

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/12/22

Title: 12th Infantry Brigade

December 1917



AWM4-23/12/22

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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
TULLY	1-12-17		Bde Route March carried out. Units marched to Brigade Starting Point and as a Brigade for approximately 2 miles. From this Point Units marched independently to Billets. GOC inspected the Brigade School for NCO'S and addressed them prior to breaking up.	Circular Memo Not issued all Units.
do	2-12-17		Church Parades. Lecture at 4th Brigade Lecture Room ESCARBOTIN on Whiskers by Lieut CLASS R.E.	Circular Memo No 3 to all Units
do	3-12-17		GOC Division inspected 45th + 46th Battalions on route March remainder of Brigade carried on Draining in accordance with syllabus.	
			2nd Course of Brigade School for NCO'S assembled at AULT at 10 am 10 NCO'S from each Bn + 2 NCO'S 24th M Co Company. Chief Instructor Major H.S. ALLEN. D.S.O.	
			45th Battalion.	
		1.22pm	Following Wire received from 4th Australian Division "all Units are to be held in readiness to leave"	

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TULLY	3/12/17		<p>Present Area by rail at short notice and further instructions will be forwarded when available and as above communicated. 45/48 Batts 12" M.G. Coy 12" TM Bty 12" Field Ambulance 26" A.S. Coy.</p> <p>Orders issued for Brigade W.D.'s School to disperse by noon 4th also Brigade Signal School to disperse by noon 4th.</p> <p>Schools being held by Division ordered to disperse by 4th u. Signal School.</p>	
do	14/12/17		<p>Brigade School dispersed also Brigade Signal School. Conference of Unit Commanders at McKay Headquarters, Administration Memo No 69 received from Division for move of Division to new area.</p> <p>Brigade Order No. 183 issued to Units of the Brigade Group for move to new area. Reconnaissance of approaches and E.W. Station carried out by Units.</p>	<p>Bde Order No 183 issued all units Bde Group.</p>

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TULLY	4.12.17		Lo.C Division visited Brigade to send Quarters. Weather cold but fine.	
TULLY	5.12.17		Move of Brigade Group commenced 1st train leaving EU 30 minutes behind schedule time. For move of Bde Group appendices attached. Weather cold & fine.	
HAUT ALLAINES	6.12.17		Units of Brigade Group settling down in new Camps. Following from H ¹ Aust Div timed 11.5 am. Following from VII Corps begins. Under instructions from Third Army you will keep your troops as they arrive in readiness to move if required at short notice. This does not mean a state of instant readiness but only that troops will be in Camp so that they can be collected readily if called upon. ends oaa. all units of Brigade Group informed of this message.	
do	7.12.17		Drawing commenced - Allotment of Drawing Grounds	

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OR INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HANT. ALLAINES	7.12.17		to Units. Rifle Range and 3 Assault Courses available in Brigade Area. Disposition Report. Circular Memo No 4 issued.	Disposition of Units
do	8.12.17		Training now to be undertaken to prepare for open warfare. Report of Sub-innament Brigade Group in accordance with Brigade Order No 113 H'ent. Training carried out. Weather cold.	as at 9 am.
			Fighting strength - sick evacuations - Amprovements - appended herewith.	
do	9.12.17		Baths erected & bathing of Units commenced. which was urgently needed. during period at TULLY area Bathing arrangements were not completed owing to move to this Area. 100 men per hour can be put through.	Circ Memo No 5 & 6
			Units training Platoon in Attack - Bayonet Fighting Circular Memo No 5 issued, also Memo No 6.	
do	10.12.17		Bathing and Training carried out weather cold.	
	11.12.17		Conference of O.C. Battalies at Bde Head Quarters Training discussed - Officers - Routine - Equipment	

WAR DIARY

203
Army Form C. 2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HAUT ALLAINES	11-12-17		to be carried by men of Brigade is ordered to move forward. Circular Memo No 7 issued. Weather strong & biting winds very cold.	See Memo No 7.
do	12-12-17		Draming & Bathing. Conference at Divisional Head Quarters regarding equipment to be carried. Decided to wear fighting order carrying one blanket & waterproof sheet under haversack on back. Sheepskin jackets to be worn. Packs overcoats & blankets to be left in present Camps under guard. Major E.A. WILTON left for A.I.F. Head Quarters TIDWORTH. Weather fine & mild.	
do	13-12-17		47th Batta commenced Muckery Grouping practice remaining units carried out Lyllabus. Weather cold with fog.	
do	14-12-17		Draming Companies carrying out Company attacks for open warfare. Weather cold with frosts.	
do	15-12-17		Figuring strength of Brigade - evacuations for week - Reinforcements joined for week very cold.	

203

WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HART ALLIANCE	16/12/17		Circular Memo No 6 issued. Church parade. During night heavy fall snow approximately 8 inches.	Circ Memo No 6
do	17/12/17		45 th + 46 th Battns carried out Battn attack in open warfare moving through imaginary consolidated general line with each flank protected by neighbouring troops. Exercise brought out many points which were discussed after completion of exercise. Copy of instructions issued for the exercise are attached. Snow on the ground hampered troops to some extent & throughout was bitterly cold with strong wind.	
do	18/12/17		47 th + 48 th Battns carried out Battn exercise in attack in open warfare. Many points again brought out. Conference of Battn Commanders at Bde Hqrs to discuss work carried out by Battns. Weather very cold & hard frost, & cold sharp winds. Circular Memo No 8 issued.	Circ Memo No 8.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HAUT ALLAINES	19.12.17		<p>Brigade Scheme Brigade in attack open warfare.</p> <p>47th Bn representing enemy rearguard position</p> <p>45 & 48th Batts attacking frontage 300 yds each Batts</p> <p>46th Bn supporting M. Bay assisting in attack with supporting fire. Most of the points brought out in the B. attn schemes again noticeable lack of scouts & scouts making fire & not wanting to be enveloped by advancing waves - rushes still to long some up to 75 yds result was men were to extent exhausted & could not use their rifles - noticeable lack of fire orders & control. the advance generally throughout the exercise too slow. Direction & maintenance of distances between lines & waves good. GOC Division present. Exercise to be repeated. Snow still lying about.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HA0-TALLAHIVES	20/12/17		Parties put on roads clearing snow. Companies carrying out Company attacks & correcting mistakes brought out in previous exercise.	
do	21/12/17		Brigade exercise repeated Bde order No 0001 attached during the exercise a very heavy fog prevailed making very difficult to maintain direction. 46 th 47 th attacked 48 th in support 45 th Bn represented an enemy rearguard.	
do	22/12/17		2 nd strength of Brigade. Reinforcements joined for week ending 22-12-17. Evacuations for week. Weather still very cold with snow still about. 5 Bombs dropped	
do	23/12/17		46th 48th Battns assisted by hostile aeroplanes approximately I 4A no damage or casualties. 46 th 48 th Battns assisted Artillery to construct mounds around Home Line for protection against hostile aircraft. Church Parades.	
do	24/12/17		46 th 48 th Battns working with Artillery. 45 th Battns carried	

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HAV T ALLANES.	24/12/7.		out Batter attack with 2 Coys Hq ^r Bn occupying seaward position. Circular Memo No 9 issued. Weather mild & thaw commencing.	
do	25/12/7.		Christmas Day. Thawing + rain during morning changing towards night to clear with showers + very cold winds.	
do	26/12/7 to 31/12/7.		Drawing weather Cold snow still lying about	

APPENDIX

CIRCULAR MEMO.No.1.

1st December 1917.

TRAINING.

The G.O.C. desires to draw particular attention of C.Os to the following points in connection with training - which have already been brought to notice at Brigade Conferences.

1. The work to be carried out must be studied in detail before going on parade.
2. Officers and N.C.Os are not to be employed as Instructors unless qualified to act as such.
3. Every regard must be had to the health and comfort of men as well as to maintaining their interest in the training.
4. All specialists must do the first hour and half's work with their Companies.

In each of the above matters instances have occurred of both the letter and the spirit of the instructions being overlooked and the result is not to the interests of discipline and training.

At the present time the men in each Company must receive the most careful individual attention from Company Officers in order to ensure systematic and progressive training. This is not achieved by large squads which include experts and beginners nor by allowing movements to be carried out incorrectly. Unless now at the commencement of our period of training the regimental system of instruction is placed on a sound basis it will be impossible to look for satisfactory results in the two months allotted.

A. Brown
Captain.
A/Brigade Major.
12th Aust. Infantry Brigade.

007 008 009 010 011 012 013 014

- ~~107207~~ Captain.
A/Brigade Major.
12th Aust. Infantry Brigade.

SECRET

12th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER No. 183

7th December 1917.

Map Reference
ABELVILLE 1/100,000

1. The 12th Aust. Inf. Bde. Group will entrain for PERONNE on the 5th and 6th Dec. 1917 in accordance with attached time table.
2. Units will move independently from present billets to EU Railway Station, personnel arriving 1 1/2 hours and Transport 3 hours before time fixed for departure of trains.
3. An Officer will precede each Unit to the Station and report to Entraining officer. He will take a complete Marching Out State in accordance with attached pro forma.
4. No troops or transport to enter Station Yard until F.T.O. is ready to receive them. Unit Commanders will take steps to prevent congestion of vehicles in yard. Entrainment of Units to be completed half an hour before schedule time of departure. Breast ropes for horse trucks are to be provided regimentally. Lashing ropes will be provided by R.T.O.
5. The D.A.A.G. will act as Divisional Entraining Officer and the D.A.Q.M.G. Detraining Officer. 48th Battalion will detail an Officer as Bde. Entraining Officer and a working party of 2 Officers and 100 O/Ranks to report to R.T.O. U as a loading party. The Bde. Entraining Officer and the working party to report at 8 a.m. 5th instant. Party will work in two shifts of 1 Officer and 50 O/R until the whole entrainment at EU is completed. They will travel by No. 35 Train leaving at 7 a.m. on 7th instant. Rations for 5th, 6th, and 7th will be carried by this party. The Brigade Detraining Officer and a working party of 2 Officers and 100 O.R. will be furnished by the Company of the 45th Battalion proceeding by No. 2 Train at 11 a.m. on the 5th inst. This party will work in two shifts until the detrainment is completed. 48 hours rations to be carried.
6. Supplies. Rations and forage as follows will be carried.
 - 1 Iron ration on the man.
 - 1 days " " or in cookers.
 - 1 " " on supply waggons.
 - 1 " forage with animals.
 - 1 " " on supply waggons.
 Baggage and supply waggons will accompany Units for the move, rejoining their Unit after detrainment.
7. Motor Ambulance Cars and Motor Cycles of 12th Field Ambulance will report to O.C., 13th Aus. Field Ambulance BUIET LES GALLACHES on departure of their Unit. The Ambulance Cars of the Division will be formed into a convoy in charge of an Officer to be detailed by O.C., 13th Aus. Field Ambulance and proceed by road and report to 4th Div. Supply Column at FAUBERG DES BRETAGNE, EAST END of PERONNE, and from thence distributed to their Units. Drivers and car orderlies will be provided with 48 hours rations, in no cases will authorised load of cars be exceeded. Speed not to exceed 12 miles per hour.

8. ACKNOWLEDGE.

A.M. 07.11.17
 Captain.
 1/Brigade Major.
 12th Aust. Infantry Brigade.

Issued at 7.15 p.m.

Copy No. 1 - File.
 2-4 War Diary.
 5 - 45th Battalion.
 6 - 46th " "
 7 - 47th " "
 8 - 48th " "
 9 - 12th M.G. Coy.
 10 - 12th A.L.T. Bty..
 11 - 12th Field Ambulance.
 12 - 12th Field Coy Engrs.

13 - 2nd Coy A.S.C.
 14 - R.T.O. EU
 15 - 4th Aust. Division.
 16 - 13th A.I. Bde.
 17/20 Spars.

PROGRAMME FOR RAIL TRAIL

12th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE GROUP

EU Railway Station

5th and 6th December 1947

No. of Train	U N I T S.	D A T E.	Time Transport to arrive at Station.	Train Departs.	Officer Commanding.	Remarks.
2	Bde. Headqrs. 1 Coy 45th Bn. Bde. Sig. Section 12th L.G. Coy 12th A.L.T.M. Dty.	5th Dec.	8.00	11.01	Captain MARTIN M.G. Coy	Cooker and team 45th Battn.
5	45th Bn. less 1 Coy. 1 cooker and team	do	12.00	15.01	Lt-Col. PERRY MC	
8	47th Bn. less 1 Coy. 1 cooker 1 team	do	17.00	19.01	Captain SYMONS	
11	1 Coy 46th Bn. 1 Coy 47th Bn. 12th Fld. Amb.	do	20.00	23.01	Major LE MESURIER	Cooker and team 46th Battn. Cooker and team 47th Battn.
14	48th Bn. less 1 Coy. 1 cooker and team	5/6th Dec.	0.00 midnight	3.01	Lt-Col. DEEPLÉ	
17	46th Bn. less 1 Coy. 1 cooker and team	6th Dec.	4.01	7.01	Lt-Col. DETHAM DSO	
20	1 Coy 48th Bn. 12th Aus. Fld. Coy. 26th A.S. Coy	do do do	8.01	11.01 do do		Cooker and team 48th Battn.

APPENDIX

203

203

APPENDIX.

ENTRAINING STATE.

12th AUST. INFANTRY BRIGADE GROUP.

Unit.	Off.	OR.	Horses.	Mules.	Vehicles.		Elev- oles	Other Vehs.
					2 wh.	4 wh.		

Note :- Limbered G.S. Wagons to be shown as 2 2-wheeled Vehicles.

Adjutant Captain

12th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

APPENDIX.

Headquarters.
8th December 1917.Entrainment of 12th Aust. Inf. Bde. Group. Brigade Order 183.

In accordance with Brigade Order 183 12th A.I. Brigade Group entrained at EU for PERONNE on 5th, 6th, and 7th December. The move of the Brigade Group was completed at 5.40 p.m. 7th December.

On detraining at PERONNE Units of the Brigade Group marched to Camps at HAUT ALLAINES.

Summary of Troops entraining, giving times of leaving EU and arriving at PERONNE, is attached.

Lieut. A. J. GELSTON, 48th Battalion, was detailed as Brigade Entraining Officer at EU, and Lieut. S. McDONALD, 45th Battalion, Brigade Detraining Officer at PERONNE.

A party of 2 Officers 100 O.R. 48th Battalion was detailed as a loading party at EU, and a similar party from 45th Battalion as unloading party at PERONNE.

Transport and Troops were ordered to arrive at entraining Station 3 hours and $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours before time fixed for departure of trains, and this resulted as usual in a long wait for both Transport and Troops before trains moved out. These times could be cut down to at least $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours for Transport and $\frac{1}{2}$ hour for Troops to arrive before fixed time of departure of trains.

The journey throughout was long and the weather bitterly cold. Owing to enemy action (enemy aircraft) several trains were held up indefinitely along the line and in consequence arrived at intervals of about 5 minutes. In all 5 trains were so affected.

No difficulty was experienced in loading or unloading, horses and waggons being quickly loaded and unloaded by parties detailed for this work, and Units were soon clear of detraining Station.

Guides met Units on arrival and guided them to their allotted Camps.

APPENDIX

12th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Headquarters.
8th December 1917.Summary of Troops and Units who entrained at EU between 11.00
5th December until 07.00 7th December, 1917.

No. of Train.	U N I T.	Off.	O.R.	Horses.	Mules.	Vehicles.		Bicycles.	Rmks.	Time of leaving
						2 wh.	4 wh.			
2	12 ALTB	3	80	2	6	8		2		11.00
	45th Bn.									5/12/17
	D Coy	5	145	2		2				
	12th Bde									
	Hdgrs	7	102	17	13	8		20		
	12 MG. Coy	8	210	52		28	2	4		
5	45th Bn.									
	A.B.C. Coys	26	561	46	20	30	4	5		15.01
8	47th Bn.									
	A.B.C. Coy	27	645	46	18	30	4	7		19.01
11	47th Bn.									
	D Coy	5	146	2		2		1		23.01
	48th Bn.									
	G Coy	8	176	2		2				
	12 Fld.									
	Amb.	7	193	45		12	9	1	Wh. Str. 7	
14	48th Bn.									
	B.C.D. HQ									
	Coys	17	408	27	31	30	4	7		03.01 6/12/17
17	48th Bn.									
	A.B.D.									
	Coys	29	607	29	26	29	4	4		07.01
20	48th Bn.									
	A Coy	4	87	2		2				11.01
	12 F. Coy	4	200	54	20	19	5	31		
	No. 3 Coy									
	Div. Tr.	2	43	25		3	5	3		
35	48th Bn.									
	Fatigue									
	Party	3	100							07.01 7/12/17
		155	3703	349	134	205	37	85	7	

Headquarters.
8th December 1917.

Summary of Detrainment of 12th Brigade Group.

D A T E.	No. of Train	U N I T.	Times.		
			Arrived.	Placed.	Finished.
5-12-17	2	Bde. Headqrs.)			
		" Signallers.)			
		" M.G. Coy)	20.15	20.45	21.25
		" T.M.B.)			
		45 Bn. 1 Coy)			
6-12-17	5	45 Bn. 3 Coys & HQ.	00.40	00.40	1.40
	8	47 Bn. 3 Coys & HQ	7.20	9.00	9.35
	11	46th Bn. 1 Coy)	10.45	11.05	11.25
		47th Bn. 1 Coy)			
		12th Fld. Amb.)			
	14	48th Bn. 3 Coys & HQ	12.00	13.00	13.55
	17	46th Bn. 3 Coys & HQ	15.15	15.20	16.15
	20	48th Bn. 1 Coy)	21.25	21.40	23.35
		26th A.S.C.)			
		12th Fld. Coy.)			
	35	48th Bn. 1 Coy Loading Party			

Headquarters.
7th December 1917.

CIRCULAR MEMO No. 4.

Notes on open warfare training.

1. The objects to be kept in view are -

- (a) Advance by "bounds" i.e. a succession of limited objectives which in turn become "jumping off" places, enabling control to be exercised and preventing loss of direction.
- (b) Maintenance of direction and preservation of the frontage assigned to each unit. Except in sections units will be directed by special details (N.C.O.s or Officers) moving in the centre and similar details will mark the correct frontage limits on each flank.
- (c) Face under fire will be that of a "rush", the length not exceeding 30 yards except downhill or in dead ground, which latter will be crossed in quick time.
- (d) Time of each rush is fixed by the opening of covering fire from flanking units and not vice versa.
- (e) Continuous movement by some portion of the line so as to produce the impression of uninterrupted advance in spite of the opposing fire. Troops in rear should not be moving at the same time as those immediately in their front.
- (f) Simultaneous movement by all in the unit of the advance is essential both in getting up and getting down at each rush.
- (g) Strict control of fire must be exercised in order to deliver effective fire and avoid waste of ammunition. In advanced exercises supply of ammunition must be practiced.
- (h) Consolidation of the position gained and establishment of covering parties must form part of all attack practices except in the elementary stages. This includes thinning out the line when required.
- (i) The formation of a defensive flank to protect a forward line must be practiced by Companies and Battalions both on the move and at the halt.
- (j) The method of carrying out a counter attack will be dealt with under Battalion arrangements.
- (k) Local withdrawals from untenable positions will be practiced in conjunction with counter attacks. The word "retire" is not to be used at any time in open warfare and is to be replaced by "Pull out to - (a definite line or point)".
- (l) Units will practice by night as well as by day forming up for the assault on a jumping off line and will keep a record of the time taken from the arrival of the head of the column till completion of the movement.
- (m) Communication of orders and reports must receive special attention whenever more than one Company is engaged.

The above will be illustrated practically in each Battalion by a selected demonstration platoon at an early date.

W. J. Young
Captain.
A/Brigade Major.
12th Aust. Infantry Brigade.

APPENDIX

203

203

Headquarters.
7th December 1917.

DISPOSITION REPORT.

The following are the locations of the Brigade Group as at 9 a.m. 7th.

Brigade Headquarters.	I.5.B central.
12th A.L.T.M.Bty.	do
12th M.G.Coy	I.5.C.96
46th Battalion.	I.5.a.84
46th Battalion.	I.5.a.47
47th Battalion.	I.5.a.0.0.
48th Battalion.	I.5.a.0.9
12th Field Ambulance	HAUT ALLAINES VILLAGE
12th Field Coy	do
26th A.S.C.	do

Brigadier-General.
Commanding 12th Aust. Infantry Brigade.

203

12th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

APPENDIX

Headquarters.
9th December 1917.

CIRCULAR MEMO No. 5

TRAINING.All Battalions.

Training. Herewith notes giving the method in which Syllabus of Training should be compiled by Units.

The training to be undertaken by Units is to be such as to enable Units to be prepared for Open Warfare.

The time available is 4 working hours per day.

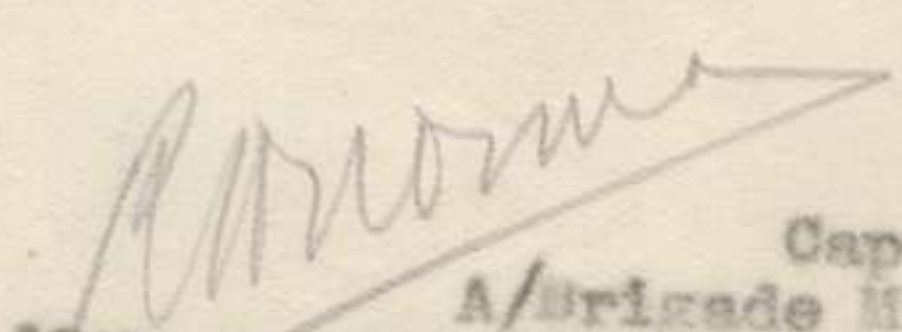
Training is to be progressive and must be made as interesting as possible to all ranks.

At first it will be necessary for the Platoon in Attack to be carried out as a Drill movement, keeping in view to working up to Platoon Tactical Exercise.

Platoon Commanders and Platoon N.C.Os will be called together by Coy Commanders to criticise work done that day and the work for the following day explained so as to enable them to prepare work for the following day.

Morning parade from 7.15 to 7.30 will be for quick movement.

Lectures will be arranged by Units on the following subjects, Defence and attack of Villages, Woods, Strong Points - Practical Map Reading, Drill points, Conduct of Tactical Exercises, Outposts, Patrols, Orderly Room, Courts Martial, Orders, Reports, Magnetic Compass, Sketches, Communications, Marches, Open Warfare, Handling of Lewis Guns, Use of M.G. and T.M., Lessons from the past, Bombing to a flank, Counter attacks - Making and defeating, billets.


Captain.
A/Brigade Major.
12th Aust. Infantry Brigade.

15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Headquarters.
9th December 1917.

UTILIZATION OF TIME FOR TRAINING.

No. 1 Platoon. Platoon attack - Column Route - Artillery Formation - 2 lines - Change direction $\frac{1}{2}$ Right - Rushes - Bounds - Rushes - Platoon checked. Reinforce - Quick time - Rush - Charge - Pull out to

No. 2 Platoon. Platoon in Defence - Column Route - Artillery Formation. Defensive position - Control of fire Reinforce - Gas Alarm. Criticism.

Then change over.

No. 3 Platoon. Extended Order Drill - from centre and flanks. Change direction - $\frac{1}{2}$ left - line a bank. Fire control - Rapid loading.

No. 4 Platoon. Bayonet Fighting - Gas Drill - Rapid loading. Judging distance - Guard and Sentries.

Change over with No. 1 and 2 Platoon in Attack and Defence.

Smoke No and Pile Arms against time.

Platoons assemble.

Company Drill, 10 Movements.

Forming up on Jumping Off Tape - Advance - Return in Artillery Formation - Change direction $\frac{1}{2}$ Right.

No. 1 and 2 Platoons. Occupy Trench System at Trench orders - Gas Alarm - Stand to - Repair of Trenches - Communications - Fire control - Land marks - Rapid loading.

No. 3 and 4 Platoons. Relieve No. 1 and 2 as above.

Battalion Parade for demonstration by No. Platoon.

Battalion Extended Order Drill - Col. of Route - Artillery Formation - 2 waves of 2 lines - Coy to form defensive flank when Battalion advance is checked.

12th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.
-----Headquarters.
11th December 1917.CIRCULAR MEMO No. 7.DRILL

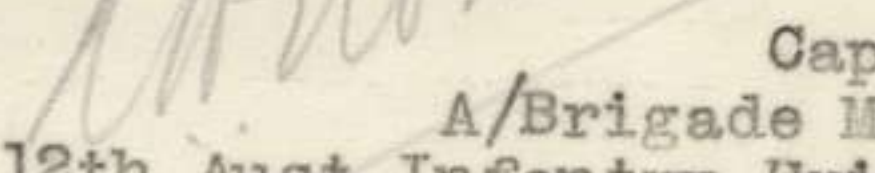
1. Movements laid down by Regulations are the basis of drill and Commanders have the right to practice such other movements, based thereon, as are considered useful in echelon movements by Platoons.
2. Difference between movement in fours and column of route is to be maintained at all times.
3. Platoons are not to be equalized but for drill and ceremonial they will form up on the frontage of the strongest platoon in the Company.
4. Drill time is limited and Units are expected to work at full pressure, i.e., as soon as one movement is completed the next order must follow at once.
5. Under no circumstances is an incorrect movement to be passed at drill. As a rule the movement will be repeated after the error has been pointed out, or the individuals will be checked for their error.
6. Companies and Platoons are to be formed up for drill so as to have the original front rank in front. The practice of repeatedly telling off a Unit is to be avoided.
7. Alertness and adaptability of Units is to be tested on every drill parade by combining movement, fire and use of bayonet.
8. The practice of breaking off and falling in again in the original order is to be carried out at the halt and on the move.
9. When Units are halted by order of their immediate commanders the latter will give the orders to order arms and stand at ease.
10. When a Unit forms up on parade the C.O. will call the parade to attention and receive the Adjutant's report. A Unit is only handed over on parade in the event of the command changing hands.
11. It is impossible to obtain good drill unless the words of command are given correctly and in the manner prescribed in Regulations. Commanders will arrange for the instruction of Officers and N.C.Os who are not up to the required standard in this respect.
12. Arms will be piled and unpiled on the executive order from Platoon Commanders, and must be practiced against time on every drill parade.
13. Units are not to be kept at the slope or at attention longer than is required for the execution of a movement, and the same applies to marking time, which should not exceed the equivalent of 10 paces.
14. On being halted neither Units nor individual men are to close in until the order is given.
15. Correct and quick alignment turns on the Unit of formation being properly handled and on the outer flank of each successive Unit being correctly taken up.

CIRCULAR MEMO No.7 (continued)

16. Unless there are special reasons to the contrary all movements must be done by the quickest method, i.e., deploy outwards, close on the centre.

17. Units will as a rule dismiss on Company parades, after marching past the C.O. in fours.

18. It has been observed that Units carry out during Drill movements unauthorised movements as laid down by Regulations. These such movements are to be prohibited in the field and may only be used when required for straightening up Drill for N.C.Os and at Schools, etc.


Captain.
A/Brigade Major.
12th Aust. Infantry Brigade.

12th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Headquarters.
13th December 1917.CIRCULAR MEMO. No. 8.TRAINING.

1. Umpires are a necessary evil at all tactical exercises in order to post the combatants as to the nature and effect of the enemy fire, to regulate movements round places out of bounds, and generally to aid in keeping the operations under service conditions.

2. Umpires must obtain from Commanders information as to movements which will bring the forces into close contact, e.g., counter attack, assault, resistance to the last, ambush, etc. Such information is of course confidential as regards the opponents.

3. It follows that Umpires must give information to Commanders such as on service would be in their possession as a matter of course, e.g., Nature and volume of fire from the front and flanks.

Strike of bullets on dry soil.
Progress of action on either flank (with imaginary troops). The operations may be influenced on a definite sector for special reasons by statements such as - "Hostile M.G. Barrage is down on your front", i.e., in order to check the rate of advance, the "lift" being given when required.

4. It is altogether out of place for an Umpire to usurp the functions of command by giving troops the order to halt till reinforced or to withdraw. Each Commander must be left at liberty to use his initiative. The exception to the rule is the order to halt and disengage after an assault, and being given by an Umpire on behalf of the G.O.C. must be executed at once and without discussion.

5. The method of Umpires work is illustrated by the following examples :-

1. Skirmishers cross ground under flank fire of enemy M.G. Umpire informs the O.C. of the direction and nature of the fire and states that casualties are 5% to date.
2. The above advance is continued without supporting fire or a change of formation. The Umpire informs the O.C. that his casualties are now 15%.
3. The enemy fire is still disregarded and the Umpire increases the casualties to 25%, one section per platoon affected being placed out of action till the last part of the Unit has passed, when it joins the Unit Reserve.

6. Umpires must keep a short record of events and action taken for use at the conference.

- (a) formations as regards use of ground and as enemy targets.
- (b) fire control and ammunition supply.
- (c) exposure of Commanders, Signers, L.G., M.G., T.M., Runners, etc.
- (d) work of scouts and patrols.
- (e) issue of orders and instructions.
- (f) communications and reports to rear and flanks.
- (g) co-operation between Units, M.G., etc.
- (h) movements with covering fire, tactical employment of L.G., M.G., T.M., and special details i.e., bombing parties.

7. As a rule such notes should be a plain statement of fact and not criticism involving censure or praise, e.g.

1015. L.G. rush forward in open under rifle fire at 120 yds. Team placed out of action. No covering fire.

1105. First wave double over dead ground.

1110. Observer near "S" standing up using field glasses and writing report.

- 2 -

CIRCULAR MEMO.No.8. (continued)

203
8. When casualty tickets are used they will be given in the proportion of 1 Officer: 5 N.C.Os : 20 O.R.
As a rule L.G., M.G., and T.M., will only have their teams or portions of teams placed out of action. Where time admits exposed guns may be disabled, the nature of the damage being stated by the Umpire.

9. It is of the utmost importance that only effective fire should be taken into account and Umpires can only gauge this by viewing the work at close quarters and dismounted i.e., the actual field of fire, accuracy of range, ammunition supply, and effect of opposing fire from front and flanks.

A. D. Norman
Captain.
A/Brigade Major.
12th Aust. Infantry Brigade.

203
12th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Headquarters.
16th December 1917.

CIRCULAR MEMO. No. 6.

XXXXXX

ORGANIZATION.

1. "Over the top" numbers.

Battalions will take into the line all ranks present and fit for duty except Officers in excess of 20 and the following other ranks up to maximum of 108 for a full strength Battalion.

	Total per Battn.
From each Platoon 4 men i.e. 2 L.G. 1 R.B. 1 Scout sniper.	64
From each Company 3 H.Q.Os. i.e. 1 Sgt. 1 Cpl. 1 L/Cp.	12
From the Battalion.	
C.S.M. 2	
Signrs. 10 *	
Runners 13 *	
Instructors 7	
	52
	<u>108</u>

* A proportionate reduction will be made if these are under establishment.

2. Platoon H.Q. (O.R.) are limited to 4 i.e. Platoon Sgt., Signr., Runner and Batman.

3. <u>Company H.Q.</u> (O.R.) are limited to 14 i.e. C.S.M. or acting	
C.S.M.	1
Signallers	4
Runners	4
Batman	1
S.B., Scouts, or	
Runners.	4
	<u>14</u>

4. Battalion H.Q. (O.R.) are limited to a maximum of 70 for Fighting Portion and 80 for Administrative Portion.

Fighting Portion (A)

R.S.M.	1
Orderly Room	3
Gas	1
Signrs.	13
Runners	9
Pioneers	9
Cooks	2
Batmen	6
	<u>44</u>

Additional Nos.
Scouts, Runners, Police,
Medical, up to 26
70

Administrative Portion (B)

R.Q.M.S. & Storemen	3
C.Q.M.S. etc.	8
Transport & Grooms	36
Tradesmen	8
Postmen	2
Cooks	2
Batmen	3
	<u>62</u>

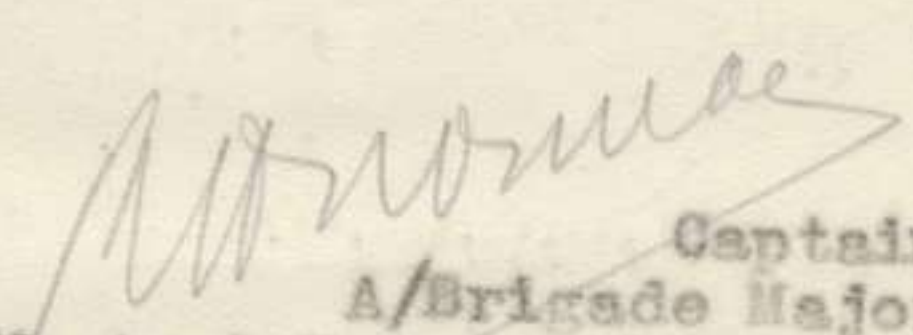
Additional Nos.
Police, Tradesmen, Cooks,
Sanitary, up to 18
80

CIRCULAR MEMO. No. 6. (continued)

Portion A goes into the line. Portion B remains at the Transport Lines. The numbers and allotment of the 26 and 18 additional men for the specified classifications are at the discretion of Battalion Commanders.

Sandmen may be allotted to Portion B by a corresponding transfer of 18 from Portion A to Portion B, the totals for the two categories then standing at 58 and 92 respectively as a maximum.

5. When the Battalion is in the line both portions of H.Q. will be in organised sections (A) under a selected Officer of H.Q. and Sig. Officer (B) under Asst. Adjutant, QMr., and Transport Officer.
6. R.P., Band and Transport (Signallers at option of C.O.) will each be attached to a Company and will be accommodated together, i.e., R.P. with "A" Coy, Band with "C" Coy, etc. The remainder of both portions will remain with their platoons and "on strength" until the Battalion moves forward for operations. The formation of an additional permanent section with each Company is not authorised.
7. When out of the line Battalion classes of instruction in Bombing, Rifle Bombing, Lewis Gun, Signalling, etc will be formed and may for convenience be billeted together with the Instructional Staff during the continuance of the Course.


Captain.
A/Brigade Major.
12th Aust. Infantry Brigade.

12th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Headquarters,
23rd December 1917.

CIRCULAR MEMO. NO. 9.

NOTES ON TRAINING.

The following lessons have been clearly illustrated during the past training:-

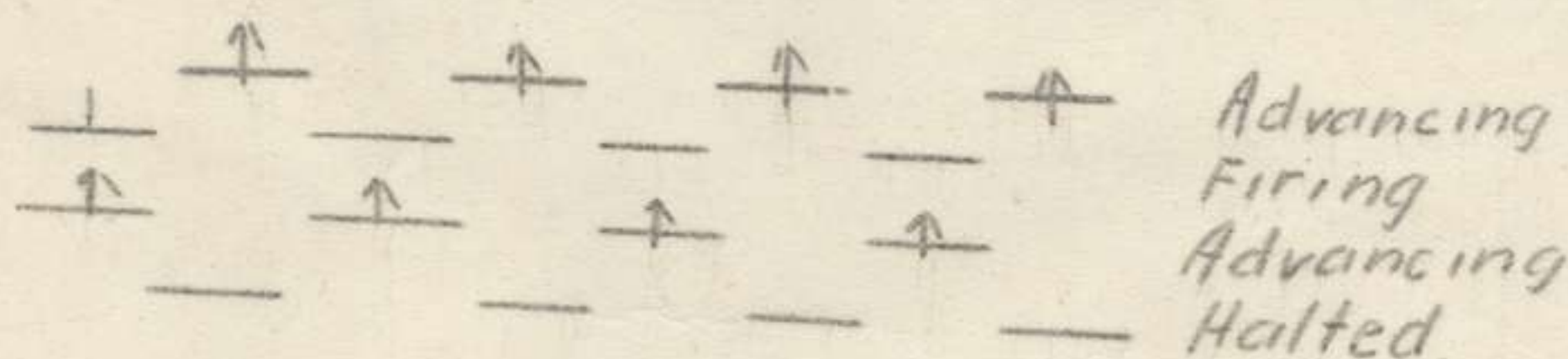
1. It is useless to attempt a field exercise without ensuring that every man taking part in it understands the general scope of the operation and the special part to be taken by his unit. It is the plain duty of every Commander to ensure this information being given and explained.

2. The mission of scouts and patrols is to obtain early information and protect their units from surprise - nothing is gained by their walking up to the enemy lines or preceding their units at a fixed distance regardless of ground etc. Under no circumstances are they to mask the fire of their units.

3. Units in the attack remain in artillery formation as long as possible covered by their skirmishers and firing line. On forward slopes platoons in artillery formation offer a good target and must change to section artillery formation before reaching the forward crest and should cross the forward slope as quickly as possible.

4. On the firing line being checked by hostile fire it must be thickened at once to ensure fire superiority and allow the advance to be resumed.

5. In open warfare movement depends largely on the covering fire of the troops, and requires the closest co-operation between the sections firing and those about to advance. As soon as the first round of the covering fire is given the section to advance receives the orders "Get ready" "Go" and then rushes not more than 25 yards. The method of rushes is shown by the following diagram:-



As a rule 3 rounds should suffice for covering fire.

6. Where a unit is allotted a frontage in yards the whole frontage must be covered by troops. The only exception is a centrally placed reserve.

7. Officers and Headquarters must move in the lines, the only exception being when the former are required to lead their men.

8. A Company and a platoon of direction will be invariably detailed and a special detail told off in each unit to preserve the correct distance of the flanks. Loss of correct frontage will be made good by reinforcing or withdrawing men from the line and not by inclining.

9. Movement along a line exposed to effective fire is rarely possible and except in emergency is not to be practised.

10. Talking and shouting during field exercises is as out of place as it is with drill.

- 2 -

CIRCULAR MEMO. NO. 2 (continued)

11. The strictest fire control is to be practised on all occasions to ensure efficiency of fire and economy of S.A.A. Rapid fire is only to be employed at specially vulnerable targets. Platoon Commanders are to bear in mind the value of flanking fire where opportunity is offered.

12. The handling of Lewis Gun sections must receive the special attention of Company Officers. They are not to be pushed forward as a matter of course unless the ground offers a covered approach; and the supply of ammunition is to be considered in all field exercises.

13. When an advance is carried out under open warfare conditions communication between lines is to be preserved by connecting files at "shouting" distance to convey orders by word of mouth or carrying messages.

Orders or verbal messages from flank to flank will be passed by selected men (about 10 yards apart) and will state the sender and the addressee i.e.:-

From Captain A to rifle section "advance to the sunken road" or "pull out to the bank."

14. Advancing troops are to take special precautions to avoid masking the fire of S.G. in action or interfering with the work of signallers.

15. In crossing trenches, barbed wire etc. in column of route units will move on a broad front so as not to delay i.e.:- Companies will cross the obstacle abreast reforming on the far side.

16. Units will form up on conclusion of exercises on the fraction nearest camp and unless otherwise ordered by Battalion Commanders Companies will march home independently.

17. When casualties are practised by the issue of casualty tickets - the men selected remain on the spot where they received the ticket.

Sections ruled out of action will close and remain halted until the last formed portion of their unit comes up. They will then join the reserve and will not be used again till the last of the reserve has been employed.

R. M. M. M.
Captain.
Brigade Major.
19th Aus. Infantry Brigade.

12th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Headquarters.
13th December 1917.FIGHTING STRENGTH as on Saturday December 8th 1917.

U N I T.	Off.	O.R.
45th Battalion.	42	795
46th Battalion.	44	864
47th Battalion.	43	824
48th Battalion.	36	661
12th M.G.Coy.	11	178
12th A.L.T.M.Bty.	4	83
T O T A L.	180	3405

REINFORCEMENTS arrived during week ending December 8th 1917.

		O F F I C E R S.	
45th Battalion.	4	17	Capt.J.JOHNSTONE 45th Bn.
			Capt.J.H.HOLMAN do
46th Battalion.		24	Lieut.F.P.PRING do
			Lieut.R.S.PICKUP do
47th Battalion.		20	Lieut.R.S.RAFFERTY 48th Bn.
48th Battalion.	1	25	
12th A.L.T.M.Bty.		7	
T O T A L.	5	93	

SICK EVACUATIONS for week ending December 8th 1917.

45th Battalion.	1	14	Lieut.H.C.PINSENT
46th Battalion.		32	
47th Battalion.		2	
48th Battalion.		18	
12th M.G.Coy.		-	
12th A.L.T.M.Bty.		-	
T O T A L.	1	66	

12th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Headquarters.
16th December 1917.FIGHTING STRENGTH as on Saturday, December 15th, 1917.

U N I T.	Officers.	Other Ranks.
45th Battalion.	41	792
46th Battalion.	45	868
47th Battalion.	43	823
48th Battalion.	36	657
12th M. G. Coy.	11	180
12th A.L.T.M.Bty.	4	59
T O T A L	180	3379

OFFICERS JOINED for week ending Saturday, December 15th, 1917.

Captain G.H.CLARK	46th Battalion.	From Seconded List.
2/Lieut.W.JACKSON	46th Battalion.	From Reinforcements.
2/Lieut.R.F.FOSTER	46th Battalion.	From Seconded List.
Captain J.P.FARRELL	47th Battalion.	From 12th Field Ambulance.
Major H.F.McLAUGHLIN	47th Battalion.	From Seconded List, detached to 46th Battalion.
Lieut. E.G.HOLTON	48th Battalion.	From Seconded List.

OFFICERS "GONE" for week ending Saturday, December 15th, 1917.

Major E.A.WILTON	12th Bde.H.Q.	Duty to England.
Captain T.S.LOUCH MC	12th Bde.H.Q.	Duty completed to 13th Bde.
Lieut.(T/Capt) W.McEGAN	46th Battalion.	Evacuated sick.

REINFORCEMENTS ARRIVED for week ending Saturday, December 15th, 1917.

	Other Ranks.
45th Battalion.	14
46th Battalion.	12
47th Battalion.	10
48th Battalion.	24
12th M. G. Coy.	4
TOTAL	64

SICK EVACUATIONS for week ending Saturday, December 15th, 1917.

	Other Ranks.
45th Battalion.	8
46th Battalion.	7
47th Battalion.	2
48th Battalion.	-
12th M. G. Coy.	2
12th A.L.T.M.Bty.	2
TOTAL	21

203

12th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Headquarters,
24th December 1917.

FIGHTING STRENGTH as on Saturday 22nd December 1917.

U N I T	Officers	Other Ranks
45th Battalion.	40	807
46th Battalion.	46	887
47th Battalion.	44	827
48th Battalion.	41	671
12th M.G. Coy.	10	179
12th A.L.T.M.Bty.	4	52
T O T A L	185	3423

OFFICERS JOINED for week ending 22nd December 1917.

Lieut.	L.N. CRICHTON	46th Battalion.	From Supernumerary List.
Captain	H.C. HORNE	47th Battalion.	Rejoined from Australia, detached to 48th Battalion.
Lieut.	F.E. PARSONS	47th Battalion.	From Seconded List.
Lieut.	J. WHITTLE	48th Battalion.	From Seconded List.
Lieut.	J.D. MITCHELL	48th Battalion.	From Hospital.
2/Lieut.	H.J. BURNETT	48th Battalion.	From Cadet Battalion.
2/Lieut.	P.E. NIMMO	48th Battalion.	First appointment.

OFFICERS "GONE" for week ending 22nd December 1917.

Lieut.	R.E. JEFFS	46th Battalion.	Sick to Hospital.
Captain	H.C. HORNE	48th Battalion.	To Base.

REINFORCEMENTS arrived for week ending 22nd December 1917.

	<u>Other Ranks.</u>
45th Battalion.	11
46th Battalion.	20
47th Battalion.	12
48th Battalion.	19
Total	62

SICK EVACUATIONS for week ending 22nd December 1917.

	<u>Other Ranks.</u>
45th Battalion.	-
46th Battalion.	5
47th Battalion.	5
48th Battalion.	8
12th M.G. Coy.	1
Total	19

Headquarters,
4th January 1918.

FIGHTING STRENGTH as on Saturday December 29th 1917.

UNIT.	Officers.	Other Ranks.
45th Battalion.	42	817
46th Battalion.	49	885
47th Battalion.	45	831
48th Battalion.	42	686
12th M.G. Coy.	12	177
12th A.L.T.M.B.	4	49
TOTAL	194	3445.

OFFICERS JOINED for week ending Saturday December 29th 1917.

Lieut. J.R.S. PERRY	45th Bn.	From Seconded List.
2/Lieut. W.A. MCKAY	45th "	Reinforcements.
Lieut. C.J. JENNINGS.	46th "	Seconded List.
" J.P. COWEY.	46th "	Seconded List.
2/Lieut. L. BYRNE.	46th "	Reinforcements.
" H.T. HINES.	47th "	Reinforcements.
" H.W. WOOD.	12th M.G. Coy.	"
" A.R. TREE.	12th M.G. Coy.	"

REINFORCEMENTS ARRIVED for week ending Saturday December 29th 1917.

	Officers.	Other Ranks.
45th Battalion.	1	17
46th Battalion.	1	13
47th Battalion.	1	13
48th Battalion.	1	19
12th M.G. Coy.	---2---	
TOTAL.	6	62

SICK EVACUATIONS for week ending Saturday December 29th 1917.

	Other Ranks.
45th Battalion.	10
46th Battalion.	3
47th Battalion.	4
48th Battalion.	1
12th M.G. Coy.	3
TOTAL.	21

Headquarters,
4th January 1918.

LISTING STRENGTH AS ON SATURDAY DECEMBER 29th 1917.

Other Banks.	Officers.	
817	40	1st Battalion.
888	40	2nd Battalion.
871	40	3rd Battalion.
882	40	4th Battalion.
177	10	5th Coy.
40	4	1st A.I.T.B.
2448	164	TOTAL.

REINFORCEMENTS JOINED FOR WEEK ENDING SATURDAY DECEMBER 29th 1917.

From Recoded List.	45th Bn.	Lieut. J. E. B. PERRY
Reinforcements.	45th "	Lieut. W. A. BERRY
Reinforcements.	45th "	Lieut. C. J. JENNINGS
Reinforcements.	45th "	Lieut. J. P. GUNST
Reinforcements.	45th "	Lieut. P. BERRY
Reinforcements.	47th "	Lieut. E. J. HINES
	12th B.C. Coy.	Lieut. W. WOOD
	12th B.C. Coy.	Lieut. E. J. TAYLOR

REINFORCEMENTS ARRIVED FOR WEEK ENDING SATURDAY DECEMBER 29th 1917.

Other Banks.	Officers.	
17	1	1st Battalion.
18	1	2nd Battalion.
17	1	3rd Battalion.
18	1	4th Battalion.
18	1	5th Coy.
68	5	TOTAL.

ALSO EVACUATIONS FOR WEEK ENDING SATURDAY DECEMBER 29th 1917.

Other Banks.		
10		1st Battalion.
8		2nd Battalion.
1		3rd Battalion.
1		4th Battalion.
1		5th Coy.
21		TOTAL.

[Handwritten signatures and marks]