

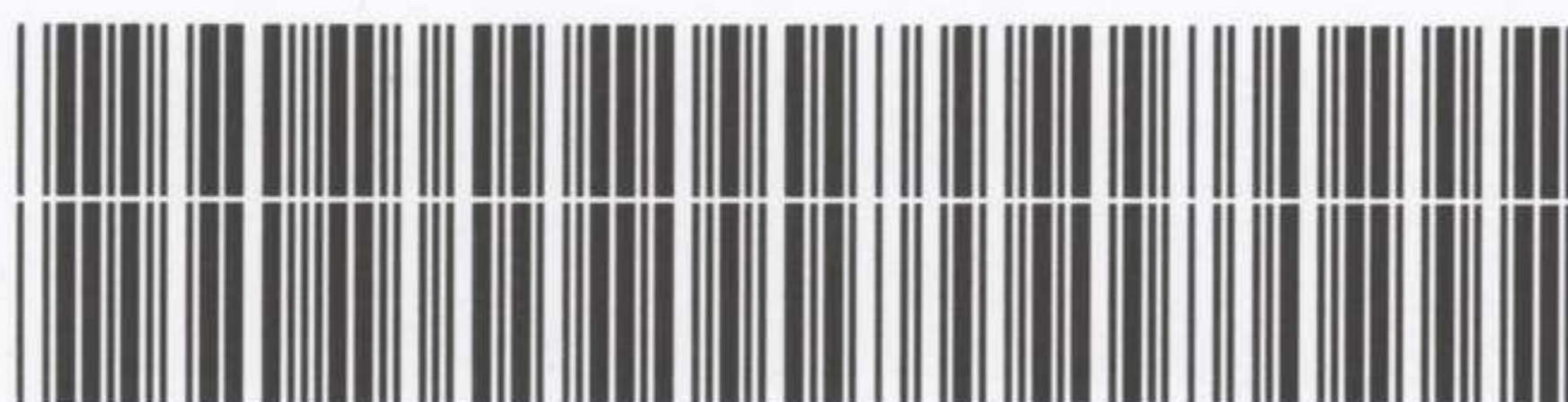
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Machine Guns

Item number: 24/19/28

Title: 14th Australian Machine Gun
Company

October 1918



AWM4-24/19/28

6080

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18,000-12/17-8723

CONFIDENTIAL.

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Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

14th Aust. Machine Gun Coy

FOR

October 1918

Signature of Officer compiling

[Handwritten signature: J. Rocks B1]

Signature of Officer Commanding

[Handwritten signature: J. [unclear]]

WAR DIARY

1 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.

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices												
	1.10.18		<p>The company in line with 14th a.S.B. with sections disposed as follows:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>No. 1. Section with</td> <td>53rd</td> <td>Batt.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No. 2. "</td> <td>54th</td> <td>"</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No. 3. "</td> <td>55th</td> <td>"</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No. 4. "</td> <td>56th</td> <td>"</td> </tr> </table> <p>Strength: <u>OFF.</u> <u>O.R.</u> 11. 196.</p> <p>No. 1. Section under Lt Hansen moved forward to a trench situated in A.22.d (Sheet 62^o) & took up gun positions on a frontage of 200'. The four guns of this section commanded all approaches to Le batelet from the Sth Western side.</p> <p>No. 2. Section under Lt Muir took up positions in a trench 300' west of Grandcourt. (Sheet 62^o)</p> <p>No. 3. Section. Lt Hill in command moved forward with the 55th Batt. infantry to positions in a trench in H.12.d extending to H.9.a 60.75.</p> <p>No. 4. Section under Lt Watson occupied a frontage of 250' extending from A 23 a 85.95. to A 23 a 70.50.</p>	No. 1. Section with	53 rd	Batt.	No. 2. "	54 th	"	No. 3. "	55 th	"	No. 4. "	56 th	"	
No. 1. Section with	53 rd	Batt.														
No. 2. "	54 th	"														
No. 3. "	55 th	"														
No. 4. "	56 th	"														
	2.10.18		<p>at 5 am. No 1 section supported with indirect fire an infantry attack on some small trenches 300' S.W. of Le batelet. 1000 rounds were expended</p> <p>at 5 am. the 2nd Aust Div. advanced through the positions occupied by No 2. section which withdrew to boy Hqs at 10. Am. on learning that</p>													

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(Ato266) Wt W5300/P713 750,000 2/18 Sch. 52 Forms/C2118/16.

WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	3.10.18.		<p>The 2nd Div. had gained its objectives. No. 1. section was relieved at 11 P.M. by the 50th English. M. G. Both and went into bivouac for the night at G. H. a. 50.80. (Sheet 62nd). No. 2. section was relieved at 8 P.M. by the 5th Army G. Coy. a bivouaced for the night in the vicinity of the Air-shaft at G. H. a. 50.80. at 11.30 P.M. the gun teams of No. 4. section withdrew & returned to bog staff.</p> <p>casualties: $\frac{K.}{0}$ $\frac{W.}{3}$ $\frac{M.}{0}$</p>	
	4.10.18		<p>The company went into bivouac at L. 20. c + 5 (Sheet 62nd) preparatory to moving to Rest area. The weather remains fine & clear.</p>	
	5.10.18		<p>The day was spent in resting & all ranks having a general "clean-up".</p>	
	6.10.18		<p>The camp was evacuated at 10 am and the company marched with the 14th Inf Bde. to Le Mesnil. owing to frequent stoppages camp was not reached until 4.45 P.M.</p>	
	7.10.18		<p>The Company in billets at Le Mesnil. Preparations were made for train journey to Rest area. The weather has broken & steady rain is falling.</p>	

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WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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3 Army Form C. 2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	8.10.18		<p>Le Mesnil camp was evacuated at 0530 & the Unit marched to La Chapelle siding where it entrained at 0720. The train journey commenced at 08.20 & owing to frequent stoppages the destination at Martainville was not reached until 1900.</p> <p>Martainville is not an ideal detraining station for either troops or transport. The men had to be detrained in the "yard" and as the night was very dark & lights limited the shunting engines were a source of great danger.</p> <p>The march to billets at Ramboues commenced at 19.40.</p> <p>Ramboues was reached at 23.00</p>	
	9.10.18		<p>The day was spent in cleaning billets, digging latrines etc. Most of the billets were in a very insanitary condition. The beautiful district in which this village is situated is rather spoilt by the squalor of the village itself.</p> <p>The 10th, 11th & 12th were observed as holidays by all ranks. Preparations are in hand for the carrying out of various forms of sport.</p> <p>The weather is mild, although occasional showers render conditions underfoot rather unpleasant.</p> <p>The Battalion church parade set down for today had to be postponed on account of the wet weather.</p>	

WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	14.10.18		<p>Training was commenced today as per syllabus (vide 5th Amq B^t syllabus for week ending 19.10.18)</p> <p>After such a long period in the line the men are naturally rather backward in the various drills laid down in the syllabus, but they will be "well-up" with the work in a few days, as past experience has shown.</p> <p>From the 14th inst. to the 19th inst (inclusive) training was carried on as per syllabus.</p>	
	20.10.18		<p>The church parade set down for today was cancelled on account of showery weather.</p>	
	21.10.18		<p>Training was recommenced as per 5th Amq. Bat syllabus for week ending 26.10.18.</p> <p>Each afternoon is devoted to sport. Football being the popular form. Great enthusiasm is being shown by all ranks in the preparation for the forthcoming Battalion and Divisional Sports.</p>	
			<p>Extract from 5th Amq B^t Routine Order No 31. by Major Wright (Honours & Awards) (app 1)</p>	<p>app 1</p>

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	23.10.18		A Battalion parade was held today, the battalion being inspected by the new b.c. Lieut. Col b.c. Mason D.S.O.	
	25.10.18		The 5 th am & pm. was inspected this morning by Major General Sir J. Hobbs. K.C.B. V.D. G.O.C. 5 th Aust Division.	
	26.10.18		The morning was occupied with the carrying out of the work of the syllabus. The afternoon was given over to sport. The Battalion being engaged by the 8 th Sea Amb. in a game of Rugby football	
	27.10.18		At 11 a.m. a battalion church parade was held. The weather continues dull & showery. There is an entire absence of frost which is in direct contrast to the same period in previous years.	
	28.10.18		Preparation for firing on Range was made this morning. Points before firing and after firing were gone into and guns were made ready for the range.	
	29.10.18		Firing took place on the range today, the men being put through their immediate action practices. The majority performed very fairly but others need a good	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	30.10.18		<p>deal of brushing up.</p> <p>A battalion route march, full marching order, took place this morning when many defects in the equipment of men and transport were noted by the Battalion S. Q. M. Staff.</p>	
	31.10.18		<p>The weather remains dull & threatening.</p> <p>A boy bathing parade was held this morning. The baths are 3½ Kilos from here but the excellent appointments at the baths and the change of clothing are much appreciated by all ranks.</p> <p>Retract from 5th Army Bk. Routine Order No. 33. by Lt. Col. Mason D.S.O. (Honours & awards) (app. 2)</p> <p>The company in operation against Peronne 1st + 2nd Sept. 1918 (app. 3)</p>	<p>app. 2.</p> <p>app. 3.</p>

WAR DIARY

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OF

14th M. G. Coy

FOR

October 1918

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1	Honours and Rewards
2	- do -
3	Report on Operations of 1 st and 2 nd September 1918

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— appendix — I.Honours + awards:—

The Corp Commander has awarded the following decorations. In publishing their names he desires his congratulations to be conveyed to the recipients, to which are added the Divisional Commanders + the C.Os. The recipients should be informed as soon as possible. Their names will be published in the London Gazette in due course.

— Military Medal:—

118. 4840.	corporal	W. W. Milligan	14 TH COY
			"
	corporal	R. L. Forbes.	"
	Private	R. B. Brown.	"
	Private	J. J. Williamson.	"
	Private	J. Smith.	"
	corporal	A. J. Stirling	"
	pl. (J. Sgt)	J. A. B. Jacobson.	"
	Sergeant	A. J. Stewart	"

— appendix — II. —

The Field Marshal commanding in Chief and the Corp Commander have awarded the following decorations:

Honours + awards:—Distinguished Conduct Medals.

118 3140.	corporal.	R. J. Young.
	corporal	J. B. D. Johnson.
	Sergeant.	J. W. Wilson.

- Appendix - 3

To be attached to diary for Sept.

14th a.m. G. Coy.

operations for 1st & 2nd September 1918.

During the afternoon & evening of 31st Aug the 16 guns of this company moved forward to O.1.a.g. They were then attached to Battalions of the 14th Inf. Brigade (as shown in Sept. war diary) for the projected operations.

Rear. Stk. Qs. were established at 1014 b 61.

Forward Stk. Qs. were established at 120 b 14 (approx).

During the evening of the 1st Sept. our guns moved forward in the attack and were established in 121 a (4 guns) 120 d (4 guns) 121 a (5 guns) 121 b. (1 gun) One gun had been put out of action.

The positions of these guns are shown on map attached to war diary of Sept. (FRANCE 62^e 1:40000.)

As the attack advanced the guns in 121.A. moved forward into 121.b.

Three (3) more guns were put out of action during the night of 1st 2nd but were replaced by captured German guns.

Casualties were comparatively heavy for the two days' operations the following casualties were suffered:-

K.I.A.	1 Off.	3 O.Rs.
D.O.W.	-	4 "
Wounded.	1 "	43 "

A noticeable feature of the casualties was the big percentage of wounded.

Our guns were withdrawn on the 3rd Sept.

and moved into reserve at near 1st. Co.

Decorations gained for the operations are given in appendix in Oct. Diary.

The gun teams throughout did excellent work. moving forward boldly in the face of strong opposition. many excellent targets were met with a many casualties were inflicted on the enemy.

When an officer became a casualty the Senior M.C.O. immediately took command and continued to render good service.

Sgt. Wilson. D.C.M. may be mentioned as an outstanding case in this respect.

Guns that were put out of action were immediately replaced by captured German guns until other Dickers guns could be obtained.

A. T. Brown
Lt

1st. Co.