

AWM4

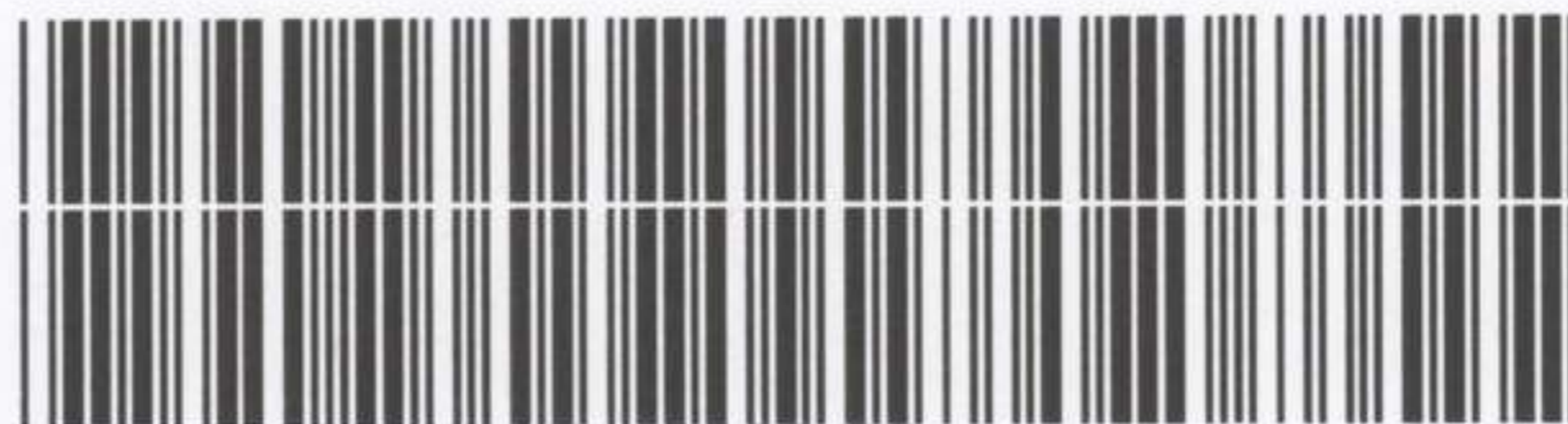
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War**

Machine Guns

Item number: 24/23/4

Title: 23rd Australian Machine Gun
Company

November 1917



AWM4-24/23/4

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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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.

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23rd M G Coy

Place	Date	Hour	Reference Sheet <u>HAZEBROUCK 5A</u>	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<u>FAUQUEMBERGUES</u>	1-4-11-17.			Reorganisation of Company still being proceeded with, the men being rested as much as possible, short route marches each day. One lot 25 and another lot 19 reinforcements reported from Base and fakers on strength.	All Capt.
	5-6-11-17.			Syllabus for week ending 10-11-17 attached.	All Capt. APPENDIX "B"
	8-11-17.			Sergeant J. O. Newick promoted 2 nd Lieut.	All Capt.
	9-11-17.			Preliminary orders to move to Forward Area received.	All Capt.
	10-11-17.			Spent in packing Timbers, and all preparations for move. Final Move Orders received on the night of the 11 th .	All Capt.
	12-11-17.			The Company moved off from <u>FAUQUEMBERGUES</u> at 8 A.M., passing through <u>DOHEM</u> , halting for lunch just outside <u>THÉROUANNE</u> . Starting point 400 yards ^{S.W. from 4 posts} was passed at 1-11 P.M., passing through <u>CLARQUES</u> and <u>AIRE</u> , arriving in billets at <u>WIDDEBROUCC</u> at about 5 P.M.	All Capt.
	13-11-17.			The next day (13 th) march continued, passing starting point T roads 300 yards west of <u>I</u> in <u>TANNAY</u> at 9-25 A.M., hence south of the <u>FORET DE NIEPPE</u> , and north of <u>MERVILLE</u> to billets on the main road	All Capt.

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Place	Date	Hour	Reference <u>HAZEBROUCK 5A</u> Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	13-11-17		at <u>VIEUX BERQUIN.</u>	
<u>VIEUX BERQUIN</u>	14-11-17		The company rested for one day.	
	15-11-17		Move continued, passing starting point in <u>STEENWERCK.</u> at 12.43 P.M., arriving at <u>GREENJACKET CAMP</u> B.S.C. 10.80 at about 2 P.M. Camp found in possession of 10 th Aust. Machine Gun Co., but on referring to Division, this matter was adjusted.	
<u>GREEN JACKET CAMP</u>	16-17-18-19-11-17		Spent in resting, reorganising and improvement to camp - short route marches for the men.	
	20 th to 24 th -11-17		Syllabus of training attached Training considerably hampered by lack of ground space.	APPENDIX 'C'
	25-11-17		Orders received that the company would be relieving the 10 th Aust. Machine Gun Coy in the <u>WARNETON SECTOR.</u> As the Defence Scheme was being reorganised, the C.O. obtained permission to work in conjunction with the C.O. of the 10 th M. G. Co. in regard to this reorganising.	
	25 th to 28 th -11-17		From the 25 th to 28 th Officers and Section Sergeants paid visits to the trenches and spent at least one night in the line so as to become	

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Place	Date	Hour	Reference sheet <u>HAZEBROUCK 5A</u> <u>PLOEGSTEERT 28 S.W.H.</u> Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<u>GREENJACKET</u> <u>CAMP.</u>	29.11.17		<p>familiar with the country. On the 28th Officers, Section Sergeants, and No. 1. went onto the line. Syllabus 26-11-17 to 28-11-17 attached</p> <p>Relief completed by 8 PM on 29th</p> <p>Lieut. J. Graham returned from seconded list.</p> <p>The 10th A.I. Bde having arranged to raid the enemy's trench on the night following the relief, the P.M.G.O. issued orders for support to be given by a Machine Gun barrage consisting of 10 guns. Seven of these guns were brought to a barrage position at U. 16 a 8.11. The remaining three consisting of Nos. 5, 7 & 16 Gun teams remained at their respective emplacements.</p> <p>The barrage guns were emplaced on the trench slit system in two batteries, one of four and the other of three guns. These trench slits had been previously dug and camouflaged by the 10th M.G. Coy. It was not considered advisable to occupy the positions belonging to the 7 barrage guns, as time would be wasted in taking up ^{for barrage work} positions next day. Therefore they occupied the trench slits on the night of the relief.</p>	APPENDIX "D"
<u>WARNETON</u> <u>SECTOR.</u>				APPENDIX "A"

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices												
			<u>Opinion Sheet PLOEGSTEERT. 28 S.W.L.</u>													
<u>WARNETON</u>	29.11.17		until dawn, then retiring to dugouts in <u>PLOEGSTEERT WOOD.</u>													
<u>SECTOR.</u>	30.11.17		<p>Details of the barrage were issued to Section Commanders and guns were laid on their respective lines of fire before retiring for the day.</p> <p>Zero hour for the first raid was placed at 5.15 P.M. therefore the guns were brought to the site at about 4.30 P.M. Everything was ready by zero hour. The guns were to fire on the following scale:-</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>zero to zero plus 3</td> <td>Rest</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Plus 3 to plus 10</td> <td>Fire</td> </tr> <tr> <td>" 10 " " 13</td> <td>Rest</td> </tr> <tr> <td>" 13 " " 20</td> <td>Fire</td> </tr> <tr> <td>" 20 " " 23</td> <td>Rest</td> </tr> <tr> <td>" 23 " " 30</td> <td>Fire</td> </tr> </table> <p>The guns fired at full rate all the time. The firing went off well, most of the stoppages occurring through defective ammunition, two cases being due to the bullet remaining in the barrel. An average of 17 Bell Boxes per gun were thus fired in the first barrage.</p>	zero to zero plus 3	Rest	Plus 3 to plus 10	Fire	" 10 " " 13	Rest	" 13 " " 20	Fire	" 20 " " 23	Rest	" 23 " " 30	Fire	
zero to zero plus 3	Rest															
Plus 3 to plus 10	Fire															
" 10 " " 13	Rest															
" 13 " " 20	Fire															
" 20 " " 23	Rest															
" 23 " " 30	Fire															

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Place	Date	Hour	Reference <u>Sheet. PLOEGSTEERT 28 SW</u> Summary of Events and Information <u>4.</u>	Remarks and references to Appendices
WARNETON SECTOR.	30-11-17 1-12-17		<p>Zero for the second raid was fixed for 1 A.M. night of 30th Nov/1st Dec. All was ready and the same table of fire as in the first raid was observed. Trung was more successful than in the first barrage, and the full 51 boxes were fired by the guns.</p> <p>The total number of rounds fired in the two barrages was 92,000.</p> <p>At the conclusion of the second barrage, all guns & teams went to their respective positions.</p>	

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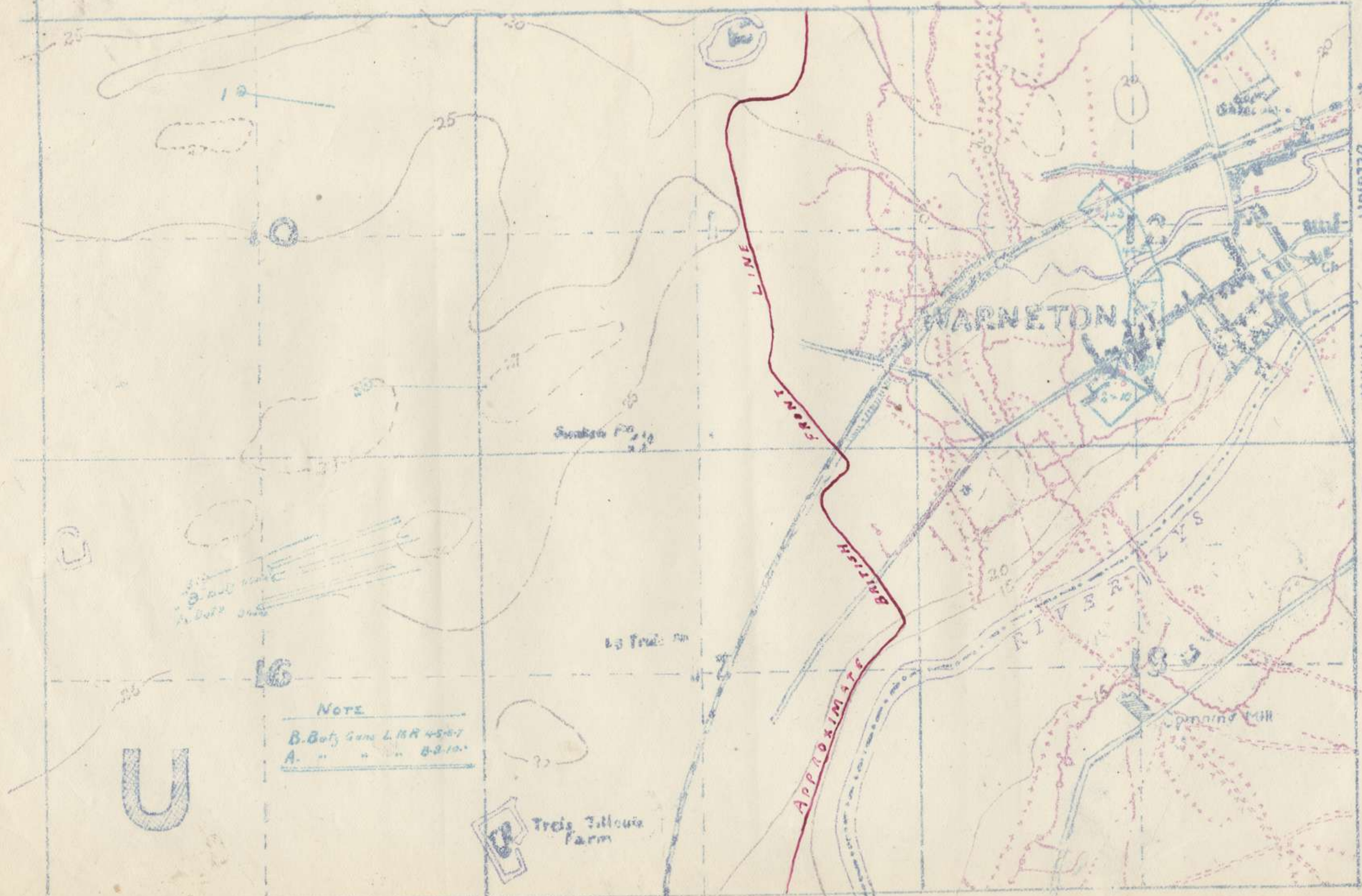
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or
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<u>LIST OF APPENDICES WITH WAR DIARY NOVEMBER 1917</u> <u>23RD AUST. MACHINE GUN Co.</u>				
			1 "A" BARRAGE PUT DOWN BY 23 RD AUST MACHINE GUN Co. IN CONJUNCTION WITH RAID.	
			2 "B" SYLLABUS OF TRAINING WEEK ENDING 10-11-17.	
			3 "C" SYLLABUS OF TRAINING WEEK ENDING 24-11-17.	
			4 "D" SYLLABUS OF TRAINING 26-11-17 to 28-11-17	
			5 "E" COMPANY ORDERS No. 9. dated 6-11-17.	
			6 "F" " " No. 10. " 19-11-17.	
			7 "G" " " No. 11. " 21-11-17	

APPENDIX.



Barrage by 23rd Aust MG Coy. Position of WARNETON.

23RD AUST. MACHINE GUN COYWEEK ENDING 10/11/17

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
9 AM to 10 AM	Gas &	Route March	Route March	Route March	Route March	Route March
10-15 M 11 AM.	Issue of	Lecture. French Warfare	Construction of Emplacements (Theory)	do	Fire Direction Indirect Fire	Fire Direction (Using O.P.S. etc)
11 AM 10-30 to 12-0	Clothing.	Gun Drill	Linner Drill.	do	Gun Drill	I. A.
1-30 to 2-30	Gas and Issue of	Fire Direction Indirect Fire.	Sports	do	Lecture. Relief in Trenches	Sports
2-30 to 3-30	Clothing.	Route March.	Sports	do	Route March	Sports.

A. L. Chambers
Lieut
for CO. 23RD A.M.G. Coy

23RD AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN COMPANY

SYLLABUS

20-11-17 to 24-11-17

	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
9 to 10 AM	ROUTE MARCH	SPORTS	ROUTE MARCH	ROUTE MARCH	ROUTE MARCH
10 to 11 AM	STOPPAGES	SPORTS	STRIPPING	RELIEF IN TRENCHES	NIGHT FIRING & INDIRECT FIRE
11 to 12 NOON	GUN DRILL	SPORTS	STOPPAGES	GUN DRILL	CARE AND CLEANING
1-30 to 2-30	MECHANISM	BATHING	GUN DRILL	I. A.	
2-30 to 3-30	ROUTE MARCH		PARADE	ROUTE MARCH	ROUTE MARCH

APPENDIX. C

..... Capt.
C.O. 23RD M.G. CO. A.I.F.

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APPENDIX "D"

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23rd. AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN COMPANY.

S Y L L A B U S .

26-11-17. to 28-11-17.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday.
9 to 10 a.m.	Route March	Route March	Route March
10 to 11 "	Stripping	Trench Routine (Lecture)	I.A.
11 to 12 "	I.A.	I.A.	Care & Cleaning
1-30 to 2-30 p.m.	Mechanism	Stripping	Preparation for
2-30 to 3-30 "	Route March	Route March	Trenches.

H. H. ...
 Capt.
 C.O., 23rd. Aust. M. G. Co.

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APPENDIX "E"

23rd. AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN COMPANY.

Orders, No. 9.

By Capt. D. A. Whitehead,

France.

6th. November, 1917.

Commanding.

HYGIENE.

No water must be used for drinking purposes except that from the water cart. Mess Tins and Dixies must be washed with water from the water cart.

NOTICE.

"Fighting Australasia". An illustrated souvenir entitled "Fighting Australasia" has been published, and copies may be obtained at 2/6 each from "Fighting Australasia", 170 Piccadilly. Part proceeds of sales is being devoted to the Australian Comforts Fund and the N.Z. Comforts Fund.

A. L. Chamber

.....Lieut.

For C.O., 23rd. Aust. M. G. Co.

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23rd. AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN COMPANY.

Orders, No.10.

By Capt. D. A. Whitehead, M.C.

In the field. 19th. November, 1917. Commanding.

ROUTINE.

On and after Tuesday, the 20th. inst., the following will be the Bugle Calls, viz:-

Reveille,.....	7 a.m.
Cookhouse,.....	8 "
Half-hour,.....	8-30 a.m.
Quarter-call,.....	8-45 "
Five-Minutes (Markers)....	8-50 "
Fall-In.....	8-55 "
Cookhouse,.....	12-15 p.m.
Half-hour,.....	1-0 p.m.
Quarter-call,.....	1-15 "
Five-minutes (markers)....	1-20 "
Fall-in.....	1-25 "
Dry Rations,.....	3-45 "
Cookhouse,.....	4-15 "
Retreat.....	4-30 "
First Post.....	8-30 "
Last Post.....	9-0 "
Lights-out.....	9-15 "

PUNISHMENTS.

No.524, Pte. Woodward, S.

Absent from Roll Call at Tattoo, 16-11-17.

Award. Admonished.

No.6325, Pte. Newland, H. L.

Absent from Roll Call at Tattoo, 16-11-17.

Award. Admonished.

A. L. Chambers
.....Lieut.

For C.O., 23rd. Aust. M.G.Co.

APPENDIX "G"

23rd. AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN COMPANY.
ORDERS. No. 11.

By Capt. D. A. Whitehead, M.C.,

In the Field. 21-11-17. Commanding.

BOUNDS.

STEENWERCK is out of bounds to all troops of this Unit unless in possession of a Pass. Anyone found in this Town without a Pass will be severely dealt with.

DISCIPLINE.

All troops will report to the Corporal of the Guard before leaving and on return to Camp--Passes if any will behanded to the Corporal of the Guard on return.

TATTOO ROLL
CALL

In future all men will parade in their huts at 9 p.m. and Roll will be called by the N.C.O. in charge. Anyone leaving Hut for any reasons after that hour must report to the N.C.O. in charge.

COMPANY
ORDERS.

In future Company orders will be posted on the Company Notice Board. All ranks must make themselves conversant with these orders--no excuse of ignorance of orders can be accepted.

D. A. Whitehead Capt.
.....
C.O., 23rd. Aust. Machine Gun Co.