

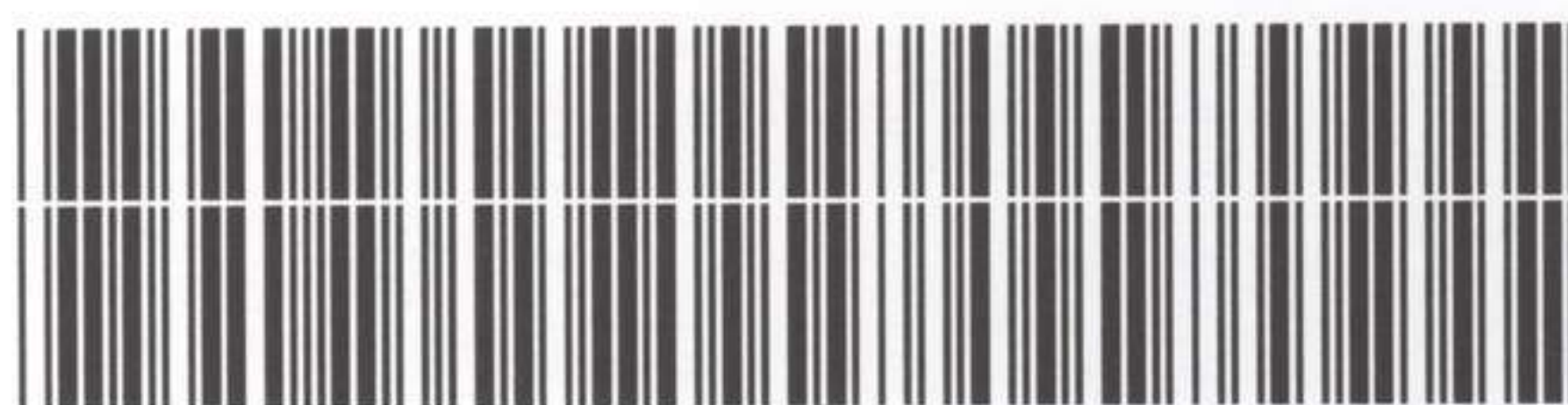
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Machine Guns

Item number: 24/20/11

Title: 15th Australian Machine Gun
Company

January 1917



AWM4-24/20/11

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

Page 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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the field	1-1-17	—	Movement ^{order} for move to "T" area issued reference Brigade Orders No 72 and No 73. all steel helmets and box respirators stored until move back from "T" area. One section on anti-aircraft duty detailed to stay in "Ribemont" until relieved by 1 st Australian Division.	A
	2-7-17		The 13 th Machine Gun Coy moved from "Ribemont" to Coisy. Received Bde. Order No 74 and issued movement order in connection with same.	B.
	3-1-17		Moved from Coisy to Vignacourt via Flesselles. Look over 10000 rounds S.A.A from 13 th Machine Gun Coy. Issued company standing orders for billets. Received standing orders for billets in Vignacourt by Town Major.	
	4-1-17		Coy inspected in morning. Billets cleaned up. Seventeen O/R. reinforcements received from machine gun base. Half of these reinforcements from Australia remainder from artillery and infantry.	

WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

(2)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the field	5-1-17		Work as per syllabus carried out during the morning. all pack saddlery cleaned and oiled during the afternoon.	
	6-1-17		All tents cleaned and unpacked. Parade as usual for reserves and untrained men. Tents parked in yard of mess billets after being washed.	
	7-1-17		Inspection of billets stables etc by O.C. No church parade held during the day. Started clipping horses three men from Coy clipping.	
	8-1-17		Men relieved from anti-air craft work at "Rebentisch". Personnel reported to Coy H.Q. Pignacourt. Transport by road. Two boxes of clothing received from Australian Comforts Fund. Work as per syllabus.	

WAR DIARY

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(4) 3

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the field	9-1-17		Limbers from Rebenmont reported to Coy H.Q. Clipping of horses steadily progressing. Work as per syllabus attached. Through non-arrival of naphtha the waterproofing of belts unable to be gone on with.	
	10-1-17		Oil dressing for limbers not arrived therefore work on these vehicles retarded. Harness steadily improving. Rifles and bayonets in excellent condition.	
	11-1-17		Limbers loaded ready for a move back to line. Seventeen R. reinforcements reported today H.Q. from Machine Gun Base. Details carriers. All belts filled and packed. Clipping of horses nearly completion. Dressing oil for limbers not yet available work unnecessarily delayed on account of this. No clothes or boots yet issued. Clothing of Coy in bad state.	appendix C

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

(4)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the field	12-1-17		Transport left at 8 A.M. en route for Richmond. Limit-Ridgway in charge. Bullets and stables thoroughly cleaned and inspected. Certificates forwarded to Coy HQ of cleanliness and sanitary condition of same. Coy route marked during the morning. Afternoon cleaning up parade. One signaller detached to attend 5 th Divisional School. From Mr. Withers.	
	12-1-17		Coy entrained at Vignocourt Station at 10.4.17. for Vincennes - detrained at 1 p.m. Bullying certificates forwarded to B.O.A. New H.B.R. drawn to replace old ones returned to Ordnance. Brigade Order No 76 received and Coy order No 4 issued for move to Montauban on 14 th Inst.	Appendix "C"

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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(5)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the field.	14-1-17		Coy moved off at 6 am for Meaulte where it entrained for Quary siding. Occupied huts at Montautan Brigade Camp. Adelaide Transport moved from Ribemont at 8.50 AM to Mametz Wood. Brigade W.D. at Tucourt.	
	15-1-17		Issued orders for the relief of the 7 th Machine Gun Coy in the left Brigade sector. Made final arrangements with P.L. 7 th M.G. Coy. in Middle Trench. Transport location at Mametz.	appendix D
	16-1-17		Relieved the 7 th Machine Gun Coy in the left Brigade sector by 7 P.M. Receipt for trench stores taken over forwarded to Brigade W.D. No Casualties. One man accidentally wounded by bursting of Mills grenade at Montautan Camp.	
	17-1-17		Personnel moved from Montautan camp to E camp where huts of 7 th M.G. Coy were taken over.	

WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

(6)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the field	18-1-17		During the night about eight thousand rounds on enemy roads and communication trenches. Front line section relieved by section from Rose Reserve. Preparations made for a start on extending new drives in deep dugout in Needle trench.	
	19-1-17		One Sawyer stove drawn for Company. Lt. Ken and Foster returned from leave to England. One man wounded in NEEDLE TRENCH. Fatigue party from E Comp at work cleaning up emplacements and trenches. Hardest fire carried out on enemy rear and support lines.	
	20-1-17		Section relieved in front line by section from Rose Reserve. Positions in immediate line inspected by G.S.O. 1. One gun returned to Ordnance for repair etc. Hardest fire again carried out.	
	21-1-17		Temporary emplacements in NEEDLE TRENCH commenced also an emplacement in ROSE TRENCH. Deep dugout in front line cleaned out and extended and timbered by section. Also new dugout built for gun crew in Monsoon Trench.	

MS

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
L. H. Field.	22-17		Three new bunkers erected in deep dugout in Middle Trench. Timber and keesing drawn from Tynmuss for breakdown for horse lines. Two men on leave. Backboards and timber carried to front line. Section relieved in front line successfully.	
	23-17		Emplacements in Middle Trench steadily nearing completion. More timber sent to front line. Improvements to emplacements in front line going ahead. Six O/R sent on leave.	
	24-17		Work progressing on deep dugouts in Rose Reserve and Middle Trench. Iron timber & felt sent up to front line to build shelters etc. 12 O/R from 60th Batt working on Emplacements.	
	25-17		10000 boards S.A.A. drawn from 12ae Dump. Barker Road. Timber for deep dugouts collected at Rose Trench. Two boxes of S.A.A. sent to front line from Rose Reserve. 18 O/R working on Emph.	
	26-17		Six WOs selected from Coy for commissions in the Brigade and sent to interview G.O.C. 20 O/R from 59th Batt working on Emplacements. Sections in front line relieved by teams from Rose Reserve Trench.	

WAR DIARY

or

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(8) 8

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Tathfield	27-1-17		Cooperated with Artillery as in Bde Order 77. Working party in Needle Trench Rose Reserve dugout further extended and four sets put in. Two I/R. wounded in Gusty Trench by shrapnel.	
	28-1-17		One Maxim machine salvaged from Anzacs. Fatigue party from F. Camp at work on dugouts and emplacements in Rose Reserve.	
	29-1-17		Dugouts further extended and timbered. Working party at work on emplacements in Needle Trench. More timber sent to front line. Salvaged machine gun returned to Bde HQ.	
	30-1-17		Section in line relieved by section from Rose Reserve. Work in Needle and Rose proceeded with. More timber sent to front line. also S.A.A. attended Court of Inquiry at 15 Camp.	
	31-1-17		Indirect fire carried out on the usual targets. Several enemy lines. Several parties fired on during the day. Selected positions on forward slope of Larkhill for secret M.G. positions.	

Para (1)

The 15th Inf Bde will move from Ribemont to T. area on the 2nd 3rd and 4th of December via C. Area. In C. Area units will be distributed in following villages.

Raineville

Coisy

Cordonette

(2)

The 15th Machine Gun Coy will be billeted in Coisy on night of 2nd Inst.

(3)

One section of Machine Gun Coy will remain in Ribemont on anti-air craft work under Capt. Whelpton.

Route (4)

The group will move via Bully - Bonny - La. Neuville - Pont Doyelles Quenou.

Units for Cordonette will then proceed from Quenou via Allonville.

Starting point (5)

The starting point will be passed at 9.10 a.m. on morning of 2nd Inst. by Inf. G. Coy.

(6) Distances

The following distances will be kept on the march

200	yds between Battalions
100	yds between Companies
200	yds between Transport & rear column

Transport of M. G. Coy will follow in rear of Boy.

Column will halt for 5 minutes at each clock half hour. A halt will be made at 12 noon to 1. P.M. for lunch.

Watches to be synchronised at Coy H.Q. at 7.10 a.m.



7

Rearguard

Mr. Fitzgerald will be in charge of rear guard
and will allow no man to fall out of ranks
without a written pass signed by his officer.

(5)

Transport officer to be held strictly responsible
for the march discipline of his transport.

Correct distances and pace must be kept throughout and no straggling is to be permitted.

A. L. T. M. B. transport wagon will report
to G. O. at transport lines after being
loaded.

(9)

Almas

Full marching order

Sheepskins to be carried folded
beneath the straps on pack.

1101

Reville

6.30. a.m.

Breakfast:

7. A.M.

Marching out.

7. 45 - A.M.

Parade

Fall in

8.40 A.M.

mark off.

2. 5-4 A.M

11

Belleh

Sims. Whelpton will inspect all billets before moving and will render a certificate to Coy H.Q. that all billets have been kept in a clean and sanitary condition.

and

Robinson Capt.

H. G. Coy Order

No 2

Reference Bde Order 74

Corsy. January 2nd

(1) The 15th Bde Group will move from "C District T Area" on 3rd January.

(2) Units for Pignacourt will move via Corsy - Bertangles to the Amiens - Flesselles road to Flesselles thence to Pignacourt.

The 15th Machine Gun Coy will join the Pignacourt column at Corsy at 9.15 am. and take the rear of the column.

The first halt will be at 9 am for ten minutes

The same march arrangements and distances will be observed as on day of 2nd January.

(3) Reveille 6.45 am. Breakfast - 7.15 am

Blankets rolled and hampers loaded 7.45 am.

B ^{after being} ~~lets~~ cleaned will be inspected by Hunt Barthote who will forward a certificate to the effect that pellets have been left in a clean and sanitary state to Coy HQ.

Company will fall in at 8.40 and march to Church corner where the column will be met.

(4) The motor lorry will travel with transport under orders of Hunt Ridgway.

R. B. Munson



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SECRET.

APPENDIX RC 12

Copy 150
15th AUSTRALIAN
MACHINE GUN COY.

15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER NO. 75.

Reference Map AMIENS 17 1/100,000.
Map LENS 11 1/100,000.

12th January, 1917.

1. The 15th Australian Infantry Brigade (less detachments to 1st ANZAC) will move to "H" area (RIBEMONT) on the 12th and 13th January.
2. (a) Units (less detachments to 1st ANZAC and Transport) will move by Tactical Trains in accordance with Time Table attached.
(b) Transport and Riding horses will proceed by Road as under:-
12th Jan.- From "I" area to FRANVILLERS via VILLERS BOCAGE and MOLLIERNS.
(c) Transport of Units billeted in VIGNACOURT will pass the Church at 3.30 a.m.
O.C. Column Lieut. McCallum 57th Bn.
59th Bn.
60th Bn.
15th M.G. Coy. and 15th Bde. H.Q.
"A" Section 14th Field Amb.
(d) Transport of the 57th and 59th Bns., marching independently via BERTANGLES will join the main column (in rear) at VILLERS BOCAGE at 11.30 a.m.
13th Jan.- The combined column will cross the AMIENS road at 9 a.m. and march via NEUILLY to RIBEMONT but will not enter the latter village until the 1st A.I. Brigade has marched out.
3. The following road distances will be observed:-
200 yards between Battalions.
200 yards between Transport and Marching Troops.
100 yards between Companies or Units Transport.
4. No Stores or Personnel will be left in the "I" area.
5. Billets will be left scrupulously clean and inspection certificates forwarded to Brigade Headquarters by 6 p.m. on 13th inst..
6. Advanced Parties will proceed to RIBEMONT by Bus from Brigade Headquarters at 9 a.m. on 13th inst..
7. Supplies for 13th inst. will be drawn on 11th inst.. Supplies for 14th inst. will be drawn on arrival at RIBEMONT.
8. One Motor lorry per Battalion will be available to carry surplus loading and will report on the 12th inst.

Chadwick

Major,
Brigade Major, 15th Australian Infantry Bde.

Copies to No. 1 57th Bn.
2 58th Bn.
3 59th Bn.
4 60th Bn.
5 15th M.G. Coy.
6 "A" Section 14th Field Amb.
7 Staff Captain,
8 Lieut. McCallum, 57th Bn.
9 & 10 Bde. H.Q.
11 War Diary.
12 5th Aust. Div.

2/467 15th Maritime Gun Company Order No 3

Reference Bde Order No 75

1. The 13th Australian Infantry Bde regiments will move to "R" area (RIBEMONT) on the 12th and 13th January.
2. (a) Units will move by tactical trains in accordance with time table attached.
 (b) Transport and marching horses will proceed by road as under:—
 12th Jan. — From T area to Franville via Villers Bocage and Molliens.
 (a) Transport of Units allotted to Vignacourt will pass the church at 8.30 a.m.
 O.C. Column Limit Ridgway.
 3-9th Battalion
 60th
 15th In. G. Coy and 15th Bde D.L.
 "A" Section 14th Field Art.
 13th Jan: — The combined column will cross the Amers road at 9 a.m. and march via Heully to Ribemont but will not enter the latter village until the 14th A.I. Bde has marched out.
3. The following road distances will be observed:
 200 yds between Battalions.
 200 yds between transports and marching troops.
 100 yds between Companies and units transports.
4. No stores or personnel will be left in T. area.
5. Bells will be kept scrupulously clean and a certificate forwarded to Coy R.A. by Limit Whelpton by 8. A.M. on 13th Jan.
6. Limit Copper with Sgt. Twan will report to Bde D.L. at 9 a.m. on 12th as advance party.
7. Supplies for 13th Jan will be drawn on the 12th Jan. Supplies for 14th will be drawn on

2/ 467 arrival at "Rheinmont"

8. a motor lorry will call at Coy HQ on morning of 13th for Officers Baggage and office boxes and surplus loading.

9. Personnel of Coy move on morning of 13th.

Reveille 6.45 A.M. Breakfast: 7.30.

Fall in 9. A.M. March out: 9.15 A.M.

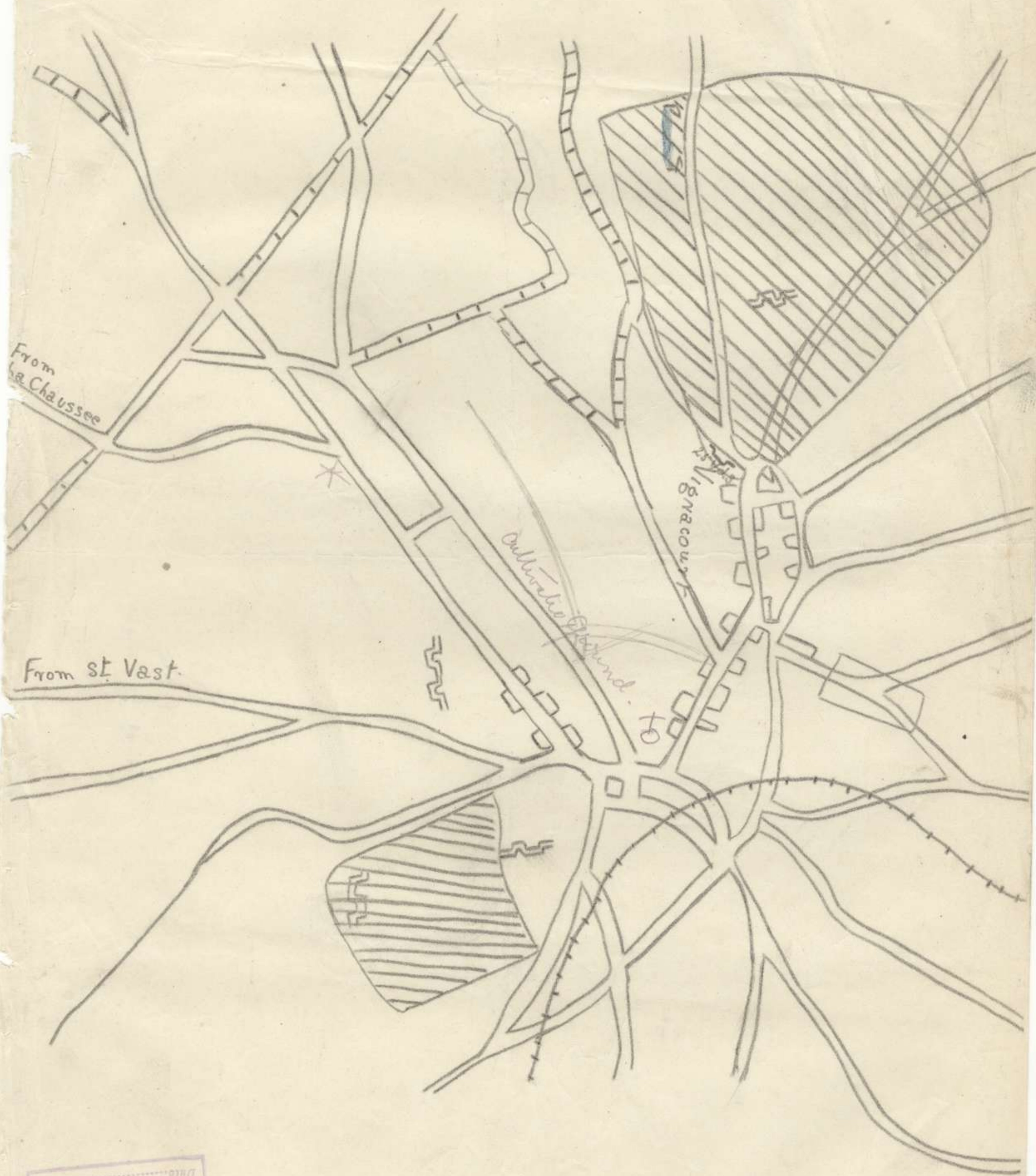
10. Unit Whelpton with 6 O.P.R. will remain behind as rear party to clean up billets and receipt a receipt from unit taking over as to condition of frame.

R. J. Munson Capt.

O.C. 15th Machine Gun Coy
A.I.F.

Captain to.

1. Coy. Office
2. Unit Whelpton.
3. War Diary.



10th
AUSTRALIAN
MACHINE GUN COY.
No.
Date

to arrive for Coy leave on 4

Reference Bde order

1. The 15th Australian Infantry Brigade will relieve the 7th Aust. Inf. Bde in the left Bde sector of the right Division area on 16th and 17th January.
2. The 15th Inf. Coy will route march to Hamult where it will encamp for Quarry digging after which it will march to Adelaide Camp (Monteban) with the 57th Battalion.
3. The following intervals will be maintained on the Roads and must on no account be closed up viz:
200 yds between transport and Infantry.
100 yds between Companies.
4. Hunt's Copper will proceed to Adelaide Camp (Monteban) as collecting officer (mounted), leave at 6 A.M.
5. The transport will pass the starting point (Church) behind 57th Transport at 8.50 A.M. and will go by road to Furcourt.
The rations for 15th will be carried by transport and will be sent to Adelaide Camp on night of 14th Jan along with Cooking utensils.
6. Second blankets will be rolled and left in Bde Store (Ballet 40) also any surplus gear &c. Panniers etc.
7. Ballets will be kept thoroughly cleaned when vacated and certificates forwarded to Coy H.Q. regarding clean and sanitary condition if some by collecting officer and transport officer.
8. Revueille will be at 4.15 A.M. Breakfast 4.30.
2nd Blankets rolled at 5 A.M. Fall in at 5.35 A.M.
9. Transport will leave behind one timber to carry surplus gear and blankets to Store this timber will follow on after work is completed. Transport must be kept scrupulously clean.
Copper 1. War diary
2. Coy officer
3. Transport officer.

R. B. Bussell Capt

Syllabus of Work for T Area

(13) 13

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Commencing on 3rd January 1917.

	7.15 to 7.45 AM	9 AM to 9.30 AM	9.30 AM to 10.30 AM	10.30 to 12 noon	2 P.M. to 4 P.M.	6 P.M. to 6.30 P.M.
First Day	Physical training and running. Section officers	Post inspection and massage with whale oil.	Two men mechanism and gun drill. Permanent men signalling.	Belt overhauling and cleaning of ammunition.	mechanism load stripping stoppages and immediate action.	Lecture. Indirect firing. night firing. Capt. Munson.
Second Day	do Section officers	do	Gun drill mechanism stoppages.	overhauling of tripods and guns. Inspection of same by section officers.	Gun drill from pack horses. selecting of gun position by N.C.O.s	Lecture Care of guns and equipment in trenches. Capt. Munson.
Third Day	do Section officers	do	Gun drill with auxiliary mountings.	signalling $\frac{1}{2}$ hr. mechanism $\frac{1}{2}$ hr. stoppages $\frac{1}{2}$ hr.	Lecture on Barr. and strand range finder by C.S.M. Murphy. Visual training judging distance.	Lecture Trench feet. Care and prevention. Lt. Coppes.
Fourth Day	do Section officers	do	Section lectures Care of guns in frosty weather. Glycerine and its uses.	Visual training and judging distance. Lecture Range finding	Field work with pack horses.	Lecture Combined sights, vertical searching, bracketing. Lt. Keethley.
Fifth Day	Running Doubling	do	Mechanism. stripping stoppages and immediate action.	Lecture care of guns and equipment in trenches. $\frac{1}{2}$ Fire direction	Field work with ladders. Digging in and consolidation of shell holes.	Lecture Fire direction Passing of orders. Lt. Melfton.
6 th Day	Physical training and running.	do	Lecture Indirect fire + night firing different methods. Lt. Hoathrope.	Mechanism stripping stoppages and immediate action.	Gun drill stoppages immediate action and stripping signalling.	Lecture Fire direction Lt. Fitzgibbon.

APPENDIX E

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Appendix F: Strength. Casualties & Sickness.

<u>Strength.</u>					
	Off	On	Total		
Effective Strength,	31.	12.	16.	11.	153. 164
<u>Increase</u>					
Reinforcements (from M.G. Corps Base Depot)				37	37
Taken on strength from Hospital				3	3
				40	40
				11	193 204
<u>Decrease</u>					
Transferred.				1	1
Casualties	1*	6	7		
Sick evacuations		15	15		
				1.	22 23
				10	171 181

<u>Casualties & Sickness</u>					
	Off	On	Total		
Sick: 20 Field Ambulance	2.	23.	25		
Wound: Wound Area.		15	15		
Wounded		5*	5*		
Killed		1	1		
	2	44	46		

* includes 20% acc. wounded.

* Notification received that Capt H.G. Barker, transferred from 2nd Aust M.G. B., 6/11/16 (A.37 Unit 120) was wounded on 1.11.16.

APPENDIX F

app. 18



15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

 TABLE OF RELIEFS AND LOCATIONS
 (From 26/1/17 inclusive)

-----*****-----

DATE	"B" CAMP	DELVILLE WOOD	NEEDLE AND SWITCH LINE	FRONT LINE SYSTEM.
Jan. 26th.	59th Bn.	58th Bn.	57th Bn.	60th Bn.
27th.	59th Bn.	58th Bn.	57th Bn.	60th Bn.
28th.	59th Bn.	58th Bn.	60th Bn.	57th Bn.
29th.	60th Bn.	59th Bn.	58th Bn.	57th Bn.
30th.	60th Bn.	59th Bn.	58th Bn.	57th Bn.
31st.	60th Bn.	59th Bn.	58th Bn.	57th Bn.
Feb. 1st.	60th Bn.	59th Bn.	57th Bn.	58th Bn.
2nd.	57th Bn.	60th Bn.	59th Bn.	58th Bn.
3rd.	57th Bn.	60th Bn.	59th Bn.	58th Bn.
4th.	57th Bn.	60th Bn.	59th Bn.	58th Bn.
5th.	57th Bn.	60th Bn.	58th Bn.	59th Bn.
6th.	58th Bn.	57th Bn.	60th Bn.	59th Bn.
7th.	58th Bn.	57th Bn.	60th Bn.	59th Bn.
8th.				59th Bn.

The 15th M.G. Company and 15th A.L.T.M.B. will carry out section reliefs as required.

Issued - No.1. 57th Battalion.
 No.2. 58th "
 No.3. 59th "
 No.4. 60th "
 No.5. 15th M.G. Coy. ✓
 No.6. 15th A.L.T.M.B.
 No.7. Brigade Q.M.
 No.8. Staff Captain.
 No.9. Brigade H.Q.
 No.10. War Diary.
 No.12. Right Brigade.
 No.12. Left Brigade.

Geo. J. Wicks

Major.
 Brigade Major 15th Australian Inf. Brigade.

