

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

Infantry

**Item number:** 23/34/39

**Title:** 17th Infantry Battalion

October 1918



AWM4-23/34/39

**CONFIDENTIAL.**

ORIGINAL.

~~DUPLICATE.~~

~~TRIPLICATE.~~

Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

OF

17<sup>TH</sup> BATTALION

FOR

OCTOBER 1918



Signature of Officer compiling

*Fred W. Craft Lieut.*

Signature of Officer Commanding

*W. J. Bakeman Lt Col*

WAR DIARY

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.

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

(Erase heading not required.)

86

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Near JONCOURT	October 1		<p>Battalion moved by route march to the HARGICOURT area <i>vide Operations Order</i></p> <p>In the evening it moved to the line relieving remnants of the 30<sup>th</sup> &amp; 32<sup>nd</sup> battalions A.I.F. near JONCOURT H9 a and b. Battalion Hqs H19a 6585</p> <p>During relief the battalion passed through desultory shell fire &amp; moderately heavy bombing from enemy aircraft with the result that Lieut R.A. FITZALLAN was wounded and 2 other ranks were killed.</p> <p>Relief completed</p> <p>Chaplain Rev F.W. TUGWELL on leave to U.K.</p> <p>G.O.C. interviewed Brigade Cos at Bde Headquarters</p> <p>On night 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Oct. Battalion Headquarters were moved to H.Q.C. 25</p> <p>During the night orders were received to cooperate with other units of the Brigade in an operation. (For detail <i>vide</i> Cos report in appendices)</p> <p>L.C. had a meeting of Company Commanders &amp; issued verbal orders re above operation.</p> <p>During the morning the enemy shelled heavily the village of JONCOURT &amp; vicinity with mustard &amp; sneezing gas shells with the result that the area was literally saturated with gas particularly in the vicinity of Bn Hqs at H.Q.C. 25.</p> <p>The gas, always inconvenient owing to the necessity for the use of the A.P.R. &amp; avoidance of unnecessary movement, was in this case extremely so.</p> <p>In preparation for the coming operation a special meal for the men had to be arranged &amp; many other minor details attended to, with the result that opportunities for the gas to take effect could not be avoided.</p>	<p>appendix 1</p> <p>APP. 2</p>

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices												
JONCOURT & WIANCOURT	Oct 3 <sup>rd</sup>		<p>The battalion attacked at 6.5 am. The C.O. was Lt. Col. R.M. SADLER MC, O.C. B<sup>coy</sup> Captain H. RONALD D.S.O., O.C. C<sup>coy</sup> Capt. J.L. WRIGHT MC, O.C. D<sup>coy</sup> Capt. K.W. MCKENZIE M.C. vide appendix 2</p> <p>During the night of the 3<sup>rd</sup> &amp; 4<sup>th</sup> October the battle front was taken over by units of the 6<sup>th</sup> Brigade A.I.F. who passed through our front posts &amp; took up a position slightly forward thereby automatically relieving our men.</p> <p>At midnight on the third orders were received by wire to withdraw and concentrate in H. 13a (WIANCOURT 1:20000)</p> <p>During the day the mustard gas which takes some time to have effect resulted in the evacuation of the following officers: — The C.O. Lt. Col. R.M. SADLER MC, Capt. K.W. MCKENZIE M.C., Lieut. W.R. HAIGH M.C. adjutant, Lieut. G.R. MCPHEE M.I.O., Lieut. C. BLACKFORD Sq. O., Lieut. E.W. DARK L.G.O., Lieut. R.E. MASTERSON, Lieut. H.E. HARRIES, Lieut. H.R. BOOTH, Lieut. R.W. PETTIT, Lieut. W. MOORE, Lieut. C.R. NICHOLSON also Captain H.T. ALLAN MC who was attached to the Brigade on the night as liaison officer.</p> <p>The following officers were wounded: — Capt. H. RONALD D.S.O., Lieut. T.L. ADAMS, Lieut. R.T. PHELPS, Lieut. W.A. ROBERTSON.</p>	<p>App 2 92a.</p>												
			<p>The remaining casualties were</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>102</td> <td>O.R.</td> <td>evacuated</td> <td>gassed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>18</td> <td>O.R.</td> <td>K.I.A.</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>85</td> <td>O.R.</td> <td>wounded</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	102	O.R.	evacuated	gassed	18	O.R.	K.I.A.		85	O.R.	wounded		
102	O.R.	evacuated	gassed													
18	O.R.	K.I.A.														
85	O.R.	wounded														

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ETRICOURT	October cont.	4 <sup>th</sup>	<p>On the evacuation of Lieut W.R. HAIGH MC, Lieut A.F. GILBERT took over the duties of adjutant                      On the evacuation of the Co. the next senior officer available in the battalion Captain J.L. WRIGHT MC. was sent for to take over the command.                      Instructions were sent to companies per runner, to withdraw and assemble at Battalion Hqs. The assembly was complete at 6am.                      and the Battalion consisting of 5 officers and 60 O.R. moved off &amp; took up a position in H. 13a near ETRICOURT as per instructions                      Move complete The location of the battalion was sent to the G.M. &amp; S.O.                      Hot meal arrived.                      In the meantime the men had dug accommodation for themselves in shell holes &amp; partly obliterated trenches in the area. After a good hot meal they turned in for a sleep.                      A party was sent forward to scout the scene of operations in the daylight for locating dead &amp; salvaging L. G. material. They were successful in locating most of the dead also in obtaining 5 L.G.s and 100 magazines                      Lieuts CR. MAYNARD, C. ROBINS and R.R.F. WILLARD MC. reported back from U.K.                      Lieut H.E. LANE back from Hospital</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
WIANCOURT	October 5	9am 12noon	<p>Battalion much refreshed after a nights sleep.</p> <p>Lieut GK Richmond with a party of 6 men with a lumber collected the remains of our men killed in action, which were located by him, yesterday &amp; conveyed them to a spot chosen by Chaplain The Revd KING 18th Battalion at WIANCOURT. A burial service was conducted by the chaplain.</p> <p>The weather during the day was good. Enemy aircraft were very active being frequently engaged by our own.</p>	
ETRICOURT	October 6	9am 12noon	<p>9pm Enemy aircraft extremely active in bombdropping. Beyond altering the shape of the ground dangerously close to us no harm was done.</p> <p>10pm Verbal warning per telephone from Brigade that Battalion would be moving tomorrow morning to the HERVILLY area, passing the starting point at 9am. Vide operation order in appendix.</p> <p>Two advance parties each of 1 officer and 1 OR reported to Brigade Hqs for arranging billets (1) HERVILLY area (2) VIGNACOURT area to which latter place the battalion is to proceed within a day or so.</p> <p>9am Battalion moved from ETRICOURT by march route passing the starting point at 9am arriving in HERVILLY area about 12 noon.</p>	appendix 3

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HERVILLY area	October 6th	12 noon	The men who were very tired after their march turned in for a sleep	
		6 pm	Orders received for C.O. to proceed to HESBICOURT for conference with the Divisional commander	
		12 midnight	Orders received for the move tomorrow by train and march route to VIGNACOURT. Battalion order issued. vide appendix W.4.	App. 44
	October 7th	5.30 am	Reveille	
		6 am	Breakfast	
		7.15 am	Battalion moved off passing the starting point at 7.55 am as required	
		10 am	Arrived at TINCOURT station	
		11.30 am	Embarked	
		6.30 pm	Arrived at ST. ROCH station AMIENS and detrained	
		Midnight	Arrived at VIGNACOURT after a long & wearisome march.	
			Billeting party had arranged billets well and the Battalion was accommodated in a very short time the only hitch being that the field kitchens which were coming per the omnibus train had not arrived and a much desired meal did not eventuate & the men turned in without	
			Lieut F.W. CROFT who had rejoined from the 4th Army S.O.S. school at BOUCHON assisted in the billeting	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices						
VIGNACOURT	Oct. 8 9 <sup>th</sup> 10 <sup>th</sup> 11 <sup>th</sup> 12 <sup>th</sup>	6am	<p>Field Kitchens arrived &amp; commenced operations for a meal. On the completion of the meal the men turned in &amp; rested for the day.</p> <p>Anniversary of a very lively operation at PASSCHENDAELE</p> <p>Day spent in general cleaning up &amp; final sifting of billets</p> <p>19<sup>th</sup> battalion dissolved &amp; A Coy of that unit transferred to us</p> <p>The numbers were as follows.</p> <table border="0" style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td>16 officers</td> <td>134 ORs</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10 do</td> <td>62 OR detached.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6 do</td> <td>72 OR actually handed over.</td> </tr> </table> <p>The officers transferring were: — Capt R.C.A. ANDERSON, Capt J.S. DOUGLAS                  Capt W.L. TRENERI M.C., Lieutenants G.H. PEDEN, W.T. BASTIN, C.A. NIVEN, A.L. LILLIE,                  A.J. CHARKER, E.L. HALL, R.J. FITZROY, AC. BIRD, H.W. KIRKE M.C., M. HAYES, H.A.S. HUGHES M.C.                  L.W.S. SEABORN, 2/LT L.H. BRAND D.C.M.</p> <p>Battalion parades were held for refresher drill</p> <p>During the morning the battalion paraded to the baths                  A hot shower was indulged in &amp; a clean change given out</p> <p>The day was very showery.</p> <p>5 military medals awarded in the battalion</p>	16 officers	134 ORs	10 do	62 OR detached.	6 do	72 OR actually handed over.	
16 officers	134 ORs									
10 do	62 OR detached.									
6 do	72 OR actually handed over.									

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VIGNACOURT	Oct. 12	10am	The C.O. Captain J.L. WRIGHT M.C. inspected the Bn. on the parade ground. The day was very showery.	
			There was no parade on in the afternoon the men having an opportunity to look round.	
	13 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am 10am	Captain W. R. NEWING joined the battalion as R.M.O. vice Capt. BEARE. Roman Catholic Church parade in VIGNACOURT Church held by MAJOR Father CLUNE M.C.	
		10am	Brigade Church Parade (CofE + O.P.D.) was held by the Chaplains of the 18 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> Battalions in a hall at the end of STATION ST.	
			The 18 <sup>th</sup> Bn. Chaplain delivered an address the theme of which was "Play the game" in the village & elsewhere.	
	14 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am 2.0pm	Lieut. C.J. SAMMERS went to Corps Gas school. Company Parades held on which inspections + Refreshes drill were carried out.	
		3.0pm	Lieut. E.H. McCULLOCH returned from Army Sq. school. Lieut. W.H.B. PALMER returned from Australia where he had been evacuated from GALLIPOLI.	
	15 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am 2.0pm	Company parades. A Lewis gun course was commenced under the supervision of LIEUT. FITZROY and all companies are to go through a thorough instruction in that weapon. Lieut. H. SMITH went on V.K. leave.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VIGNACOURT	15 <sup>th</sup>	1.30pm	C.O. Inspected headquarters batmen & orderlies in full marching order	
		2.0pm	C.O. Inspected all cooks of the battalion in full marching order, Day fairly fine	
	16 <sup>th</sup>	9.30pm	Coy. Parades held for inspection, and Lewis Gun work	
		2.0pm	Footballs have been obtained and practice has been indulged in by a number of officers and men with a view to getting into condition for inter-battalion & other matches	
			The weather today was rather good	
			Lieut W.S. HAM returned from U.K. leave	
			The following officers awarded M.C. :- Cpt AL McLEARN (ARMC), 2/Lt CR. NICHOLSON, 2/Lt H.S. HUGHES	
	17 <sup>th</sup>		Coy. parades held for inspection and Lewis Gun work	
			Football practice was held during the afternoon	
			The day was chilly & a little showery.	
	18 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Company parades were held also Lewis gun instruction.	
		3.0	A Company played the "Rest" Rugby football. The result was a victory for the "Rest" 11 points to 3.	
			The day was fine & not too cold	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VIGNACOURT	19.	10am 2pm	<p>The Co. inspected the battalion on the Parade Ground.</p> <p>In the afternoon the Battalion Sports were held on the Aerodrome grounds. A programme of sports was carried out &amp; prizes presented at the end of each event.</p>	
	20.	9am 10am	<p>Chaplain Capt. Rev F.W. TUGWELL returned from U.K. leave.</p> <p>Lieut C. J. SAMS returned from the Corps Gas School.</p> <p>16 military medals and 1 bar to m.m. awarded in the battalion.</p> <p>R.C. Church parade held in the VIGNACOURT Church.</p> <p>C of E Church parade was held in hall at end of STATION St. under Rev. F.W. TUGWELL.</p>	
		10am	<p>O.P.D. Church parade was held by the 20th B. Chaplain.</p> <p>Lieut E.D. MILLER returned from hospital in ENGLAND.</p> <p>Lieut J.T. TOOHEY rejoined the battalion from Division.</p>	
	21.	2.30	<p>The Brigadier General inspected the Brigade on the grounds adjoining the aerodrome.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VIGNACOURT	Oct 22		Training carried out as per syllabus Day fine + sunny.	App. 5
	23.		Syllabus of training carried out. day being clear + bright. Lieut F.W. CROFT on leave to PARIS	
	24.		Syllabus of training carried out. weather fine	
	25.		In the morning training was carried out. In the afternoon we played the 20th Bn football (Rugby) having a win 10-4. The day was bright + sunny.	
	26		The Brigadier inspected the billets. The adjutant Lieut A.F. GILBERT went on leave to U.K. Lieut F.W. TINDALE taking up the duties Lieut G.H. PEDEN evacuated to hospital.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VIGNACOURT	27		<p>Captain E. MANEFIELD M.C. rejoined from Army school + took over command of the battalion</p> <p>Lieut J.T.T. TOOHEY proceeded to Corps Gas school syllabus carried out</p>	
	28		<p>The following officers were awarded M.C's :- Capt E.T. MANEFIELD, Lt R.W. PETTIT, Lieut N.L. FLOOD, E.L. HALL, F.W. CROFT, L.W.S. SEABORN.</p> <p>In the morning baths.</p> <p>In the afternoon we played the 18<sup>th</sup> Bn football (rugby) Result a win for us 12-3.</p>	<p>3 D.C.M.s awarded to O.R.s</p>
	29	9.10 am	<p>Lieut. R.C. WORTHINGTON returned from Hospital</p> <p>Church parades held by the Chaplains of the Brigade</p> <p>Lieut L. LAYTON-SMITH M.C. joined from 19<sup>th</sup> Battalion as adjutant</p>	
	30		<p>Lieut H. SMITH returned from U.K. leave</p> <p>Training syllabus carried out. Day bright + sunny</p>	
	31		<p>Training syllabus carried out. Day fine</p> <p>Lieut H. HEMBROW went to Veterinary school.</p> <p>16 medals and 1 bar to M.M. awarded in the battalion</p>	

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**WAR DIARY**

OF

*17TH* BATTALIONA. I. F.  
FOROCTOBER 1918**LIST OF APPENDICES.**

No.	Subject.
1	March to HARGICOURT area
2	2nd Co's report on operations
3	March to HERVILLY area
4	do VIGNACOURT
5	Brigadier's inspection
6	Training Syllabus
7	Transport Officers Report
8	Quartermaster's Report

App 1

PRELIMINARY.

Hd. Qrs. 17th Battalion A.I.F.,  
1st October 1918.

All Companies.

1. The Battalion will be moving to the HARGICOURT Area this morning
  2. Breakfast will be at 7 a.m.
  3. The Battalion will be ready to move off at 8.30 a.m.
  4. Blankets will be carried on the man.
  5. Officers' packs will be at R. Q. M's. Store at 7.45 a.m.
  6. Advance parties of 2 N. C. O's. per Company will be ready to move off at 7 a.m.
- Officer Commanding "B" Company will please detail Lieut. F. WARNER to accompany the party

(Signed) W. R. HAIGH, Lieut.  
A/Adjutant 17th Battalion A.I.F.

CONFIRMATION.

Hd. Qrs. 17th Battalion A.I.F.,  
1st October 1918.

All Companies.

1. The Battalion will move to the HARGICOURT Area this morning.
2. The route will be - VILLERS FAUCON - TEMPLEUX le GUERARD - L.3 and L.4.
3. Companies will march by platoons in column of threes at 25 yards interval. Order - "HQ", "B", "C", "D" Companies.
4. The Battalion will move off at ~~8.30~~ 8.20 a.m. instead of 8.30 a.m.
5. Greatcoats will be carried under haversack; blankets rolled in waterproof sheet on the belt.

(Signed) W. R. HAIGH, Lieut.  
A/Adjutant 17th Battalion A.I.F.

APPENDIX

Headquarters,  
5th Australian Infantry Brigade.

Herewith report on operations between the 27th September 1918 and 4th October 1918.

Reference Map:-

Sheet 62.c., 1/40,000.  
WIANCOURT. 1/20,000.

The 17TH BATTALION. A.I.F. moved by route march to the BUSSU Area on the night 27/28th September 1918, and bivouaced in the vicinity of J.16.

On the night 28/29th September the Battalion moved by route march to the LONGAVESNES Area, and bivouaced in the vicinity of E.25.b.

On the morning 1st October 1918, the Battalion moved by route march to the VILLERET Area, and the same evening moved to the line, relieving remnants of the 30th and 32nd Battalions near JONCOURT - H.9.a. and b.

The Battalion was disposed as follows:-

"B" Company - Line Right  
"C" Company - Line Left  
"D" Company - Support, and Battalion Headquarters at H.19.a.65.85.

On the night 2nd/3rd October, Battalion Headquarters moved to H.9.c.2.5., and during the night orders were received to co-operate with the other Units of the Brigade in an operation, the scheme of which was as follows:-

The 18th Battalion on the Right, and the 19th on the Left, were to take the two lines of trenches of the BEAUREVOIR LINE, the 17th on the Right, and the 20th on the Left moving through them to further objectives. The 17th Battalion's objective was the Village of PONCHAUX on the Left, thence a line running North and South from B.12.c.5.0 to trenches at B.30.a.5.8., and included the Village of WIANCOURT and the buildings at GENEVE.

The Battalion formed up on the Jumping-off Mark 70 yards behind the 18th Battalion in one wave of two lines. Each line was composed of Sections in single file. The order of battle was - "B" Company in the Centre, under Captain H. RONALD, DSO.; "D" Company on the Right, under Captain K. W. MACKENZIE, MC.; and "C" Company on the Left, under Captain J. L. WRIGHT, MC. Zero was at 6.5 a.m. on the 3rd October 1918.

The centre and right Companies passed through the BEAUREVOIR LINE, took the Village of WIANCOURT, and at 9 a.m. reported that they were held up at B.29.c.9.4., by a battery of field artillery and machine guns firing point blank at 1,200 yards range; both flanks were in the air, and they were digging in at that spot. During their advance from BEAUREVOIR LINE, they captured a number of machine gun posts, and were assisted by Tanks.

The Left Company of the 18th Battalion and the Right of the 19th were held up, and although the enemy wire was reached, and "C" Company 17th Battalion reinforced them, they were unable to advance. At 7.25 am "C" Company 17th reported that it was impossible to advance any further and asked for Tank assistance. No tanks assisted the advance in this vicinity, but some, advancing near the ESTREES - GENEVE Road, became casualties before reaching the enemy front line. At 8.45 a.m. the Left Company of the 18th Battalion and "C" Company of the 17th, dribbled back to Sunken Road in H.3.a., and at 10.30 a.m. advanced again to the attack after a short artillery preparation. The enemy assisted the advance by shelling his front line, and the attacking troops experienced no resistance.

Owing to the small number of men at this point of the line, "C" Company 17th Battalion assisted to mop up the BEAUREVOIR LINE, on the completion of which the advance was resumed. At 12 noon the advance was



Appendix 2

5/10/18.

(2)

17th Battalion A.I.F.Report on Operations (continued).

again stopped by machine gun fire from ridge in B.22.b. As the number of men left was now only 20, including officers (2), and both flanks were in the air, the nearest troops on the right being about 800 yards away and no sign of them on the left, "C" Company dug in on a line from B.28.a.2.2 to the ESTREES - GENEVE Road, and at right angles to it. Eight became casualties from gas during the afternoon, and at nightfall only one Sergeant and nine other ranks remained, owing to the Officer Commanding "C" Company being recalled to Battalion Headquarters to take command of the Battalion, and the remaining officer being evacuated gassed.

About 6 p.m., the Units on the left established a chain of posts across the ESTREES - GENEVE Road, linking up with "C" Company, 17th Battalion.

During the night 3rd/4th October the battle front was taken over by Units of the 6th Australian Infantry Brigade, and the 17th Battalion, on relief, moved to the vicinity of H.13.a., North of ETRICOURT.

Our artillery was falling short at H.3.a.2.5. during the attack, and was largely responsible for the considerable change in direction of parts of the left Companies of the 17th and 18th Battalions. The centre Company also reported casualties due to our own barrage falling short.

(Signed) J. L. WRIGHT, Captain.  
A/Commanding 17th Battalion A. I. F.

APPENDIX 2

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Appendix 20  
COPY.

Hd. Qrs. 17th Battalion A.I.F.,  
9th October 1918.

86

Headquarters,  
5th Australian Infantry Brigade.

Herewith Supplementary Report on the operations near WIANCOURT  
on the 3rd October 1918 :-

- (a) ARTILLERY. Our barrage was ragged on the left of the Battalion Sector near the Village of ESTREES, one gun firing particularly short.
- (b) TANKS AND WHIPPETS. The tanks were late; so late, that the attacking troops had lost the benefit of the barrage before they arrived. No tanks reached the BEAUREVOIR LINE on the Left of the Sector, but two pierced it on the Right. The Whippets detailed for the 17th Battalion did not eventuate at all. One tank reported that he had only enough petrol to take him to the wire, so he was ordered to remain in the Sunken Road.
- (c) ZERO HOUR, was quite OK, but it certainly could not have been later, as the attacking troops would have been seen.
- (d) The TAPE could have been a little closer to the objective.
- (e) ENEMY STRENGTH. We were of the opinion that the enemy were holding the line strongly, because on the 2nd, we had observed the 32nd Division suffer severe casualties in their attack. The machine gun fire at night was, if anything, above normal.
- (f) DIRECTION. From the point of view of a Company Commander in the operation, it is my opinion that every officer must always have a Compass with him, whether prismatic or otherwise. Very few men of the Left Company of the 18th Battalion arrived on their Sector, the majority going to the Right; the same applied to the 17th Battalion; and both the platoons which did arrive OK - one of which was Company Headquarters, were directed by Compass.

(Signed) J. L. WRIGHT, Captain.  
A/Commanding 17th Battalion A. I. F.

APPENDIX A 10

App. 2

Hq. Qrs. 17th Battalion A.I.F.,  
5th October 1918.

All Companies.

1. The Battalion is moving to the HERVILLY Area to-morrow 6th instant, and is to pass starting point at G.16.a.7.7 at 9 a.m.
2. Reveille will be at 6 a.m. Breakfast at 6.30 a.m.
3. Companies will fall in and be ready to move off at 7.30 a.m.
4. Lewis Gun gear, Officers' and Mess Gear, will be stacked at 7.30 a.m. at the spot where the kitchen stood yesterday.
5. Each Company will detail one N.C.O. to report to Lieut. H. E. LANE at Battalion Headquarters at 5.15 a.m. to proceed as Billeting Party.

(Signed) A. F. GILBERT, Lieut.  
A/Adjutant 17th Battalion A. I. F.

APPENDIX 3

Reference Maps:-

LENS and AMIENS 1/100,000.  
Sheet 62.c. N.E. 1/20,000.

1. The 5th Australian Infantry Brigade Group will move to VIGNACOURT Area by train and march route to-day the 7th October 1918.
2. The 17TH BATTALION will pass the Starting Point - K.16.d.6.3 - at 7.55 a.m.
3. (a) Reveille will be at 5.30 a.m.  
(b) Breakfast at 6 a.m.  
(c) Companies will fall in and be ready to move off at 7.15 a.m.  
(d) Dress - Fighting Order. Mid-day meal will be carried.
4. The Battalion will entrain at TINCOURT at 10.30 a.m. and detrain at ST. ROCH, and move by march route to VIGNACOURT. Route - LONGPRE - VAUX-en-AMIENOIS - to billets.
5. As the Omnibus Train moves direct to VIGNACOURT, both Officers and men will have to rely upon what they carry for the mid-day meal.
6. (a) Transport provided for by train will be 1 G.S. (supply) wagon, 2 kitchens, 1 water cart, 1 mess cart, which will move under instructions from the Transport Officer, to arrive at TINCOURT at 8.30 a.m. via ROISEL - MARQUAIX - FAMEL.  
(b) Transport not provided for by train will move by road, and will pass Starting Point at K.23.a.2.5 (Sheet 62.c. N.E.) at 6 a.m. to-day the 7th instant.
7. Officers' mess gear will be dumped near Officers' Mess by 7 a.m.
8. A C K N O W L E D G E.

*[Signature]*  
Lieut.  
\*Adjutant 17th Battalion A. I. F.

DISTRIBUTION.

1. File.
2. "B" Company.
3. "C" "
4. "D" "
5. R. Q. M.
6. Transport Officer.
- 7/9. War Diary.

App. 5  
11  
86

TRAINING MEMO. NO. 1.

17th BATTALION. A. I. F.

20/10/18.

1. The Brigade Ceremonial Parade will be held to-morrow 21/10/18.
2. DRESS:- Officers - Hats, Sam Browne Belts, Box Respirator slung over Right shoulder.  
Other Ranks - Hats, Fighting Order, Box Respirator at the "Alert", Waterproof Sheet rolled on Belt.  
Commanding Officer, Adjutant, and Transport personnel only will be mounted.
3. TRANSPORT will be loaded as per Divisional Loading Table.  
Lewis Guns will be carried in the transport.
4. GUIDES. Officer Commanding "B" Company will detail two guides to report to Battalion Orderly Room at 1245, as Right and Left Battalion Markers.
5. BAND. Will be massed in the rear of the Centre of the Brigade, under the 17th Battalion Band Sergeant.
6. MARCH. The Battalion, with Transport complete, will march to the Parade Ground, the head of the Battalion to pass Starting Point at road junction W.16.a.9.5, at 1315. Companies will fall in on the road in front of the Guard Room, and be ready to move off at 1245, in the following order - "A", "B", "C", "D", "HQ".  
The transport will fall in in STATION STREET with the head of column at corner of STATION STREET and MAIN ROAD, by 1255, and await orders to move off.
7. The following personnel only will be exempted from the parade:-
  - 1 Cook per Company.
  - 1 Cook for Egts. Mess.
  - 2 Cooks for Officers' Mess
  - 2 Stretcher Bearers in Battalion Hospital
  - 1 Signaller on duty
  - 1 Runner on duty
  - 1 Postman
8. The midday meal will be at 1145.

*A. G. Liddell*  
Lieut.  
A/Adjutant 17th Battalion A. I. F.

DISTRIBUTION.

1. File.
2. "A" Company
3. "B" "
4. "C" "
5. "D" "
6. "HQ" "
7. Transport Officer
8. R. Q. M.
- 9/11. War Diary
12. Spare

Day and Date	9-9.30 am	9.30 - 10.30 am	10.30 - 11.30 am	1.30 - 2.15 pm	2.15 - 3.30 pm	Place of Parade and Remarks
Monday 21/10/18	Inspection by G. C. C. Battle Order. Box Respirators at "Alert"			Lewis Gun Training Classes for Junior N. C. O's		Bn. Parade Ground W.16.d.O.2.
Tuesday 22/10/18	P. S. B. Training			do		do
Wednesday 23/10/18	do			Recreational Training		do
Thursday 24/10/18	do			Battalion Route March		
Friday 25/10/18	do			Lewis Gun Training Classes for Junior N.C.O's		Bn. Parade Ground W.16.d.O.2.
Saturday 26/10/18	do			Battalion Sports		do

Company Inspection of N. C. O's. N. C. O's.

done in  
\* of each hour of training to be  
Box Respirator. xxxxxxxxxxxx.

Signalling Training under Signalling Officer daily.  
Dress for all parades - Battle Order.

*W. J. Miller*  
A/Commanding 17th Battalion A. I. F. Captain.

18/10/18.

App 7

Transport Report.

October 1918.

In the early part of the month the battalion moved into the forward area, in front of ST. QUENTIN CANAL. The work for the transport was as usual, the taking of rations + ammunition to the troops in line.

There was one casualty during the month, the R. Q.M.'s ride was killed by an aeroplane bomb near JONCOURT while being ridden by the officer in question who was unhurt.

One ride was evacuated for debility, the Commanding Officer's charger, it had been off duty since July but did not regain condition.

The battalion has been in the VIGNACOURT area since 8<sup>th</sup> inst + work has been the daily drawing of rations from FLESSELLES, a daily limber for the cleaning of billets, vehicles for mail, + cartmen goods.

Stables were built from old material collected and animals being thus under cover have been kept comfortable + warm.

Knives during month were:-

LONGAVESNES-VILLERET-BELLECOURT

BELLECOURT-HERVILLY

Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>  
6<sup>th</sup>

From HERVILLY portion of transport moved by road on 7<sup>th</sup> inst. to VIGNACOURT arriving on 9<sup>th</sup> inst.

The remainder, kitchens, watercart + supply waggons entrained at TINCOURT on 7<sup>th</sup> + arrived at VIGNACOURT on 8<sup>th</sup> inst.

2-11-18.

NOBrosby Capt.

Quartermasters Report

App. 8

During the early part of the month in spite of the difficulties of transport occasioned by the rapid moves, we were able to maintain the ration supply & to keep the men well supplied with hot meals.

Since 8<sup>th</sup> October we have been in the VIGNACOURT area resting

The Rations continue to remain good

W. Smith Lieut  
Quartermaster

2.11.18



App 286

TRAINING MEMO. APPENDIX 2

Copy No 10

17TH BATTALION. A.I.F.

31/10/18.



Reference Map:-

Sheet 57.E., 1/40,000.

1. The 17TH BATTALION. A.I.F. will carry out Musketry Range Practice on Rifle Range at Q.32.d., to-morrow the 1st November 1918.

2. The following Routine will be observed:-

Reveille	-	0630
Sick Parade	-	0700
Breakfast	-	0730

3. Companies will be fallen in ready to move from "B" Company's Billets (near the R.A.P).., at 0845, in the following order:-

"B", "A", "C", "D", "HQ" Companies.

Dress - Battle Order; felt hats.  
Midday meal will be carried.  
Company Commanders will be mounted.

4. (a) Q. M. will arrange for "D" Company's cooker to provide tea for midday meal on the Range.

(b) Officers' Mess Cart will report at Battalion Mess at 1000 to load mess gear, and will ~~report~~ proceed to the Range with cooker.

5. Transport Officer will detail 1 Limber to load material for the Range as under:-

(a) Lewis Guns, Magazines, Targets, etc., will be collected from billet near Railway at 0745. Lieut. R. J. FITZROY will supervise the loading of this gear.

(b) Musketry Material, S.A.A., etc., will be loaded on same limber at Q.M. Store at 0800, under the supervision of Lieut. C. J. SAMS, M.C.

6. MARKERS. Four other ranks per Company will report to Lieut. C. J. SAMS, M.C. at Battalion Orderly Room at 0800, and will proceed to Range with the above limber.

7. Company Commanders will warn all ranks to avoid moving over ploughed or sown land in the vicinity of Range.

8. On completion of Musketry Practice, the Range must be left in a clean condition.

9. A C K N O W L E D G E.

*Hayton-Smith*  
Lieut.  
A/Adjutant 17th Battalion A. I. F.

DISTRIBUTION.

1. File
2. "A" Company
3. "B" "
4. "C" "
5. "D" "
6. "HQ" "
7. Transport Officer
8. R. Q. M.
9. Lieut. C. J. Sams, M.C.
- 10/12. War Diary.