

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/34/25

Title: 17th Infantry Battalion

August 1917



AWM4-23/34/25

Date.	Place and Time.	VOLUME 26	Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
1917			
August 3		Battn took part in skeleton operation Training memo of 2.8.17	
7		Battn marched back to ARQUES area, leaving WESTBECOURT area at 8.20 AM.	O.O. No 40.
		<u>Changes in Officers.</u>	
		Lieut J.T. TOOHEY seconded for duty with 5th Bn.	10.7.17
		Lieut R.E. SHEDDEN do	11.7.17
		No 683 Sgt SMITH H.I. to be 2nd Lieut dated 18.7.17.	
		2nd Lt V.N. HOPKINS is taken on strength from Reinforcements (Cadet Bn) 1.8.17.	
		Lieut H.C. MATHEWS M.C. placed on Supp List 2.7.17	
		Capt R.E. HALE invalided placed on Seconded List 25.6.17	
		2nd Lt R.C. WORTHINGTON transferred to 6th Bn 29.6.17	
		Major L.C. PUSSELL M.C. resumed Regt duty from 1st Army School 23.7.17	

O.11056.

Date.	Place and Time.	Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
1917 August		<div data-bbox="1709 403 2113 645"> </div>
		<p>Change in Officers back to duty at 1817</p>
		<p>Capt. K.W. MACKENZIE M.C. resumed duty from Sec. List dated 1.8.17</p>
		<p>Platoon J.L. WRIGHT M.C. 1.8.17</p>
		<p>Lieut. S.M. BLACKSHAW 1.8.17</p>
		<p>Lieut. J.M. LYONS 31.7.17</p>
		<p>Lieut. A.S.B. ROWN resumed duty from Sec. List 1.8.17</p>
		<p>Lieut. C. ROBINS taken on strength from Res. 1.8.17</p>
		<p>Adj. V.J. SULLIVAN M.C. seconded for duty with 528.10.8.17</p>
		<p>Lieut. P.H. HARRIES 3.7.17</p>
		<p>Lieut. M. DAVIS to be Lieutenant dated 3.7.17</p>
		<p>Lieut. J.M. LYONS 31.7.17</p>
		<p>Lieut. C. ROBINS 1.8.17</p>

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17TH BATTALION. A.I.F.

Copy No. 4...

TRAINING MEMO.

2/8/17.

Reference Training Map of Area W.1. and W.2.

1. Company Commanders, Second in Command of Companies, Two Platoon Commanders from each Company, and R.M.O., will take part in a skeleton operation to-morrow, 3rd instant.
2. Officers from "A", "B", and "D" Companies will meet at Battalion Headquarters at 8 a.m. "C" Company Officers will rendezvous at junction of ALQUINES and QUEER CAMP ROADS (U.15 Central) at 9 a.m. As far as possible, arrangements will be made to mount Seconds in Command of Companies. All Officers should carry Lunch, Maps, and Prismatic Compasses.
3. SCHEME.
The Brigade is holding an Outpost ~~envelopment~~ line just West of HARLETTES-QUEER CAMP ROAD, with Two Battalions, with 18th and 20th. The 17th Battalion is in support of the 18th Battalion, and 19th in support of the 20th. At a time to be fixed, the 18th and 20th Battalions will move forward, and occupy a position on high ground in vicinity of U.23; c to U.18. c., where they will consolidate. The 17th and 19th Battalions will pass through them, and take up an Outpost position on high ground in a vicinity of road running from V.25. c to V.27. a. Approximate boundaries for 17th Battalion will be V.25. c to V.26. a. 2.1. It is proposed that two companies will occupy the line and two companies will be in reserve. This however, is subject to alteration should the ground be such that one company would be sufficient. "A" and "B" Companies will be the 2 companies for the Front Line, and "C" and "D" Companies in Reserve. Should however, only one company be required, "B" Company will form the Outpost Line. Engineers are being attached to Battalion to give technical assistance and any points in the Picquet Line which are suitable for construction as Strong Points, should be at once reported, so that the Engineer Officer can inspect them, with a view to construction of Strong Point. Attention of all officers is drawn to the following:-
Necessity for standing patrols to be in touch with those on their flanks, and with their picquets in rear, using connecting files if necessary.
forward
All roads leading ~~from~~ in direction of enemy, if not under observation, should be patrolled.
That all patrols standing or otherwise, should forward with the least possible delay, any information they may obtain regarding their front or enemy movements.
Picquet Lines should be established in such positions that they command good field of fire, are sufficiently strong to with stand all enemy attacks; and also of sufficient size to hold any supports sent up.
All Picquets should be in close touch with each other, either by direct observation or connecting files, and so placed that they give united support.
Supports should be so placed that they should get as much rest as possible, and at the same time be able to reinforce picquets with the least possible delay and loss.
During daylight, the minimum number of sentries watching Front should be used.
All valleys and woods not held, should be closely watched. In the latter case, sentries being placed at the farthest edge, to give warning of enemy approach.

J.G. Baird

Captain.

Adjutant 17th Battalion A. I. F.

OPERATION ORDER NO. 10.

SECRET.

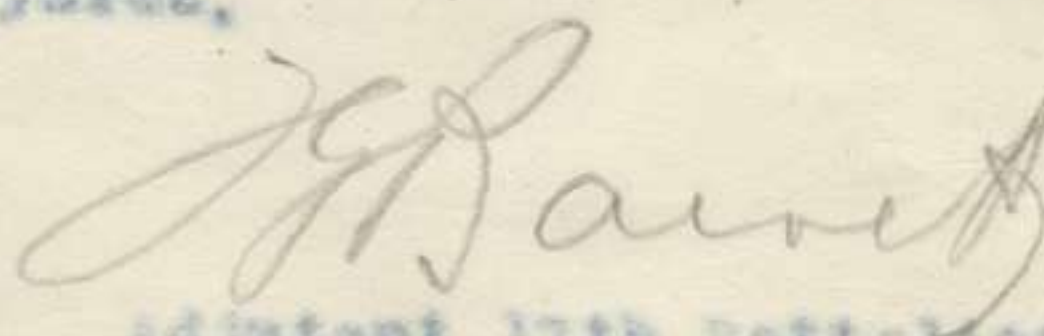
17TH BATTALION, A.I.F. 6/8/17.

Copy No. 10.

Reference HARRISBURG 1/100,000.

Group

1. The FIFTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE will move by march route to ARQUES AREA on the 7th instant.
ROUTE - ACQUIN-LUMBRES-BRIQUES-HALLINES-WIZERNES-BLENDECQUES.
"B" Company will be formed up ready to move off at 3.45 a.m.
"A" and "D" Companies will be at junction of WESTRE COURT-ACQUIN and Val d' ACQUIN Roads at 3.30 a.m.
"C" Company will march in the rear of 17th Battalion, who will pass through HALLINES, being ready to move at 9 a.m.
Baggage of officers from "A", "B", and "C" Companies will be ready for transport at 7.30 a.m.
2. WEAPONS.
Fighting Order with Felt Hats, instead of steel helmets, V.P. Sheets to be carried on the man attached to belt in rear.
3. SUPPLIES.
Rations for consumption on 8th instant will be issued at ARQUES Church in Rue de HAUT/ ARQUES, at 6 p.m. on 7th instant.
4. TRANSPORT.
Transport will move with the Battalion. Cooks in the rear of Companies
Baggage Wagons will report on 6th instant.
Lorries for transport of Packs and Blankets will report as under:-
For "A", "B", and "C" Companies, at junction ACQUIN-LUMBRES Road & Main BULLOCH Road.
For "D" Company at junction of Road from HALLINES and Main BULLOCH Road. (This lorry will also take gear of officers of "C" Company).
5. Blankets, Packs, and Steel Helmets, are to be carried on the man to the point where the lorries are reporting. These will be dumped on the side of the road, and each Company will detail a party of 1 M.C.O. and 6 men as a Loading Party.
"A" Company will detail an officer to take charge of this party, which will proceed by road to new area on completion of their task.
Lorries are to be loaded as quickly as possible.
6. Certificates that present Billets have been left in a clean and sanitary condition, will be sent to Battalion Orderly Room by 6 p.m. on 7th instant.
7. A halt from 12 noon to 2 p.m. will be made for lunch.
8. Distances between Units will not be less than 200 yards, and between Companies and Transport, 100 yards.
9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.



Captain,
Adjutant 17th Battalion A. I. F.

DISTRIBUTION.

1. War Diary.
2. File.
3. C. O.
4. "A" Company.
5. "B" Company.
6. "C" Company.
7. "D" Company.
8. Quarter Master.
9. Transport Officer.
10. Spare.