 6 A.m. on 29.3.18

1. Our activity. Our Machine Guns fired on the following targets during the night:-

MAP LOCATION	TARGET	ROUNDS	TIME	REMARKS	COY.
28	0.36.b.26.60 Road Junction 0.36.a.42.25) to 0.36.p.18.58) Road	2,000	8P.m.4a.m.		5th
28	V.13.a.10.55 Cross Roads U.12.d.53.80 Warneton SQ. U.18.a.99.53 Bridge U.12.b.10.20 Rds. Warneton U.12.d.52.80 Warneton Sq.	4.000 2.000 2.000 3.000 3.000	7/9 p.m 4/6 a.m do do do		6th
28	C.6.d.76.59) Road Junction 40.95)	2.000	7/5 a.m		
&	C.11.d.90.5 do	1.700	7/30pm/1.30am		
	U.29.b.73.35 Bridge	2.000	7/pm/1.30Am.		
36	U.24.c.69.22 do	2.000	8pm/5.30am		
36	C.17.d.3.4. -	8.000	9Pm/	In co-operation	
to	C.23.d.2.8 -	8.000	9.15pm.	with 38th. Div.	
36	C.17.c&d			raid.	22 nd.
36	Gaps in wire FRELINGHEIN Main Road.	7.000		by arrangements with 38th. Div.	

2. Enemy activity. Below normal.

(Sgd.) C. Ross Field, Lieut.  
Adj. 2nd. A.M.G. Bn.

Appendix VIII

100

S E C R E T

2ND. AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION

Order No. 4

Headquarters,  
31st. March, 1918

Ref. Map:-  
Sheets 28/36 Div Orders  
166, 167.

C o p y N o . . . . .

1. The Battalion will be relieved by the 19th. and 25th. Divs. as under:-

<u>Coy.</u>	<u>Sector.</u>	<u>relieved by</u>	<u>date.</u>
5	Left	19th.M.G.Bn.	night 31/1st.
6	Centre)		
7	Right )	25th.M.G.Bn.	night 1/2nd.
22	Right )		

2. Gun Gear. All gear will be brought out of the line including Tripods, Belt-boxes, T Shapes Bases, Aiming Marks, Shovels & Picks.  
The remaining Trench Stores will be handed over and the usual receipts obtained.

3. All information, including Barrage Charts, Organisation Sheets and Fighting Maps will be handed over, and Maps with exception of following 1/10,000 Sheets 5.a.11. 12. 17. 18 Sheets 1/40,000 27. 28. 36a and any maps of Southern area in your possession

4. Signal Stores. Coys. must move as complete as possible, with cable in particular, and as much salved cable as possible taken out.

5. Move. On relief 5th. A.M.G.Coy. will move with 5th. A.I.Bde. Group in accordance with order to be issued later, and will be prepared to entrain on 3.4.18. 5th. M.G.Coy. will come under command of G.O.C., 5th. A.I.Bde. for the move.  
6th. 7th. 22nd. Coys. will move in accordance with orders to be issued later, and be prepared to entrain on 4.4.18.

6. Reports. On relief being completed the word SNAPSHOT will be wired to Bn. H.Qrs.

7. A C K N O W L E D G E .

(Sgd.) C. Ross Field, Lieut.  
Adj. 2nd. A.M.G.Bn.

appendix IX

2ND AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION    S E C R E T .

FIRST ADDENDUM TO ORDER No. 4

Headquarters,  
31st. March, 1918.

Ref. Map:  
27 & 28 1/40.000

- 1.        In continuance of Division Order 168  
           On relief the 5th A.M.G. Coy. will move to METEREN Staging  
           Area as below:-

<u>Date.</u>	<u>By</u>	<u>Embussing Point.</u>	<u>Time.</u>	<u>Debussing Point</u>
April 2nd.	Bus	28.N. 33 D. 15 Facing north	8 a.m.	27x. 15.d. central

- 2.        Further details of trains and times should be issued by 5th.  
           Australian Infantry Brigade.
- 3.        A C K N O W L E D G E .

(Sgd) C. Ross Field, Lieut.  
A/Adj. 2nd. A.M.G. Bn.

DISTRIBUTION

- No. 1.    5th. A.M.G. Coy.
- 2.    2nd. Aust. Division
- 3.    5th. A.I. Brigade
- 4.    File.
- 5/8.   War Diary.

100

2ND AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION

S E C R E T

Intelligence Summary for period ending 6 a.m. 31.3.18.

1. Our activity. Our Machine Guns fired on the following positions during the night.

MAP LOCATION	TARGET	ROUNDS	TIME	REMARKS	COY.
Korte-0.36.c.50.53	KIWI FARM	5.000	1/1.30 am	In conjunction with Gas operations	5th
Wilde do	do	3.000			
& U.6.d.25.27	Track Junc.	3.000			
Bas 0.36.a.15.10	to ROAD	3.000			
warne-0.36.a.43.24					
ton. 0.36.a.70.28	ROAD	3.000			
	ANGLE FARM	3.000			
	do	3.000			
	GUARD HOUSE	3.000			
<hr/>					
28	U.12.b.90.40	ROAD	2.000	7.30/9pm	
S.W.	U.12.D.55.80	Warneton SQ.	2.000	4 /6am	6th
	U.12.b.10.20	" Rds.	3.000	do	
	U.12.b.52.80	" Sq.	3.000	do	
	V.12.a.10.35	Cross Roads	4.000	do	
<hr/>					
36		FRELINGHEIN ROAD	6.000	7pm/6am	22nd.

2. Enemy Activity. The enemy bombarded our front during day and night. Large numbers of gas shells were fired into DOUVE VALLEY and USEFUL LANE from 2 pm to 7 pm.

3. Enemy Aircraft. One enemy aeroplane was brought down on our right.

C. Ross Field, Lieut.  
Adj. 2nd. A.M.G. Bn.

*Appendix I*

Headquarters,  
 19.3.18.

H. Q.,  
 2nd. Aust. Div.

Subject:-  
REFORMATION OF 2nd. DIVISIONAL M.G. BATTALION.

1. Appointments.

Lt-Col. A.W. Ralston. 20th. Bln., was appointed to command this Unit as from 1st. March 1918. He reported to Div. H.Q. on 14.3.18. after handing over 20th Bn. to Lt-Col. Bennett. C.M.G. D.S.O.

Major. L.F.S. Hore. M.C. reported to Div. H.Q. on 14.3.18. to take over 2nd. in Command of Battalion.

On 16.3.18. the Adjutant, Quarter-Master, Transport Officer, R.S.M. and R.Q.M.S. were appointed. As there was no Officer in the M.G. Companies capable of acting as Signal Officer the Div. Signal Officer has been asked to obtain an Officer suitable for this appointment.

The Medical Officer, Major Culpin reported for duty on 19.3.18.

2. Administration:-

It has been arranged to take over the administrative and tactical control of the M.G. Companies as from 20.3.18.

Indents have been submitted for the necessary extra equipment and transport required for Battalion H.Q. and arrangements have been made to return surplus gear with the exception of two water carts, with regard to which a special recommendation has been put forward that they should be retained.

Nominal Rolls were procured from companies and formation of H.Q. proceeded with on 17.3.18.

3. Personnel:-

As regards the establishment, it is also recommended that the number of bootmakers (and kits) be increased from two to four.

At the present time there are attached to the Companies 85 men from various Battalions. It is asked that these men (or their equivalent if they are not suitable as Machine Gunners) be transferred to the M.G. Battalion.

In addition to these men, to complete establishment, an extra 65 O.R's will be required. It is believed that there were a large number of Machine Gunners sent to Battalions among the last re-inforcement drafts, and it would be of advantage if these men could be made available.

The method of arriving at these figures is shown on the attached state.

4. Location:-

The administrative portion of the Battalion H.Q. under the second in Command with an assistant Adjutant is situated at TAHUNAN LINES. B8.d.9.7. Sheet 36.

The Commanding Officer, Adjutant, and Draughtsman have been allotted quarters at Div. H.Q.'s.

*A.W. Ralston* Lieut-Colonel.

Commanding 2nd. Aust. M.G. Bn.

*Was Dean*



APPENDIX

app # XI

0/7

2nd. AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION.

Headquarters,  
19.3.18.

	Establishment.		Strength.		Attached.		Total		Wanted to complete.
	Offs.	O.R.	Offs.	O.R.	Offs.	O.R.	Off.	O.R.	
H. Q's.	6	66	2	-	1	1	3	1	
5th. Coy.	10	206	18	189		24	18	213	
6th. Coy.	10	206	14	176		28	14	204	65. O.R.
7th. Coy.	10	206	15	187		29	15	216	
22nd. Coy.	10	206	12	188		3	12	191.	
	46	890	61	740	1	85	62	822	

*J. W. Hutchinson* Lieut-Colonel.  
Commanding 2nd. Aust. M.G. Bn.

War Diary