

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

Machine Guns

**Item number:** 24/17/22

**Title:** 12th Australian Machine Gun  
Company

December 1917



AWM4-24/17/22

*Confidential -  
Original*

## WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C. 2118.

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.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ALLENAY	1917 Dec.			
	1st		Brigade Route March - 8 miles. Transport in attendance	
	2nd		Training proceeded with. Capt. H. W. CROUCH M. C. and 2674 Sgt. D. LEWIS selected for 50th course, M. G. School, CAMIERS.	
	3rd		Church Parade with 48th Btn. at FRIAUCOURT at 11.0 a.m. R. C. Church Parade at FRIAUCOURT Church under Padre DEVINE. Received from A. C. F. one Rugby football and cover.	
HAUT-ALLAINES (nr. PERONNE) Sheet 62.C I.5.c.90.70	4th		Projected route march cut out and all ranks warned to stand by for quick move. Orders received to entrain at EU for PERONNE on 5th December. Lieut. E. P. C. UPTON and 1 Other Rank proceeded to PERONNE as billeting party.	
	5th		Move to PERONNE carried out in accordance with Appendix I and Appendix II Camped at HAUT ALLAINES in huts and tents (Coy. H. Q. at I.5.c.90.70. Sheet 62C. Capt. CROUCH and Sgt. LEWIS were left at ALLENAY to proceed to CAMIERS on 6th December.	Appendix I. Coy. Order 117 Appendix II. Report of C.O. Train.
	6th		Settling down in new area. Training continued. Anti-aircraft machine gun established at Coy. H. Q.	
	7th		Training proceeded with, especially open order work. 1 Other Rank evacuated to hospital accidentally injured.	
	8th		Training proceeded with.	
	9th		Church Parade with 12th A. L. T. M. Btty. and 46th Btn. at 11.0 p.m. Company paid.	
	10th		Training proceeded with. Voting day for Australian Conscription Referendum fixed for 12th December. Capt. D. S. MARTIN appointed Assistant Returning Officer, and Lieut. A. F. TAYLOR and 2nd Lieut. C. N. KING appointed Authorized Witnesses.	
	11th		Training carried on. 2 Other Ranks (old details) rejoined from Base Depot. 2 Other Ranks evacuated to hospital struck off strength.	
	12th		Training in morning. Vote for Conscription Referendum in afternoon. 2 Other Ranks (old details) rejoined from Base.	

MACHINE GUN  
COMPANY.

WAR DIARY

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HAUT-ALLAINES (nr. PERONNE) Sheet 62.C I.5.c.90.70	1917 Dec.			
	13th		Training carried on. Vote for Referendum concluded and ballot papers despatched by registered post to Commonwealth Returning Officer, LONDON. Total votes recorded numbered 186.	
	14th		Training. Cautions issued re Trench Feet and Scabies. 2 cases of Xmas puddings received from A. C. F. and acknowledged. Medical inspection of whole company for scabies. 2 Other Ranks rejoined from hospital.	
	15th		Training in morning.	
	16th		Church Parades for all Denominations. Snow commenced in afternoon and evening.	
	17th		Snowed heavily during early morning. Ground covered with thick white carpet. Projected range practice postponed. All ranks enjoyed the novelty of a snow fight.	
	18th		Range Practices carried out in morning. Lectures in afternoon. 2nd Lieut. W. GREGSON reconnoitred approaches to 9th Divisional Front, in case of attack by enemy.	
	19th		Range practice by "C" Section. "A" and "B" Sections took part in 12th A. I. Bde. tactical exercise.	
	20th		Lieut. PONTIN attended School of Sanitation, PERONNE. Lieut. A. F. TAYLOR proceeded on U. K. leave. Training and range practices in morning. Baths in afternoon; clean clothing supplied.	
	21st		Recommendations for Croix de Guerre sent in to Bde. H. Q. "A" Section carried out range practices. "C" and "D" Sections took part in tactical exercise with rest of Brigade.	
	22nd		Liberal supply of Xmas gifts received from A. C. F. and acknowledged.	
	23rd		Range practices all Sections.	
	24th		Church parades all denominations. 2 Other Ranks evacuated to hospital (one being attached from 46th Btn.) "D" Section took part in tactical scheme with 47th Btn. Remainder of Company training and range practices. Blankets disinfected in Eoden Lorry.	

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HAUT-ALLAINES (nr. PERONNE) Sheet 62.C I.5.c.90.70	1917 Dec.			
	25th		<p><b>CHRISTMAS DAY.</b> 47th Btn. Band visited our Camp about midnight of 24th, acting as Christmas "waits". A full holiday was observed. Voluntary Church Parades for all denominations, with Holy Communion, were held by Padres JUSTICE, BRADBURY and CLACK, and were well attended. Many Christmas greetings were received from other Units of the Division, as well as from the Corps Commander and the High Commissioner for Australia in London.</p> <p>Christmas Dinner, under the administration of Lieut. E. P. C. UPTON and C. Q. M. S. E. W. WILSON, was a great success. A very creditable impromptu concert was held after dinner.</p> <p>A thaw took place during the morning and some rain fell. Later snow came on, and fell heavily during the evening and night.</p> <p>2nd Lieut. J. A. PONTIN and 2nd Lieut. E. M. CULLIMORE promoted Lieutenants from 1st November, 1917. (A. I. F. List 275.)</p> <p>2nd Lieut. W. WOOD and 2nd Lieut. A. R. TREE (Cadet Officers) reported for duty.</p>	
	26th		<p>3843 Sgt. K. MORLING returned from 1st ANZAC Corps School, AVELUY.</p> <p>3843 Sgt. K. MORLING proceeded to England to join January Cadet Battalion. Training and range practices carried on. (20 O. R., attached, "A" Section took part in tactical exercise with 46th Btn. (returned to Bns. Strength of Company - 12 Officers 179 Other Ranks. Attached 32 Other Rnks.</p>	
	27th		<p>Whole Company bathed and supplied with clean clothing in morning.</p> <p>"B" Section took part in tactical exercise with 45th Btn. Company Strength - 12 Officers, 179 Other Ranks. Attached - 32 Other Rnks</p>	
	28th		<p>"A", "B" and "D" Sections carried out barrage fire on range in morning.</p> <p>"C" Section took part in a tactical exercise with 48th Btn. in afternoon. Another fall of snow at night.</p>	
29th		<p>Lieut. E. P. C. UPTON appointed Q. M. temporarily.</p> <p>Company Strength - 12 Off. 179 O. R. Attached - 32 O. R.</p> <p>Training.</p> <p>1 Other Rank (old detail rejoined from M. G. Base Depot. 1 Other Rank, attached from 46th Btn., rejoined from hospital.</p> <p>Strength of Company - 12 Off. 180 O. R. Attached, 33 O. R.</p>		

WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices																													
HAUT-ALLAINES (nr. PERONNE) Sheet 62.C I.5.c.90.70	1917 Dec. 30th		Company at work during whole morning gravelling roads in 4th Aust. Div. area. No Company Church Parade.																														
	31st		<p>2 Other Ranks, accidentally injured on 24th and 27th respectively and evacuated to hospital, struck off strength.</p> <p>Company Strength - Off. 12. Other Ranks, 178. Attached - 33 Other Ranks No. 2941 Sgt. J. M. WHITELEY and No. 1689 Cpl. A. R. MCGREGOR proceeded to England to relieve instructional personnel at Aust. Machine Gun Training Depot, GRANTHAM.</p> <p>New Year greetings forwarded to other Units of 4th Aust. Division.</p> <p>Company Strength at end of 1917 :-</p> <table> <tr> <td>Doing Duty with Unit</td> <td>10</td> <td>Off.</td> <td>167</td> <td>Other Ranks.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>In hospital in Div. area</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>On Command, Detached, Schools, Leave, etc.</td> <td>2</td> <td></td> <td>10</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td><b>12</b></td> <td><b>Off.</b></td> <td><b>178</b></td> <td><b>Other Ranks.</b></td> </tr> </table> <p><u>Attached -</u></p> <table> <tr> <td>From A.A.M.C.</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>45th Btn.</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>46th "</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>47th "</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>48th "</td> <td>8</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>Grand Total</b>      <b>12</b> Off.      <b>211</b> Other Ranks.</p>	Doing Duty with Unit	10	Off.	167	Other Ranks.	In hospital in Div. area			1		On Command, Detached, Schools, Leave, etc.	2		10		<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Off.</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>Other Ranks.</b>	From A.A.M.C.	2	45th Btn.	9	46th "	7	47th "	7	48th "	8
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			<p><i>Shwachin</i> Captain. O. C., 12th Aust. M. G. Coy.</p>																														

12th AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN COMPANY.

Company Order No. 117.

Reference Map  
ABBEVILLE 1/100,000.

4th December, 1917.

12TH AUSTRALIAN  
MACHINE-GUN  
COMPANY.

No. ....

1. The 12th Aust. M. G. Coy. will entrain for PERONNE on 5th December, 1917.
2. Reveille 5.0 a.m.
3. Breakfast 5.30 a.m.
4. Blankets will be rolled in bundles of 10 and placed on limbers at 6.0 a.m. sharp.  
All Q. M's. stores, cooks' gear and technical gear will be packed on wagons at 6.0 a.m.
5. Rations and forage as follows will be carried :-  
One iron ration on the man.  
One day's rations on the man.  
One day's rations on the Supply Wagon.  
One day's forage with animals.  
One day's forage on Supply Wagon.
6. Transport under Lieut. A. F. TAYLOR will move at 6.30 a.m. and will report at EU Station at 8.0 a.m.
7. Dismounted personnel will move at 7.45 a.m. and arrive at EU at 9.30 a.m.
8. 2nd Lieut. J. A. PONTIN will report to Entraining Officer at Station at 7.45 a.m. He will act as Company Entraining and ~~Back~~ Detraining Officer. He will take complete Marching out State of Company.
9. C. O., Train will be Capt. D. S. MARTIN.
10. No troops or transport will enter Station Yard until R. T. O. is ready to receive them.
11. Orderly Officer will make a complete tour of billeting area prior to moving off. He will see that all billets are left in a thoroughly clean and sanitary condition, and will see that nothing is left behind. All refuse and tins will be burnt or destroyed. All latrines and cess pits will be properly filled in.
12. Strict attention will be paid to all Standing Orders regarding train journey.
13. 2nd Lieut. C. N. KING will be responsible throughout the journey that no man leaves the train. This will apply to all units on the train. He will obtain six picquets from Duty Section.
14. All ranks are warned that on no account will iron ration be touched unless instructions are recieved from an officer.
15. Section for Duty - "B" Section.  
~~Officer~~ Orderly Officer - 2/Lt. E. M. CULLIMORE.  
Orderly Sergeant - Sgt. DOOLAN.

Issued at 10.0 p.m. by Orderly.

- 1, 2 & 3 Copies to War Diary.
- 4 & 5 Office Copies.
- 6 Orderly Officer.
- 7 C. S. M.
8. C. Q. M. S.
- 9 Transport Officer.
- 10 Brigade.

*J. Harden* Captain.  
O.C., 12th Aust. M. G. Company.

213  
COPY.H. Q.,  
12th A. I. Bde.

Reference Q.14/110.

Appendix II. AUSTRALIAN  
MACHINE GUN  
COMPANY.

No. ....

Date. ....

(a) ENTRAINMENT.

The Company moved from billets at ALLENAY on 5th December. Transport left at 6.45 a.m. arriving at EU Station at 8.0 a.m.

Dismounted personnel left at 7.45 a.m. and arrived at Station at 9.30 a.m.

No trouble was experienced in loading the trains, and the work was quickly finished.

Limbers and horses were loaded in a few minutes under the half hour.

The men were equally distributed amongst the waggons, there being ample room for all.

The train left EU Station at 11.50 a.m.

(b) JOURNEY.

Little trouble was experienced during the journey.

Horses traveled well, and no damage was done to any limbers.

Picquets were placed on each waggon to prevent men from straying away. This however proved inadequate, as the men managed to evade them. I then posted officers to patrol each side of the train, after which there was no more trouble.

(c) DETRAINMENT.

The train arrived at PERONNE at 8.15 p.m. and detrainment of men, horses and limbers was commenced immediately. Limbers and horses were unloaded ready to move off in about 50 minutes.

As soon as a guide was available the Company moved off, and arrived at present camp at 9.50 p.m. They were immediately told off to huts, and were soon comfortably settled.

Transport arrived about 10.25 p.m. Horse lines were erected immediately and everything was settled at 11.30 p.m.

Sgd. D. S. MARTIN.

Captain.

O. C., 12th Aust. M. G. Coy.

7-12-1917.

M. 15.