

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/31/49

Title: 14th Infantry Battalion

November 1918



AWM4-23/31/49

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200

14TH BATT.

A U S T R A L I A N I M P E R I A L F O R C E .

W A R D I A R Y

of

14th BATTALION A.I.F.

for

November
OCTOBER 1918.

Signature of Officer Compiling.....Major.

Signature of Officer Commanding.....Major.
T/Commanding 14th Battalion A.I.F.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 21185

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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.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
AMIENS. Map. Ref. 62E. 1/40,000.	1st	Novr.	Fine day. Training as per Syllabus.	
HANGEST.	2nd.		Weather dull. Battalion had a round up for all Absentees. Afternoon Football Match, between Companies.	
	3rd.		Weather fine. Morning - Church Parade.	
	4th.		Weather splendid - Funeral in morning - later marriage - put smoke barrage on bride and bridegroom - things rather lively. Divisional Boxing Tournament in afternoon at Bovelles. Strength of Battalion - 30 Officers and 482 Other Ranks.	
	5th.		Wet and drizzling rain all day. Training in Billets. Boxing Tournament at Bovelles in afternoon. This Battalion did very well in Tournament securing two finals. Pvte. Moran winning the Lightweight. Pvte. Ramsay winning the Middleweight. Both won easily. This nominates these two for the Corps Matches to take place at a later date at Abbeville.	
	6th.		Weather fine. Training as per Syllabus.	
	7th.		Weather fine but dull during afternoon. Training as per syllabus.	
	8th.		Fine day. Training as per syllabus. Heard first news of proposed Armistice.	
	9th.		Weather fine. Training as per Syllabus. Football match "D" Company versus "C" Company in afternoon. "D" Company won.	
	10th.		Morning fine. Church Parade. Afternoon dull. Strength of Battalion - 30 Officers and 475 Other Ranks.	
	11th.		Fine day. Training as per syllabus. Confirmation of Armistice received.	
	12th.		Weather fine. Preparing for a move forward and general clean up of equipment, billets, etc.	

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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

200

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	13th	Novr.	Weather fine. Preparations for move forward continued.	
	14th.		Move from Hangest to Tincourt by rail, starting at 3 a.m. Arrived at Tincourt about 2 p.m. Journey very cold. Arrived at Billets which was an old German Artillery Camp at about 2.30 p.m. Settled very comfortably for the night.	
	15th.		Move from Tincourt to Brancourt by Light Railway 9 a.m. Arrived at Brancourt 11.30 a.m. Weather very cold but fine. Journey very interesting, as we passed over the ground near where the Battalion had its last fight and also over the St Quentin Canal which was the great barrier in front of the Hindenburg Line. Battalion settled in billets by 12.30 p.m. Billets were as Germans left them, but after cleaning were very comfortable.	
	16th.		Weather fine but cold. "A" Company went for a route march. Others general cleaning up etc.	
	17th.		Weather fine. Morning Church Parade, held near Fresnoy-le-Grand. After Church Parade Brigade formed up and addressed by Brig-General Drake-Brockman and men told of proposed move forward into Germany. March Past General. Strength of Battalion - Officers 35 Other Ranks 481.	
	18th.		Weather fine but very cold. General cleaning up of equipment and preparing for a move forward.	
	19th.		Fine day. Battalion went for a route march to Bohain.	
	20th.		Weather fine but cold. Battalion went for Baths at Fresnoy-le-Grand and had complete clean change of clothing.	
	* 22nd.		Inspection Parade. Weather fine.	
	* 21st.		Battalion went for a route march to Ramicourt and return. Weather good. Concert held in evening Y.M.C.A. Hall. Lieut-Col. H.A.Crowther.D.S.O. took the Chair. Major.W.L.Arrell marched in from the 49th Battalion and took over Temporary Command of Battalion.	
	23rd.		Battalion moved from Brancourt by Route March for St Souplet. Arrived at 2.30 p.m. Battalion settled down comfortably by 3.30 p.m. in billets. Lieut-Colonel.H.A.Crowther.D.S.O. said good-bye to Battalion and left for Australia same day.	

WFA

WAR DIARY

or

~~INTELLIGENCE~~ SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.2

200

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
	Novr.	24th.	Battalion moved from St. Souplet to Prisches by Route March. Arrived about 2,45 p.m. Battalion settled down by 5 p.m. and billets very good. Weather dull. Strength Of Battalion 32 Officers and 472 Other Ranks.	
		25th.	Weather dull and showery. Company inspection of feet, etc.	
		26th.	Battalion moved from Prisches to Sains. Arrived about 2.35 p.m. Weather dull and roads muddy. Battalion settled at 3 p.m. The whole of Battalion billeted in large factory, formerly used by Germans as a Hospital. This was as Germans left the place in a very dirty condition and a lot of time has been spent in cleaning it up.	
		27th.	Weather dull and cold. Company training and cleaning up of Billets and equipment etc.	
		28th.	Weather fine. Company Training.	
		29th.	Weather dull and showery. Lecture given in Fac tory to whole of Brigade by Brig-General Drake-Brockman on the proposed Demobilization scheme.	
		30th.	Morning fine, later on very musty. Battalion went for a route march to Ramesies. Strength Of Battalion - Officers 30 Other Ranks 465 Other Ranks.	

WFA

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

200

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
November 31st.			<p>The following Decorations have been awarded to the Battalion during the Month.</p> <p><u>THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE ORDER.</u></p> <p>Major W.R. Wadsworth. "MC"</p> <p><u>The Distinguished Conduct Medal.</u></p> <p>No. 7316 Pvte. J.L. Schmidt. No. 2435 R.Q.M.S.W.F.P. Ryan. No. 5688 Cpl. V.W. Lalor. "MM"</p> <p><u>Military Medals.</u></p> <p>No. 5112 Pvte. Harris. N. No. 6804 L/Cpl. Croker. W. No. 3328 L/Cpl. Grieves. J. No. 7605 Pvte. Sergeant. W.T. No. 4543 Cpl. Lumsden. J.P. No. 7602 Pvte. Metcalfe. C. No. 416 Sgt. Blackburn. D.W. No. 3252 Cpl. Booker. C.E. No. 2342a Pvte. Notting. F.G. No. 6773 Cpl. Lovejoy. H.G. No. 5456 Sgt. Sommerville. H.J. No. 799 Pvte. Voce. F.H. No. 7587 Pvte. Butterworth. L. No. 4650 Pvte. Dietrich. G.A. No. 1790 Pvte. O'Brien. J.</p>	<p><u>MILITARY CROSS.</u></p> <p>Lieut. T.H. Griffith.</p> <p><u>Bar to Military Medal.</u></p> <p>No. 1578 Sgt. C.J. Clarke. "DCM" "MM"</p>

WFA

WAR DIARY.

of

14th BATTALION A.I.F.

for

NOVEMBER 1918.LIST OF APPENDICES.

<u>No.</u>	<u>Subject.</u>	
1	Training Syllabus 14th Battalion.A.I.F.	1/11/1918.
2	do.	9/11/1918.
3	do.	16/11/1918.
4	Move Order. 14th Battalion A.I.F.	10/11/1918.
5	Instructions. Move Co.Germany.	20/11/1918.
6	Move Order. 14th Battalion A.I.F.	22/11/1918.
7.	do. do.	23/11/1918.
8.	do. do.	25/11/1918.

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October
Monday 28th.

9 a.m. to 11 a.m.
"A" Coy. Platoons under Platoon Commanders
"C" & "D" Coys Tactical Exercise.....
"B" Coy Rifle range.....

11. to 12.30 Company Commanders Parade.

Tuesday 29th.

8 to 9.30 Battalion Parade.
"A", "B", & "D" Coys 9.30 to 11.30 Platoon under
Platoon Commanders
"C" Coy. Rifle range.

11.30 to 12.30 Company Commanders Parade.

Wednesday 30th. Brigade Rifle Range.

(Route march to range passing Church HANGEST at 8 a.m.)

Thursday 31st.

9 a.m. to 11 a.m.
"B", "C", & "D" Coys. Platoons under Platoons Commanders. 11 to 12 noon Company Commanders Parade.
"A" Company Rifle Range.

Friday 1st.
November.

9 a.m. to 9.30 a.m. Battalion Parade.
"C" Company. Platoons under Platoon Commanders.
"A" & "B" Coys Tactical Exercise.
"D" Coy. Rifle Range

11.30 a.m. to 12.30. Company Commanders Parade.

Saturday 2nd.

Battalion Route March. Route:- HANGEST-SOUBS-CROUY. Starting point Church HANGEST at 9.30 a.m.)

Remarks.

1. Rapid loading and gas drill to be carried out daily.
2. Strict March discipline to be maintained at all times when troops are on the march.
3. Lectures on saluting and payment of compliments generally will be given.
4. Parades will take place on Company Parade grounds unless otherwise stated.
5. Dress for all route marches will be full marching order.
6. Tactical exercise will be submitted to Battalion Headquarters the night previous to their taking place.
7. All specialists will be with the Company on the following parades:- Coy. Parades, rifle range, tactical exercise and Battalion Route marches.
8. Afternoon. Sports and organized games as per Sports Programme.

W. L. Ansell
was
for
..... Lieut-Colonel.
Commanding 14th. Battalion A.I.F.

APPENDIX

November.	9 a.m. to 11 a.m.	11 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.
Monday 4th.	"A" Coy. Rifle Range. "B" Coy. Platoons under Platoon Commanders. Platoon Training. "C" & "D" Coys. Company Tactical Exercises.	Company Commanders Parade.
Tuesday 5th.	"A" & "B" Coys. Company Tactical exercises. "C" Coy. Rifle Range. "D" Coy. Platoons under Platoon Commanders. Platoon Training.	Company Commanders Parade.
Wednesday 6th.	BRIGADE RIFLE RANGE. (Route MARCH to Range passing CHURCH, HANGEST at 8 a.m.)	
Thursday 7th.	"A" Coy. Platoons under Platoon Commanders. Platoon Training. "B" Coy. Rifle Range. "C" & "D" Coys. Company Tactical exercises.	Company Commanders Parade.
Friday 8th.	"A" & "B" Coys. Company Tactical exercises. "C" Coy. Platoons under Platoon Commanders. "D" Coy. Rifle Range.	Company Commanders Parade.
Saturday 9th.	BATTALION ROUTE MARCH. Route:- HANGEST-SOUES-CROUY. Starting Point, Church HANGEST at 9.30 a.m.	

- REMARKS.
1. Rapid loading and gas drill to be carried out daily.
 2. Strict March discipline to be maintained at all times when troops are on the march.
 3. Lecturettes on saluting and payment of compliments generally will be given.
 4. Parades will take place on Company Parade Grounds unless otherwise stated.
 5. Dress for all route marches will be full marching order.
 6. Tactical exercises will be submitted to Battalion Headquarters the night previous to their taking place.
 7. All Specialists will be with the Company on the following parades:- Company Parades, Rifle Range, Tactical Exercises and Battalion Route Marches.
 8. AFTERNOON: Sports and organized games as per Sports Programme.
 9. NOTE: If Brigade Rifle Range not available on Wednesday 6th., Training for Thursday will be carried out.

Jamitcher
.....Captain.
Adjutant 14th Battalion A.I.F.

November.

9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

11 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

Monday 11th. "A" Coy. Rifle Range.

"B" Coy. Platoons under Platoon Commanders.
Platoon Training.

"C" & "D" Coys Tactical Exercises.

Company Commanders Parade.

Tuesday 12th.

"A" & "B" Coys. Coy Tactical Exercise.

"C" Coy. Rifle range.

"D" Coy. Platoons under platoon commanders
Platoon training.

Battalion Parade.

Wednesday 13th.

Brigade Rifle range. (Route march to Range passing Church HANGERT at 8 a.m.)

Thursday 14th.

"A" Coy. Platoons under platoon commanders.
Platoon training.

"B" Coy. Rifle range.

"C" & "D" Coys Tactical exercises.

Company Commanders parade.

Friday 15th.

"A" & "B" Coys Tactical exercises.

"C" Coy. Platoons under platoon commanders.

"D" Coy. Rifle range.

Battalion parade.

Saturday 16th.

Battalion Route march.

REMARKS.

1. Rapid loading and gas drill to be carried out daily.
2. Strict March Discipline to be maintained at all times when troops are on the march.
3. Lectures on saluting and payment of compliments generally will be given.
4. Parades will take place on Company Parade grounds unless otherwise stated.
5. Dress for all route marches will be full marching order.
6. Tactical exercises will be submitted to Battalion Orderly Room the night previous to their taking place.
7. All specialists will be with their coys. on the following parades: - Coy. parades, Rifle range, Tactical Exercises and Battalion Route Marches.
8. AFTERNOON. Sports and Organized games as per sports programme.
9. NOTE. If Brigade Rifle Range is not available on WEDNESDAY 13th. Training for Thursday will be carried out.

.....*Samuel Hill*.....Captain.
Adjutant 14th Battalion A.I.F.

10-11-18.

SECRET.

Map Reference: 4 VALENCIENNES. } 1/100,000.
 ST. QUENTIN. }

1. The 14th Battalion will move into forward area, on 11th Inst entraining at HANGEST at 08.27.
2. ENTRAINMENT. Transport will arrive at Station 3 hours and remainder of Battalion 12 hours prior to departure of train. No Troops to enter Station Yard until orders are received from Battalion Headquarters. Companies will be formed up in billets by 7 a.m. and will await orders to entrain. Breast ropes for horses will be provided by Units. Lashings for vehicles will be provided by R.T.C. Lieut. A. J. NAYLOR will act as entraining Officer.
3. OFFICERS GEAR. Officers Valises, mess gear and Orderly Room Boxes, etc., will be dumped at Battalion Orderly Room by 3.30 p.m. on 10th Inst.
4. DRESS: Full marching order - One Blanket, one Iron Ration and unexpended portion of day's ration to be carried on the man. The second blankets will be rolled in bundles of 10 and placed in Company Dumps under Company Guards before 7 a.m. 11th Inst. These will be man handled to Station by Companies by 7 a.m. 11th Inst., and dumped near truck to be indicated by entraining Officer.
5. WORKING PARTIES. Captain. F. ANDERSON. "M.M.", Lieut. L. J. R. BAIN and 50 Other Ranks of "C" Company will act as working party at Hangest Station. They will report 3 hours prior to departure of first Train. They will work in shifts of 2 officer 28 Other Ranks. This party will remain until Divisional entraining is complete and will travel by last train leaving station. 48 hours rations will be carried by this party.
6. FORWARD PARTY. Lieut. GRAVE. "M.C" and 4 Scouts will report to Staff Captain BAIN at 14.35 on the 10th Inst. 48 hours rations and bicycles will be taken.
7. The usual Billeting Certificates and marching out States will be handed to Orderly Room by 7 a.m. 11th Inst.
8. ACKNOWLEDGE.

J. Mitchell
 Captain.
 Adjutant 14th Battalion A.I.F.

Distribution.

"A" Coy.
 "B" Coy.
 "C" Coy.
 "D" Coy.
 War Diary. (3).
 Office Copy.
 M.C.
 Q.M.
 T.C.
 Lieut. Thomas.
 Lieut. Naylor.

14th Battalion A.I.F.
20th November 1918.SECRET.

G.O.

ALL COMPANIES & H.Q.INSTRUCTIONS. SERIES "A" No.1.

1. ADVANCE TO THE RHINE. On the 23rd Inst., the 14th Battalion will advance to German Territory as portion of the Army of Occupation provided for in the Armistice. The first day's advance will be made by road to BASSIGNY. The move will be in three stages:
1. To the German Frontier.
 2. To the Rhine.
 3. To the Units of the zone beyond the Rhine provided for in the Armistice.
2. Companies will immediately make all preparations for the move and be prepared to leave the present area either by rail or road at very short notice. In this connection the following points, inter alia, will be borne in mind:-
- (A) DRESS. Steel helmets and box respirators will be carried. All Badges (hat and collar) "Australia" colour patches are to be worn by all ranks. Chin straps will be worn. Immediate steps will be taken to procure these articles from the Quartermaster, if necessary on payment.
- (B) TRANSPORT. All vehicles are to be carefully overhauled to avoid breaks down or other mishaps en route. Spare parts in accordance with Mobilization Store Table for vehicles, Harness, etc., are to be complete. Spare sets of shoes to fit the animals of the team are to be carried on each vehicle. All animals will be shod with shoes to take frost cogs and a supply of frost cogs will be carried. The paint on axle caps and brass work on vehicles will be removed and such brass work polished. All chains will be burnished. Additional transport will be provided to carry two blankets per man and kits of officers, above the establishment. Units will move with Echelons complete.
3. CONDUCT OF ROUTE. During the march through FRENCH or BRITISH Territory the greatest consideration is to be shown to the Civilian Population and their property. The sufferings and privations to which the unfortunate people have been subject, during the past four years of German occupation is to be fully explained to all ranks. The greatest care is to be taken by all ranks to avoid causing any damage which will lead to claims being lodged by the civilians. Where possible all claims which do arise should be settled prior to Units marching out. The strictest March Discipline will be observed throughout the entire move. When passing through villages or towns, Units will march either to attention or at ease with bands playing. If marching at ease uniform method of carrying the rifle will be adopted. No smoking whatever will be permitted throughout the march, whilst on the march. All roads are to be kept clear of men and transport between the hours of 17.00 and 05.00. Companies At the conclusion of each stage of the march, Units will immediately notify the next highest formation of the location of their troops. Upon leaving an area all billets etc., will be left scrupulously clean and Officers Commanding will be held personally responsible that this is done. Attention is drawn to Field Service Regulations part 1., chapters iii and iv and to G.O. 724 (July 1918). "March Discipline and Traffic Control" (Fourth Army Routine Order 2139 of 15/5/1918).
4. DIVISIONAL DEPOT. A Divisional Depot will be established in present area, and the following personnel will be left behind at this Depot:-
- (A) Men Physically unfit to stand the march.
 - (B) Men of undesirable character who cannot be trusted to behave themselves in a fit and proper manner when in German territory.
- A dump for surplus gear will also be established at this Depot and Units will leave there all stores etc., which will not be required in the forward area. Officers kits must be reduced to a minimum.

Page B. (Cont'd).

- 5. BATHS. portable Baths apparatus will be carried on the line of march by the Field Company. This will be erected from time to time as circumstances permit. Four pairs of socks per man will be carried.
150 extra pairs of Boots per Battalion will be carried by Units, and in addition a large supply will be carried by P.D.O.S. and may be drawn by Units as required. Battalion Bootmakers will carry out repairs during the march. Foot inspections will be held daily at the conclusion of the march.
- 6. BOOBY TRAPS. Are not confined to landmines etc., but may be looked for amongst the women in occupied German Territory. All ranks will be warned against this danger.

.....Captain.
Adjutant 14th Battalion A.I.F.

14TH BATT

APPENDIX 5

SECRET.

14th BATTALION MOVE ORDER No. 27/18.

Copy No. 13

Map Reference: St QUENTIN. }
VALENCIENNES. } 1/100,000.

22/11/18.

6 14TH BATT

1. The 14th Battalion will move to St. SOUPLIET tomorrow 1st Inst. The Head of Column will pass starting point - Cross Road at INN, on BRANCOURT - BOHAIN Road at 9.15 a.m., in following order: Pipe Band, Headquarters, "A", "B", "C", "D", Transport. The Cookers will accompany Transport.
2. ROUTE - BRANCOURT - BOHAIN - BUSIGNY - LA HAIE WENHERRESSE - St. SOUPLIET.
3. Blankets rolled in bundles of ten and labelled, officers Valises and Company Boxes, will be dumped at Battalion Headquarters at 7.30 a.m. tomorrow. Mess Boxes will be ready at Company Messes at 7.45 a.m. and will be collected by Mess Cart.
4. DRESS: Full Marching Order - Unexpired portion of day's rations will be carried and water bottles full - Tin Hats and Gas Helmets will be carried.
5. C.O. "B" Company will detail 1 officer and 20 other ranks to act as Rear Guard to pick up stragglers.
6. The usual billeting and marching out states will be handed to Adjutant before marching out.

Distribution.

1. C.O.
2. S.M.
3. Adjutant.
4. War Diary.
5. "A"
6. "B"
7. "C"
8. "D"
9. T.O.
10. S.M.
11. M.O.
12. H.Q.

Samuel Lee Captain.
Adjutant 14th Battalion A.I.F.

APPENDIX 6

6

S E C R E T.

Copy No. 3

14th BATTALION MOVE ORDER NO.28/18. 23-11-18.

Map Reference: VALENCIENNES
1/100,000.

7

14TH BATTALION

1. 14th Battalion will move to PRISCHES tomorrow 24th Inst.
2. ROUTE - L'ARBRE-de-GUISE - MAZINGHIEN - GATILLION - LA GROISE - PRISCHES
3. Starting Point. Battalion will pass the starting point CHURCH at SOUPLET at 8.45 a.m. in the following order:-
Pipe Band, "D", "C", "B", "A", Headquarters, 4th A.L.T.M. Battery and Transport.
4. Officers Valises, blankets and all gear to be dumped at "B" Company Headquarters at 7-~~a.m.~~ 7.30 a.m.
5. MID-DAY MEAL. A halt will be made from 12.50 to 13.30 for mid-day meal. If possible Companies will draw off road to adjacent Fields. Careful attention to be paid to March Discipline throughout the March.
6. The usual states will be rendered to Battalion Orderly Room at beginning and completion of march.

Samuel Lee
.....Captain.
Adjutant 14th Battalion A.I.F.

Distribution.

- C.O. ✓
- S.M. ✓
- Adjutant.
- War Diary.
- A. ✓
- B. ✓
- C. ✓
- D. ✓
- H.Q. ✓
- T.O. ✓
- Q.M. ✓
- M.O. ✓

APPENDIX 1

SECRET.

Copy No.....

14th BATTALION MOVE ORDER No. 29/12 23-11-18.

Map Reference: VALENCIENNES 10.)
 NAMUR 8.) 1/100,000.

1. The 14th Battalion will move by Route March to SAIRS Area tomorrow 26th Inst.
2. ORDER OF MARCH - Head of Column will pass "A" Company's Headquarters at 6.30 a.m. in the following order:-
 Pipe Band, Headquarters, "A", "B", "C" "D" and Transport.
3. Route. PRISONERS - CARIGNIES - BOULONGE - QUATRE MAISONS - ROCHES - SAIRS.
4. C.O. "C" Company will detail 1 Officer and 20 other Ranks to act as Rear Guard.
5. Blankets, valises, mess gear, etc., will be dumped as follows:-

"D" Company	-	7 a.m.
"C" Company.	-	7.15 a.m.
Headquarters.	-	7.15 a.m.
"B" Company.	-	7.30 a.m.
"A" Company.	-	7.30 a.m.

 These dumps will be made at each Company Headquarters.
6. The Battalion will halt from 11.50 to 13.00 for mid-day meal.
7. The usual billeting certificates and states to be handed to Battalion orderly room on departure and marching in to new village.

Distribution.

C.O.
 S.M.
 Adjutant.
 War Diary.
 4th T.S.Stty.
 A.
 B.
 C.
 D.
 T.O.
 Q.M.
 H.Q.
 S.V.

James LeeCaptain.
 Adjutant 14th Battalion A.I.F.

APPENDIX 9