

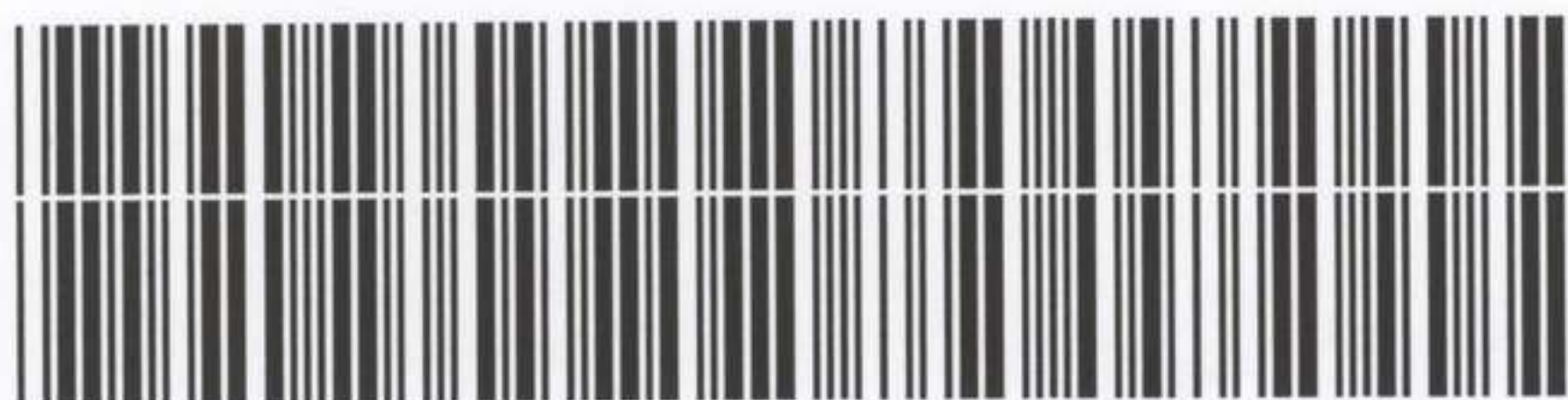
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Infantry

Item number: 23/32/35

Title: 15th Infantry Battalion

February 1918



AWM4-23/32/35

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
DUPLICATE.
TRIPLICATE.



201

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

15th Battalion A.I.F.

FOR

February 1918

Signature of Officer compiling

W. J. Carrigan Capt Adj

Signature of Officer Commanding

W. J. Carrigan Major
b/c 15th Batt

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II.
and the Staff Manual respectively. Title Pages
will be prepared in manuscript.

CONFIDENTIAL

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|--|----------------|------|--|--------------------------------------|
| JOURNAL Camp. Sheet 28 .10.b. | 1918 Feb. 1 | | Strength of Battalion, 43 Officers, 675 Other ranks, excluding detached. Supplying fatigues of 360 men for work on Reserve Line. Balance of men improving camp. No men left for training. Mounting 4 Anti-aircraft guards daily. | |
| | | 2 | ditto ditto ditto | |
| | | 3 | ditto ditto ditto | |
| | | 4 | ditto ditto ditto | |
| | | 5 | ditto ditto ditto | |
| | | 6 | Fatigues cancelled. General clean up of men, arms and equipment, followed by inspection by Co. C. Coys. All Battalion had baths with change of clothing. Men's feet have been giving some little trouble - chiefly abrasions owing to much marching. Measures taken to counteract this were the daily washing of feet in a weak solution of Epsom's Crystals under supervision of Platoon Commanders. Health otherwise fairly good at this season of the year. | |
| | | 7 | 250 Salvage Party salvaging R.E. material for forward zone and 10 salvage party getting in general salvage in our camp area. Balance on Gas Helmet inspection and drill and training in their huts the day being wet. | |
| | | 8 | 10 and 250 Salvage parties as above. 100 Working Party on forestry work at Bois Carre. Highly satisfactory report. Balance of men on camp improvements. New Lewis Gunners on training. | |
| | | 9 | ditto ditto ditto | |
| | | 10 | 10 and 230 Salvage Parties as above. Forestry Party in camp having general clean up of men, arms and equipment. Church Parade in morning. New Lewis Gunners in training. Balance of men on camp improvements. | |
| | | 11 | 10 and 220 Salvage Parties as above. 100 Forestry Party at Bois Carre. 40 Raiding Party training for raid. New Lewis gunners training - instruction on L. G. Balance of men on Camp improvements. Fair number of Officers and Other Ranks at Schools. | |
| | | 12 | ditto ditto ditto | |
| | | 13 | ditto ditto ditto | |
| | | 14 | ditto ditto ditto | |
| | | 15 | ditto ditto ditto | |
| | | 16 | ditto ditto ditto | |
| | | 17 | All men in camp. General clean up of men, arms and equipment. Church parades. Baths for all the Battalion. | |

W. J. J.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

201

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.)

CONFIDENTIAL

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|-----------|-------|------|--|--------------------------------------|
| | 1918 | | | |
| JOURNAL | reby. | | | |
| Camp | 18 | | General clean up and inspection. Gas helmet drill. Standing orders re gas read to all ranks. Lecture on trench feet by Platoon Commanders. Close order drill etc. 100 Forestry party at Bois Carre. | |
| Sheet 28 | | | | |
| A.10.b. | 19 | | Close Order drill, musketry, gas helmet drill, bayonet fighting, standing orders re Gas read to all ranks. 100 Forestry Party at Bois Carre. | |
| JOURNAL | 20 | | General clean up of camp in morning and inspection of men, arms and equipment. Moved out at 3 p. m. for line halting en route near ST EL01 at 4.30 p. m. for tea. Relieved the 48th Battln. A.I.F. in Hollebeke sector. Battalion Headquarters I.33.c.95.50. and boundaries on right - line drawn from P.1.c.22 to O.6. central to O-6.a.22; on left line drawn from J.32.c.95 to J.31.a.00. This is exactly the same sector as we took over on 20th January last with same front and depth. Disposition of Coys. was as follows. Outpost Line, B. Coy. with one platoon of 16th Battln. attached and holding all Chateau Road Group of outposts Support Line D. Coy. Reserve Line A. Coy. do (Railway Trench) C. Coy. | |
| Camp. | | | | |
| Sheet 28 | | | | |
| A.10.b. | | | | |
| and | | | | |
| HOLLEBEKE | | | | |
| AREA | | | | |
| HOLLEBEKE | | | | |
| 1/10,000. | | | | |
| | 21 | | Relief was complete by 9.15 p. m. and was effected without casualties. Night was quiet with normal artillery and M.G. fire on both sides. | |
| HOLLEBEKE | 22 | | Artillery and M.G. Fire active on both sides - most of the M.G. fire being at night. | |
| AREA | | | | |
| HOLLEBEKE | | | | |
| 1/10,000 | 23 | | A quiet day as regards artillery and aircraft, but our and enemy M.G. Fire and enemy mortar fire were brisk at night. A few gas shells were dropped round our 12.O.6. post. Our artillery fire normal, enemy's active all over our sector, our outposts and Battalion Headquarters receiving special attention whilst vicinity of Railway Trench was shelled with gas. Our planes were frequently over the enemy's lines flying at a low altitude and one of his was well back over our line but was driven off by M.G. fire. M.G.'s. were quieter at night on both sides. B. Coy was relieved in the outpost line by D. Coy, and B. Coy. took over the support line. Relief was effected without incident. | |
| | 24 | | At 4 a. m. the enemy attempted a raid on one of the posts in Belgian Wood (our left outpost group) in two parties of 12 and 9. They approached the post silently without artillery support. Our post challenged them when they were close in, on which the enemy threw bombs and he immediately disappeared in the wooded broken country when our post opened fire with machine guns Lewis guns and Bombs. A party from the post pushed out from the post after them but could find no trace of them. Artillery of both sides was active during the day with usual machine gun activity at night. | |
| | 25 | | Enemy shelled Potsdam outpost group with artillery and mortars for 15 minutes commencing at 3 a.m. | |

2449 Wt. W14957/M90 750,000 1/16 J.B.C. & A. Forms/C.2118/12.

Depp

2

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 |
|---|-------------|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| HOLLEBEKE AREA HOLLEBEKE 1/10,000 | 1918 Feb | 25 | and at conclusion of bombardment an enemy ^{raiding} party of 18 other ranks rushed one of our posts (4.P.1) it was driven off by the garrison leaving two prisoners in our hands. Our casualties 2 slightly wounded. Prisoners informed us that some of the enemy raiding party were wounded. Artillery and machine gun fire were normal on both sides. Our bombing planes were active during the day. | |
| | | 26 | Artillery and m.g. fire normal. D. Coy. were relieved by A. Coy. in outpost line and moved into reserve line. Relief passed off quietly. | |
| | | 27 | Enemy and our artillery showed normal activity and aircraft were normally active. | |
| | | 28 | Enemy artillery fire was above the usual, Potsdam Group and Support line being shelled fairly heavily. M. G. fire lively on both sides at night. | |
| | | | General remarks on tour in line up to date:- <u>ENEMY.</u> Enemy's attitude is alert and his artillery and m.g. fire is active and accurate. He registered quietly, all over the sector - mostly with field guns and mortars. His aircraft flew low nearly every morning over our front and reserve lines. His patrols were not aggressive and not many were seen. Ours easily kept command of no man's land. <u>OURSELVES.</u> A rigorous system of patrols was carried out. Each outpost had its listening post out in front and at frequent intervals liaison patrols kept touch with flanking posts and units. In addition each group covered the ground out to their immediate front with local protective patrols, whilst no man's land as a whole was covered by investigating and fighting patrols, from dusk to dawn. Defences were improved - every available man being put on to the work we concentrated on wiring the outpost and support lines and improving and strengthening the support trench, this being the most urgent work to be done. Our raiding party was out each night reconnoitring the places they proposed to raid, but Division decided that the raid would not take place as the identification required was obtained from the two prisoners captured by us when enemy raided on 25th Feb. The weather was fine and the health of the troops good. Food arrangements worked very satisfactorily, and men were supplied with two hot meals daily. Casualties during our tour, 2 Other ranks died of wounds, 23 Other ranks wounded. Strength of Battalion 41 Officers and 707 Other ranks, excluding detached. | |
| | | | 3rd MARCH 1918 | |
| | | | 2449 Wt. W14957/M90 750,000 1/16 J.B.C. & A. Forms/C.2118/12. | |
| | | | <div style="text-align: right;"> <i>W. J. P. for Capt. A. J. P.</i> Lieut. Col. COMMANDING 15th BATTALION. </div> | |

WAR DIARY

OF

15th Battalion. A.F.

FOR

February 1918

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.

Subject.

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1 | Battalion Order No. 16 |
| 2 | " " 17 |
| 3 | " " 18 |
| 4 | " " 19 |
| 5 | " " 20 |
| 6 | " " 21 |
| 7 | Syllabus Trng. week 17/18 |

J. Corrigan
Major
C/O 15th Battalion

201

SECRET

NOT TO BE TAKEN INTO THE FRONT LINE.

COPY No. 1045

app.1.

15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER No. 16.

Reference Sheet No. 28 1/10,000

In the Field.
19th February 1918.

1. The 15th Battalion will relieve the 46th Australian Infantry Battalion on the night of 20/21 February 1918.
2. Battalion Boundaries will be :-
 - a. On right - line running from O.6.d.90.35. to O.6. central.
 - b. On left - line running from J.32.d.15. to J.31. central and thence West along grid through I.36. central.
3. Dispositions of Coys. will be :-
 - a. "B" Coy. - Outpost Line.
 - "D" Coy. - Support Line
 - "A" Coy. - Reserve Line
 - "C" Coy. - do (Railway Trench).
 - b. One Platoon of the 16th Australian Infantry Battalion will be attached to 15th Battalion and will garrison CHATEAU ROAD outpost group.
4. The 13th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION will be on our right flank and 52nd. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION on our left.
5. Guides under Company arrangements.
6. Head of Battalion will pass starting point - Cross roads at North West Corner of TOURNAI CAMP at 3 p. m. Coys. moving at 400 yards interval and in order, Headquarters, "B" "D" "A" "C" and will rendezvous near SPOIL BANK at 4.30 p. m. for tea.
7. Officers' valises, packs, hats and one blanket per man to be dumped by 10 a. m. at end of duck boards at North West corner of camp.
8. DRESS - Fighting order - one blanket, jerkin, greatcoat and waterproof sheet to be carried.
9. All Lewis Guns and 12 magazines per gun will be loaded on limber at 2.30 p. m. at Q. M. Store and taken under guard of Lewis Gunners from "B" Coy. to SPOIL BANK from whence they will be carried to line. Eight extra magazines per gun will be dumped at Q. M. Store by midday and sent by Q. M. to MOLEN DUMP, with rations, to be held in reserve.

P.T.O.

"C" Coy. to detail a Lewis Gun M. G. O. to accompany reserve magazines.

10. Cooking utensils will be sent on to forward cookhouses under arrangement of the Q. M.
11. On completion of relief, Os. C. Coys. will wire Battalion Headquarters in code.
12. Distribution List (including location of Coy. Headquarters) and duplicate list of Trench Stores taken over will be sent to Battalion Headquarters as soon as possible after relief.

.....Captain.

ADJUTANT 15th BATTALION.

1. War Diary.
2. "A" Coy.
3. "B" Coy.
4. "C" Coy.
5. "D" Coy.
6. File.

App. 2

S 18

F

FADE

Batt

Order

No 17

Copy No. 17

App. 2

Kindred troops Hessian 1/15/000

1. A party of 2 officers and 40 other ranks will raid enemy post at PIC 10.40 on night 27/28 February 1918 at about 7.30 pm.
2. Object of raid is to secure identification and live prisoners, if possible.
3. This party will be supplied by C Coy and be under command of Lieut W. Bonnon.
4. Composition of party - 2 Officers and 40 O.R. - of this 1 officer and 15 O.R. will rush post. Remainder - 1 officer and 25 O.R. will protect both flanks and cover withdrawal to our lines.
5. This operation will be in the form of a silent raid.
6. Party will move out from HESSIAN WOOD Trench along a fixed route.
7. The raid will be carried out without Artillery, Branch Machine or Machine Gun Co-operation.
8. It is desired that artillery adhere to present normal shooting.
9. It is desired that artillery do not shoot on PIC 10.40 or PIN HOUSE until after night of raid.

10. Acknowledge

2000

Ad. 1/15/000

FADE

1-4 ABCD Coys FADE

5 14" Machine Guns ✓

6 24" Machine Guns ✓

7 Rich " ✓

8 9 Right & Left Bats ✓

10 11 4" ALTM. 12 1/2" m.g. Coy ✓

12 War Diary

13 F.I.S.

MESSAGE AND SIGNATURE

Copy No. 12.

FADE BATT. ORDER NO. 17.

22-2-18.

Reference Map Hollebeke 1/10000

1. A party of 2 Officers and 40 other ranks will raid enemy post at P.l.c.10.40. on night 27/28 February 1918 at about 7.30 p.m.
2. Object of raid is to secure identification and live prisoners if possible.
3. This party will be supplied by C. Coy and be under command of Lieut. W. Goninon.
4. Composition of party - 2 Officers and 40 O/R - of this 1 Officer and 15 O/R will rush post. Remainder - 1 Officer and 25 O/R will protect both flanks and cover withdrawal to our lines.
5. This operation will be in the form of a silent raid.
6. Party will move out from HESSIAN WOOD Group along a taped route.
7. The raid will be carried out without Artillery, Trench Mortar or Machine Gun co-operation.
8. It is desired that Artillery adhere to present normal shooting.
9. It is desired that Artillery do not shoot on P.l.c.10.40. or PIN HOUSE until after night of raid.
10. Acknowledge.

(Sgd.) T. HEFFER.

Adjutant
FADEDistribution.

| | |
|-------|-----------------------------------|
| 1-4 | A.B.C.D. Coys FADE |
| 5 | 4th Brigade Headqrs. |
| 6 | Left Group Artillery. |
| 7 | Right " " |
| 8-9 | Right & left Batts. |
| 10-11 | 4th A.L.T.M. Bty. & 4th M.G. Coy. |
| 12 | War Diary. |

App. 3

Secret: Fode Battalion Order No. 18 Copy No. 1

Palmerston Map Hollebekk 1/10000 22/2/18. App. 3

- 1 FODE Battalion will effect an inter-coy relief on night of 23/24 February 1918.
- 2 a B Coy will be relieved in out post line by D. Coy.
b On relief B Coy will move to and occupy the support line vacated by D. Coy.
- 3 B Coy will be responsible for patrolling the Coy front before and during relief and will not withdraw its patrols until relief is complete and D Coy patrols are out.
- 4 List of trench stores will be prepared in duplicate and a copy forwarded to Batt. Hqrs by noon of day following relief.
- 5 Completion of relief will be wired to Batt Hqrs by the code word "BOOK"
- 6 Acknowledge.

W. J. P. Captain
Adj. Fode Bn.

Distribution

1. War Diary ✓
2. A. Coy
3. B. Coy
4. C. Coy
5. D. Coy
6. File.

MESSAGES AND SIGNS

App. 4

Secret: Fade Battalion Order No 19 App. 4

Reference Map HOLLEBEKE 1/10,000 ~~4~~ Copy no 1

- 1/ FADE Battalion will effect an inter-company relief on night of 26/27th February 1918, details to be arranged by O.C. Coy
- 2/ a, D Coy will be relieved in the Outpost line by A Company
 b On relief D Coy will move to and occupy the Reserve line vacated by A Company
- 3/ D Company will be responsible for patrolling the company front before and during relief and will not withdraw its patrols until relief is complete and A Coy's patrols are out.
- 4/ List of trench stores will be prepared in duplicate and a copy forwarded to Battalion Headquarters by noon of day following relief.
- 5/ Completion of relief will be noted to Battalion Headquarters by the code word "PIPE"
- 6/ Acknowledge

Distribution
 1 War Diary
 2-5 A B C D Coys
 6 File

W. J. P. Capt Adj
 FADE Batt

Secret

Copy No 12

Battle Order No 20

Reference Holloway

app. 5

1. Bn Order No 17 of 22/2/18 is hereby cancelled.

1. This Bn will raid Gome Copse on night 2/3 Feb 18.

2. From information received the post consists of two pill boxes with a garrison of thirty and two machine guns.

3. The object of the raid is to secure live prisoners.

4. Composition of party: 2 Officers and 40 Cpl under command of Lt W. G. Gorman.

5. Action - Party will be divided into two groups and will assemble in position approximately Pt 2.5.1. at 2.00 minutes. 4 minutes and from this will deploy along track 150 yards north of Gome Copse.

6. Lt 2000 Artillery, Machine Guns and French mortars will engage Gome Copse and enemy supporting points.

7. At 2.00 plus four minutes Artillery will lift and place box barrage across Gome Copse and party will rush Gome Copse.

8. Covering party will take up position on track remaining approximately East and West at Pt 2.5.1. The withdrawal will be along a taped route.

9. When raiders are all out the Officer in charge of covering party will fire two green flares in quick succession.

10. 2000 how will be notified later.

11. Watchers will be signalled at 5.00.

12. For intelligence.

W. G. Gorman Capt

Adj. G. G. Gorman

26-2-18

Distribution

1. 4th Bn Coy. Cdr.

2. 4th Bn Cdr.

3. 4th Bn Cdr.

4. 4th Bn Cdr.

5. 4th Bn Cdr.

6. 4th Bn Cdr.

7. 4th Bn Cdr.

8. 4th Bn Cdr.

Secret.Copy No. 12.B A T T N. O R D E R No. 20.Reference HOLLEBEKE 1/10,000.

- 1a. Bn. Order No. 17 of 22/2/18 is hereby cancelled.
- 1b. This Bn. will raid GAME COPSE on night of 27/28 Feby. 1918.
2. From information received, the post consists of five Pill Boxes with a garrison of thirty and two Machine Guns.
3. The object of the raid is to secure live prisoners.
4. Composition of party - 2 Officers and 4 O/R under command of Lt. W. Goninon.
5. Action - party will be divided into five groups and will assemble in position approximately P.l.a.5.2. at Zero minus 4 minutes and from this will deploy along track 150 yards north of Game Copse.
6. At Zero, Artillery, Machine Guns and Trench Mortars will engage Game Copse and enemy supporting points.
7. At Zero plus four minutes, Artillery will lift and place box barrage around Game Copse, and party will rush Game Copse.
8. A covering party will take up position on track running approximately east and west at P.l.d.8.1. The withdrawal will be along a taped route.
9. When raiders are all out, the Officer in charge of covering party will fire two green 1" very lights in quick succession.
10. a Zero hour will be notified later.
b Watches will be synchronized at 5 p.m.
11. Acknowledge.

(Sgd.) T. HEFFER. Capt.
Adj. Fade Batts.
26-2-18.

Distribution.

- | | |
|------|----------------------|
| 1- 4 | A.B.C.D. Coys. FADE. |
| 5 | 4th A.I. Bde. |
| 6 | Rt. Group Artlly. |
| 7 | Lt. " " |
| 8- 9 | Rt. & Left Bns. |
| 10 | 4th A.L.T.M. Bty. |
| 11 | 4th M.G. Coy. |
| 12 | War Diary. |

Secret. Pade In-entire. Battalion Order No 2/04/6

Reveries Map

Sheet 25. 400000.

25 May 1915

1. Pade Frustration In-entire. Both will be relieved by 9th Aust Infantry Bn on night 1st/2nd March. 1st/2nd March. H B C D Coy relieving over H B C D Coy respectively.
2. Details of relief including guides to be arranged direct between Company Commanders concerned.
3. a No Garrison will evacuate any post or trench before the incoming garrison has taken over.
- b Pade Bn patrols will not be withdrawn till relief is complete and 9th Bn patrols are out and incoming Bn Officers are satisfied everything is O.K.
4. On relief Pade Bn move independently by Coy (in section parties) to following localities:

| | | | |
|--------------|---|-----------------------|-----------|
| Adms. R.A.P. | - | Gravel Dugouts | 1st Coy |
| A.C. Coys | | | do |
| D. Coy | | Gaspers Cliff Dugouts | 04. b 5.5 |
| B. Coy | | Conal Dugouts | 05. b 4.6 |
- b One Officer per Coy and 1 NCO & 1 Scout per platoon will reconnoitre route and accommodation.
5. Cooks and utensils will move under Coy arrangements.
6. Reserve Lewis Gun Magazines (8 per gun) will be sent back to Tpt lines by Coys on returning ration limbers on 1st March under a guard of 1 NCO & 1 QM to be detailed by D. Coy.
- b Lewis Guns and remainder of magazines will be carried by LG teams.
7. Receipts (in duplicate) will be obtained for trench stores - separate receipts in duplicate for Reserve rations required and handed to B.O.R. by 8 am on day following relief.
8. Acknowledgement
- Distribution
- 1 File
- 2-5 A & B Coys
6. War diary

Wally
Cst
Adjt Pade

SYLLABUS of TRAINING for week ending 12th FEBRUARY 1918.

If fatigues do not supervene

| | | |
|------------------|-------|---|
| <u>WEDNESDAY</u> | 6th. | Inspection of men and rifles and fitting of equipment. Close order drill, Bayonet fighting. Lecture by Platoon Commanders "Discipline and Esprit de Corps." |
| <u>THURSDAY</u> | 7th. | Close Order drill, Organised Games, Rapid wiring, Bayonet fighting, Lecture by Platoon Commanders, "Holding and Outpost and Patrols." |
| <u>FRIDAY</u> | 8th. | Close Order drill, Rapid Loading - live S.A.A. - Aiming and trigger pressing, Organised Games, Rifle Exercises, Rapid Wiring, Lecture by Platoon Commanders, "Gas Warfare." |
| <u>SATURDAY</u> | 9th. | Route March, Kit Inspection, Fitting of Equipment. |
| <u>SUNDAY</u> | 10th. | CHURCH PARADE. |
| <u>MONDAY</u> | 11th. | Company Drill, Rapid Wiring, Organised Games, Musketry, Rapid Loading, Lecture by Platoon Commanders "Preventitive measures as regards Trench Feet." |
| <u>TUESDAY</u> | 12th. | Bayonet fighting, Communication Drill, Guards and Sentries, Organised Games, Lecture by Platoon Commanders, "Co-operation of Platoon Weapons." |

N O T E S.PARADES.

| | | |
|------------|---|-------------|
| 7.15 a. m. | - | 7.45 a. m. |
| 9.30 a. m. | - | 11.30 a. m. |
| 1 p. m. | - | 3 p. m. |

ROUTE MARCHES.

One Company each day a distance of six miles. Band to accompany same.

SPECIALISTS.

Lewis Gunners and Signallers daily under L. G. O., and Signalling Officer.

GENERAL.

Class for Batmen to be trained as runners and in Map reading etc.

Saluting Drill quarter hour daily.

Gas Helmet drill daily.

In Platoon Exercises special attention to be paid by Platoon Commanders to developing confidence and leadership in Section Commanders.

Platoon Commanders will supervise daily washing of feet in weak solution of Condy's Crystals.

Baths when possible to arrange same.

Football matches as arranged.

Half hour's physical drill daily.

.....*Bluffs*.....Captain.

ADJUTANT 15th BATTALION.

5th FEBRUARY 1918.