

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/31/8

Title: 14th Infantry Battalion

May 1915



AWM4-23/31/8

War Diary from May 1st to May 31st 1915. Chas. H. Dare Major. 16.

Date.	Place and Time.	14 th Battalion A.I.F. of Adjts. 14th Bn A.I.F.	Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
1/5/15	COURTNEY'S POST MONASH VALLEY.	<p>about 5 A.M. Another attempt on part of enemy to break through the section of trenches on our right, held by the R.M.L. 14th Bn. stood to arms in case assistance was wanted, but were not required. Portion of this attack was launched against Courtney's Post and enemy estimated at about 500 were repulsed and retired in great disorder losing many casualties. Our fire was so directed and controlled that the enemy were unable to reply with the result that only one officer and three men were wounded in our trenches. All remained quiet for the remainder of the night except for Snipers</p>	<p>MAJOR STEELE with C Coy and M.G. Sect. in trenches.</p> <p>Strength 22 officers 732 others 1 " 29 " reinforcements joined</p> <p>Casualties:- Killed Wounded 4 other ranks 2 officers 7 " " Capt CHUTTON Shot in leg Shot in leg Lieut Warren Shot in chest.</p>

Ass. Adj. General
 3rd Echelon. M. B. F.
 26 JUN 1915
 CENTRAL DISTRICT
 No M.F.O. 1

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17.

Date.	Place and Time.	14 th Battalion A.I.F.	Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
2/5/15	COURTNEY'S POST MONASH VALLEY.	<p>Much quieter than usual. No attacks of any consequence made during the forenoon.</p> <p>11 AM. Operation Order No 3 by Col. Monash 4th A.I. Bde. issued to C.O's BNS. - During the past five days the fire of the enemy's machine guns has been very energetic and accurate. Four being directed on our trenches. In evening one of our machine guns lent to the 15th BN. to replace their damaged.</p> <p>6 P.M. All 14th BN. stood to arms A and D Coys with 1 Machine Gun in trenches B and C Coys in reserve.</p> <p>7.10 PM Machine Gun opened fire on enemy's newly constructed trench across end of valley in Sq 224. K. 3. and</p>	<p>Strength:- 19 officers 708 others</p> <p>Casualties:- Killed 1 officer 12 other ranks Wounded 2 officers 80 " " Missing " " Sick 2 " "</p> <p>Lieut J. RUTLAND Killed Lieut Groom W.E. face wound Lieut Curwen-Walker serious. abdomen.</p>

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Date.	Place and Time.	14 th Battalion A.I.F.	Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
(continued)		<p>continued firing until 7.25 P.M. During this time the Naval and Field guns kept up an incessant fire.</p> <p>10 P.M. B Coy moved out to support Col Pope 16th Bn.</p> <p>About 12 midnight C Coy also moved out but finding reinforcements were not required were ordered to return to bivouac.</p> <p>2 Platoons of B Coy reinforced 16th Bn. but finding the firing line full up were sent back in support where they sustained heavy loss from artillery fire. Later Col Pope said he required no further support and these 2 Platoons were ordered to return to bivouac. One Platoon then reinforced the A.M.L.I. on left of Quinn's Post and the</p>	

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Date.	Place and Time.	14 th Battalion A.I.F.	Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
3/5/15.	"COURTNEY'S POST"	<p>remaining one was ordered to return to bivouac. Throughout the night 2nd 3rd our position remained unchanged.</p> <p>Our position remained fairly quiet all day, the main efforts of the enemy being directed against the left of No 3 Section of Defence which had advanced during the night. [One shrapnel shell exploded in our trench in the early morning seriously wounding one officer and killing one man.] The platoon holding the ridge on left of Quinn's position returned to bivouac about 8.30 P.M. having successfully held on all day with much opposition. Quiet during night.</p>	<p>Strength:- 18 officers 654 others</p> <p>Casualties:- Killed 12 other ranks</p> <p>Wounded officers 30 " "</p> <p>Lieut B. Combes chest</p>

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Date.	Place and Time.	14 th Battalion A.I.F.	Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
3/5/15. (Continued)	"COURTNEY'S POST"	About 12 midnight One Coy. was sent to support Quinn's Post as an attack was expected. It was sent back shortly afterwards as the attack was not made.	
4/5/15.	about 11 A.M.	One Coy sent to reinforce Quinn's Post which was reported to be heavily attacked. On arrival of this Coy they were told they were not required as the position could be held, and the Coy was ordered back to bivouac. Everything remained quiet during the remainder of the day & night.	Strength:- 17 officers 651 others Casualties:- 1 officer 3 other ranks wounded. with Lieut G. R. S. with Reinforcement officer Serious shrapnel wound in leg.
5/5/15.	"COURTNEY'S POST"	Trenches held by 14 th Bn definitely allotted to this Bn. and named Courtney's Post. Everything reported quiet during the day. An attack made on Quinn's position during night but our section quiet.	Strength:- 17 officers 645 others 6 other ranks wounded.

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Date.	Place and Time.	14 th Battalion A.I.F.	Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
6/5/15.	"COURTNEY'S POST."	Everything quiet during both day and night. Considerable amount of enemy's shrapnel about but no damage done to our troops.	Strength:- 17 officers 641 others Killed 1 other rank Wounded 3 other ranks.
7/5/15.	"COURTNEY'S POST."	Everything again reported quiet in front of our trenches both during day and night. Shrapnel extra fierce during the afternoon but all passed over our heads towards beach.	Strength. 17 officers 744 others 106 Reinforcements joined. Killed 2 other ranks Wounded " "
8/5/15.	"COURTNEY'S POST"	All reported quiet during both day and night. Quartermaster Major H.N. Young landed from "Seang Choon" and reported for duty with 2/Lieut G. Cooper 1 st Reinforcements, Lieut C. R. Coe returned to duty and 62 other ranks, being portion of hold part and sick to duty.	Strength:- 17 officers 739 others 3 officers 62 others joined Casualties:- 5 others wounded.

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Date.	Place and Time.	14 th Battalion A.I.F.	Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
9/5/15	"COURTNEY'S POST"	Everything reported quiet in front of our position during the day. During the night the 15 th Battalion made an advance from QUINN'S POST on our left and our trenches and Machine Guns gave covering fire, seriously cutting up the enemy's reserves in gully to our front.	Strength:- 20 officers 798 others Casualties:- Wounded 3 other ranks
10/5/15.	"COURTNEY'S POST"	Exceptionally quiet during the day, and very little shrapnel. A weak attack made on our position about midnight which was easily repulsed. The enemy fired rapidly for about an hour. Our men kept low in the trenches & the attack died out.	Strengths:- 20 officers 794 others Casualties 4 other ranks wounded.

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23.

Date.	Place and Time.	14 th Battalion A.I.F.	Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
11/5/15	"COURTNEY'S POST"	Everything reported quiet both during the day and night. 2 nd Lieut K.W. CRABBE of this Bn. reported at Hd. Qrs and received instruction in trench mortars. He afterwards placed two of these in position in Quinn's Post and gave instructions as to their use.	Strength: - 19 officers 792 others Casualties: - Killed 1 other ranks Wounded 1 other ranks Sick 1 officer Major T.H. STEELE
12/5/15	"COURTNEY'S POST"	Very quiet day in the trenches. Recd. instructions from 4 th Inf Bde. 13 th 15 th & 16 th Bns to be relieved by Light Horse. 14 th Bn to remain in occupation of present position as formerly. Reported extra quiet in the trenches at night.	Strength: - 19 officers 790 others Casualties: - Wounded 1 other ranks Sick 1 other ranks
13/5/15.		All reported quiet in front of our trenches. Saps are continuing to be pushed forward	

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Date.	Place and Time.	14 th Battalion A.I.F.	Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
13/5/15 (continued)		each night and several machine gun positions are now available, thus the guns may be changed in position from day to day. The only remaining gun with this Bn. damaged by bullet piercing casing, and two M. Guns borrowed from 13 th Bn.	Strength: - 19 officers 780 others Casualties: - Killed 1 other ranks Wounded: - 5 other ranks Sick: - 6 other ranks.
14/5/15.	COURTNEY'S POST	Everything reported quiet during the day. Enemy's shrapnel bursting near our trenches during the evening but no damage done. More bombs than usual thrown during the night but little damage done. Great advantage has been gained by the issue of periscopes during the past three weeks.	Strength: - 18 officers 744 others 3 other ranks joined Casualties: - Killed 1 other ranks Wounded 1 officer 5 other ranks Sick: - 4 other ranks. 2) Lieut A.R. COX bullet in shoulder.

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25.

Date.	Place and Time.	14 th Battalion A.I.F.	Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
15/5/15	"COURTNEY'S POST"	<p>About 1.45 AM. An advance was made from QUINN'S POST. Our trenches and Machine Guns assisted with covering fire. Towards daylight a good target appeared and the machine guns were able to do a fair amount of damage to the enemy. Remainder of the day enemy reported quiet. Communication trench to Quinn's position completed.</p>	<p>Strength:- 18 officers 770 others Casualties:- Wounded 1 other ranks Sick 3 other ranks.</p>
16/5/15.	"COURTNEY'S POST."	<p>much firing on the left of our line in the early morning but enemy quiet in front of our trenches. Quiet all day with the exception of shrapnel which however did practically no harm to our trenches; that of it passing over our heads to Gen. Walker's position.</p>	<p>Strength:- 19 officers 764 others Major ADAMS returned to duty. Missing 2 other ranks Sick 4 other ranks</p>

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26.

Date.	Place and Time.	14 th Battalion A.I.F.	Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
17/5/15	COURTNEY'S POST	<p>Fairly quiet during the night. Enemy's rifle fire exceptionally quiet during the morning but their shrapnel fire extra fierce.</p> <p>Communication trench between Courtney's post and Gen. Walker's position on our right completed.</p>	<p>Strength:— 19 Officers 754 others.</p> <p>Casualties:— Wounded 14 other ranks Sick 6 other ranks.</p>
18/5/15.	"COURTNEY'S POST."	<p>Quiet except for shell fire. Between daybreak and 10 A.M. twenty six, eight inch shells fell in or around Monash Valley. At about 1.30 P.M. nine more fell and later about 5 P.M. another six or eight fell. Making a total of over forty for the day many of which fell about our trenches but without much damage. About 11 P.M. an attack was made</p>	<p>Strength:— 19 officers 750 others</p> <p>Casualties:— Killed 1 other ranks Wounded:— 1 other ranks Sick:— 2 other ranks.</p>

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27.

Date.	Place and Time.	14 th Battalion A.I.F.	Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
18/5/15 (continued)		ON QUINN'S POSITION on our Left, our trenches and machine guns gave covering fire to the defence. The enemy retired.	
19/5/15.	"COURTNEYS POST."	The previous evening information was received that Turkish reinforcements had landed in Sq 228 - and to be on the alert for a night attack also orders for all troops to stand to arms at 3 A.M. And as our trenches had been heavily shelled all day on 18 th inst and our parapets considerably knocked about we had every indication of an attack being made. Thus under cover of darkness trenches were repaired	

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Date.	Place and Time.	14 th Battalion A.I.F.	Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
19/5/15	(continued)	<p>rifles cleaned and a reserve of ammunition and spare rifles sent up to our trenches. A heavy fire was opened on Quinn's Post on our left and on Walker's Position on our right from midnight until about 3.30 A.M. when it increased in volume both in front of our trenches and on the flanks. This was immediately followed by a determined charge on the part of the enemy, who threw many bombs. Our men received their fire until the enemy advanced when they at once poured in a heavy fire. Two companies were then holding the</p>	

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29.

Date.	Place and Time.	14 th Battalion A.I.F.	Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
20/5/15	"COURTNEY'S POST"	<p>trenches and another was sent up as support. A very heavy fire was kept up until daylight when the enemy commenced to retire to their trenches. During this retirement heavy losses were inflicted on the enemy by our rifles and machine guns. Our artillery opened fire at daybreak and the enemy replied with Shrapnel on our trenches without much damage. About 8 A.M. the attack was renewed but gradually faded out, and our troops took opportunity during the lull to clean up our trenches and repair the</p>	<p>Owing to the operations in progress it was impossible to furnish strength or casualty returns. These shown on 19/5/15 for both days 19/20 ⁵/₁₅. Amm. expended 23,000 rounds.</p>

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Date.	Place and Time.	14 th Battalion A.I.F	Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
20/5/15 (continued)		<p>damage done. It was expected that the attack would be renewed but all remained quiet during the day.</p> <p>5.30 P.M. Red cross flag hoisted from trenches on our right and enemy answered by hoisting red crescent. All fire then ceased and enemy collected their wounded.</p> <p>7.30 P.M. The attack was renewed vigorously and a heavy rifle fire was kept up by the enemy all night. No attack was launched against our trenches however and our men kept low and fired very few rounds. Our artillery</p>	<p>Strength:- 15 officers 689 others</p> <p>Casualties:- Killed:- 1 officer 10 others Lieut. W.H. HAMILTON.</p> <p>Wounded:- 1 officer 69 others Lieut. BOYLE</p> <p>Sick:- 2 officers 5 others Lieut. L.E. BALL " C.R.M. COX.</p> <p>Amm. expended:- 6,000 rounds.</p>

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31.

Date.	Place and Time.	14 th Battalion A.I.F.	Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
20/5/15 (continued)		Kept up a heavy fire all night on the enemy's trenches in front of Quinn's position and our machine guns gave supporting fire as the enemy were reported to be concentrating there.	
21/5/15	"COURTNEY'S POST"	Shortly after daybreak everything again became quiet and remained so all day. In the evening two Japanese trench mortars were fixed in our post under cover of darkness. One being fixed at each end of our trench. During the night these mortars gave covering fire to Quinn's Post and Walkers position on our flanks with good effect. Night quiet.	Strength:- 17 officers 681 others Lieut. A.R. BLAINNEY, Dir " N.C. BOOTH (order appointed officers 10/6/15 Casualties:- Wounded:- 6 other ranks Sick:- 2 other ranks. Promotions of 2 privates. Blainey & Booth to date from 7/5/15.

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800 yds. Comm. expended

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32.

Date.	Place and Time.	14 th Battalion A.I.F.	Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
22/5/15	"COURTNEY'S POST"	<p>All remained quiet during the early morning and during the day. Rain fell in the early morning but the weather cleared again about midday. Practically no shrapnel from the enemy all day. During the night our Japanese trench mortars again did good work; the enemy firing furiously and timidly every time the bombs burst over their trenches. Otherwise night quiet.</p>	<p>Strength:- 17 Officers 674 others. Casualties:- Wounded:- 2 other ranks Sick:- 5 other ranks. Amm. expended:- 300 rounds.</p>
23/5/15	"COURTNEY'S POST."	<p>Information received that Lieut A.H. CURWEN-WALKER previously reported as wounded died on 3/5/15 of wounds. Exceptionally quiet during the day and no shrapnel. During the night the Japanese trench mortars were used with good effect. Otherwise all quiet.</p>	<p>Strength:- 17 officers 669 others. Casualties:- Wounded:- 1 other ranks Sick:- 4 " " Amm. expended 300 rounds</p>

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5-18

33.

Date.	Place and Time.	14 th Battalion A. I. F.	Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
24/5/15	"COURTNEY'S POST."	<p>Exceptionally quiet during the early morning except for snipers. All firing ceased for armistice at 7.30 AM. From 7.30 AM to 4.30 P.M. parties went out under cover of white flags and buried all the dead and collected arms, ammunition etc. All parties returned to the trenches at 4.15 PM and at 4.38 P.M. the first shot was again fired. All remained quiet during the night the enemy at times firing rapidly but no attempt was made by them to advance.</p>	<p>Strength:- 13 officers 661 others Lieut. A.R. COX. returned to duty.</p> <p>Casualties:- Killed 4 other ranks. Wounded 2 other ranks. Sick 2 other ranks.</p> <p>250 rounds Amm. expended.</p>
25/5/15	"COURTNEY'S POST"	<p>Very little firing and all reported quiet in front of our trenches during both day and night. A lot of sniping going on during the day.</p>	<p>Strength:- 18 officers 659 others. Killed 1 other ranks wounded 1 " "</p> <p>300 Rounds Amm. expended.</p>

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34.

Date.	Place and Time.	14 th Battalion A.I.F.	Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
26/5/15.	"COURTNEY'S POST"	Exceptionally quiet all day, very little firing either shell or rifle. During the morning sniping was extra fierce in the bivouac area, everything was again quiet during the night, and men were employed in digging trenches throughout the bivouac all night.	Strength:- 18 officers 651 others Wounded:- 2 other ranks Sick:- 6 other ranks. 300 rounds. Amm. expended.
27/5/15	"	Again an exceptionally quiet day with little firing. Men employed in improving the communication trenches dug during the night and in making dug outs off these in order to obtain cover from snipers who were again back in the early morning. All quiet during day and early evening.	Strength:- 19 officers 643 others 1 officer 20 others arrived 10 returned to duty } 20. 10 reinforcements } Wounded:- 6 other ranks Sick:- 2 other ranks. Officer with reinf. 2/lieut Weale. 400 rounds amm. expended.

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35.

Date.	Place and Time.	14 th Battalion	Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
28/5/15.	"COURTNEY'S POST"	<p>Again particularly quiet except for snipers in valley. Practically no fire in front of our trenches and very little shrapnel. Div. orders recd. making following promotions in this Bn.</p> <p>Capt. G. de Lenc to be Major, Lieut G. J. Clarke to be Capt. Lieut. G. Combes, H. Boyle, W. G. room to be Captains.</p> <p>17 Sergts F. Jackson, S. Hansen, F. Laloe, R. Sanders, Sch Matthews, D. C. Mc Dermott & V. Coultie to be 2/Lieuts.</p>	<p>Strength:- 19 officers 635 others.</p> <p>Casualties:- Killed 1 other ranks. Wounded 1 other ranks. Sick 6 other ranks.</p> <p>2/Lieut G. Cooper attached to 4th Inf Bde. 400 rounds Amm. expended.</p>
29/5/15.	"COURTNEY'S POST"	<p>3.30 AM. The enemy opened a very heavy fire on our trenches followed by a heavy shelling with shrapnel and bursts of machine gun fire. Our parapets were considerably damaged but no attempt was made by</p>	<p>Strength:- 24 officers 625 others</p> <p>Casualties:- Killed 1 other ranks Wounded 6 " " Sick 5 " " 2 men marched in</p> <p>2500 rounds of Amm. expended.</p>

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36.

Date.	Place and Time.	14 th Battalion A.I.F.	Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
(continued)		<p>the enemy to leave their trenches and attack us. We received word that the enemy were attacking "Quinn's Position" on our left in great force and had blown up portion of their trench, and asking us to give covering fire with our machine guns which we did also our artillery opened a heavy fire. Towards daybreak the fire slackened considerably and at 8 AM. we again had everything well in hand and set to work to improve our damaged parapets.</p>	
30/5/15.	COURTNEY'S POST. 12.50	<p>All very quiet except for a few snipers. 3 P.M. all troops stood to arms and</p>	<p>23 officers 622 other ranks. 1 officer 6 others</p>

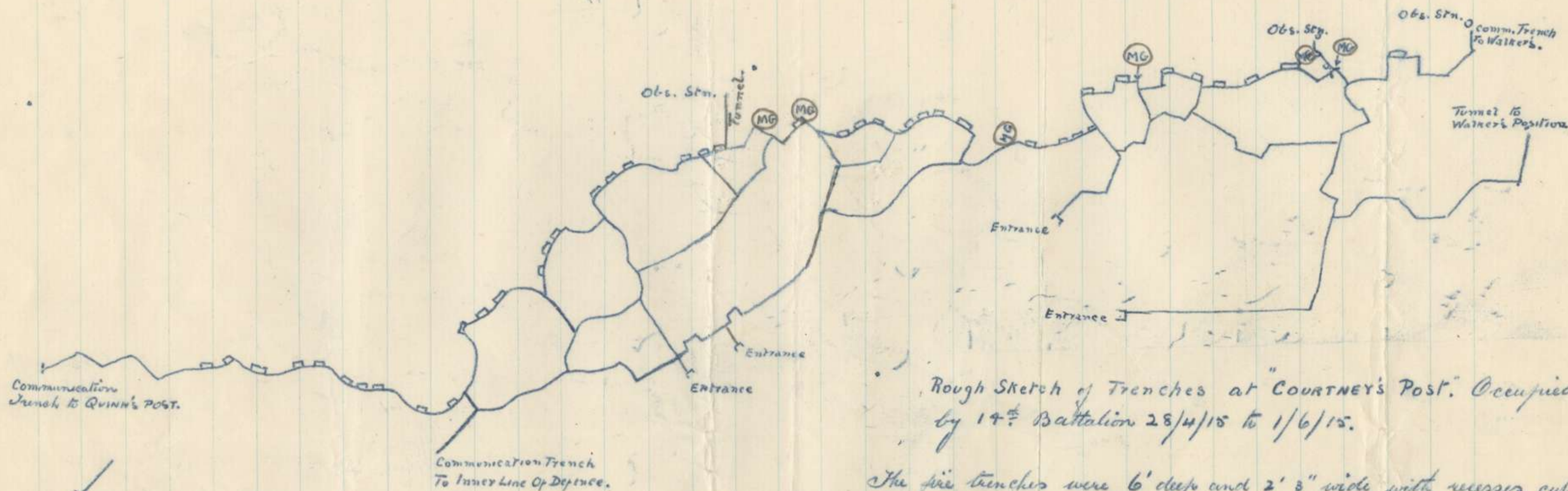
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Date.	Place and Time.	14 th Battalion A.I.F.	Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
<p>(continued)</p> <p>31/5/15.</p>	<p>"COURTNEY'S POST"</p>	<p>our artillery opened fire on the enemy in front of Quinn's Post and the M. Guns of this post gave covering fire to an advance that was made at 1 P.M. All remained quiet in front of our post except that during the afternoon our parapets were shelled. One Company "Otago Bn" N.Z. Inf. Bde relieved the right half of our trenches about noon. All was reported quiet in front of our trenches during the day and practically no shrapnel. All was also quiet during the night. "C" Coy moved to rest camp in Reserve Trench and occupied bivouacs previously held by Otago Regt N.Z. Inf Bde.</p>	<p>on special Bodyguard to Gen Sir Ian Hamilton at IMBROS.</p> <p>Casualties:- Killed 1 other ranks Wounded 1 " " Sick 1 officer 2 other ranks</p> <p>Lt. Col. RE. COURTNEY. Amn. expended. 2000 rounds.</p> <p>Strength:- 22 officers 613 others</p> <p>Killed:- 1 other ranks</p> <p>Wounded:- 1 officer 4 other ranks 1 Lt. Siles.</p> <p>Appendix I attached.</p> <p>600 rounds, Amn. expended.</p>

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Appendix I to War Diary 14th Bn. 31/5/15.

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Rough Sketch of Trenches at "COURTNEY'S POST." Occupied by 14th Battalion 28/4/15 to 1/6/15.

The fire trenches were 6' deep and 2' 3" wide with recesses cut for from 3 to 4 men. These recesses were 4' 6" deep. The parapet was composed throughout of sandbags with 4" of earth in front. All Machine Gun emplacements were loopholed. There were also five iron loopholes for rifles. The Communication trenches were all 6' deep and averaged 2' 3" wide. Machine Gun positions are shown thus (MG)

Chaschick Lane Major,
of Coyt 14th Bn. A.I.F.

Appendix No. 1

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