

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/95/1

Title: 15th Training Battalion

September 1917



AWM4-23/95/1

15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

5th DIVISION A.I.F.

WAR DIARY FOR SEPTEMBER.

During the past month we have despatched 84 fully trained men, including relieved Permanent Cadre N.C.O's who have done excellent work here, and with few exceptions have proved good instructors. The 9th Reinforcements ~~arrived~~ ^{ARRIVED} on 17-9-17 being 11 Officers and 435 Other Ranks. One Officer, Lieut. Hatfield, 9/60th Battalion, retained in England as an Instructor. There are two (2) other A & I Officers, 2/Lieut (Hon. Lieut) Sproule, and Lieut (Hon. Captain) McKenna. All these Officers will attend an Infantry School at Tidworth and will then be available.

The men appear to be a fairly keen lot but their physique is hardly up to the standard, and there is also a large percentage of boys, ~~85% in all~~. These are doing their training and will become available as they become 19 years of age.

4th & last stage. The only men in this stage are 28 Signallers fully trained.

3rd stage. Nil. We have now no men in this stage. Of the 41 Other Ranks shown on last return, 20 are being trained as Signallers, and 21 are awaiting transfer to Grantham M.G. Corps.

2nd stage. Nil.

1st stage. 569. This is the total of 9th Reinforcements with the exception of casualties.

There are 18 ex-Staff Sgt. Majors who left Australia with substantive rank of Sergeant. They of course do not require much training, but are being put through the specialist branches of training during their period of segregation after disembarkation, and will be available in about a fortnight's time from now.

An amended copy of our training syllabus is attached. The night work should prove very beneficial to the men as the conditions are made as realistic as possible, flares and clay bombs being used very largely.

Competition is to be introduced into the training to a much greater extent than hitherto, and will have a very beneficial effect on the esprit de corps, which amongst the men is already quite marked.

Battalion sports were held on 30-8-17, and Group Sports on 5-9-17. The Battalion although being the smallest in the Group at the time and consequently had less choice of competitors, put up a remarkably good exhibition, winning many of the championship events, but unfortunately losing several events, for which a large number ^{of points} were given. We entered a Tug of War team for the Southern Counties Cross Country Association and had really bad luck in not winning, as we won 6 out of 7 pulls and were winning the final when one of the team fainted, thus spoiling our chance. Each of them were presented with a bronze medal by the association.

We are endeavouring to provide the men with as much recreation as possible during the coming winter months, concerts being arranged for at least once a week. Football teams are now going and inter-Battalion and Brigade matches arranged.

The drainage of the Camp has been re-dug and under the supervision of the Pioneers, is a great improvement.

Hurdcott.
14.10.17

James J. ... Lieut-Col.
C.O. 15th Training Batta A.I.F.

15TH. TRAINING BATTALION A.I.F.

NO. 4 TRAINING COY.

SYLLABUS OF TRAINING FOR 1st, 2nd. and 3rd. WEEKS.

DAY	6.30 - 7.30	9.30 - 10.30	10.30 - 11.30	11.30 - 12.30	2 - 3	3 - 4	4 - 5
MONDAY.	Squad Drill	Musketry.	P.T.	Bombing.	Musketry.	B.F.	Anti-Gas.
TUESDAY.	Saluting.	Rifle Exers.	P.T.	Bombing.	Musketry.	B.F.	Musketry.
WEDNESDAY.	Squad Drill.	Saluting.	P.T.	Bombing.	Musketry.	B.F.	Musketry.
THURSDAY.	Plat. Drill.	Bombing.	P.T.	Bombing.	Musketry.	B.F.	Musketry.
FRIDAY.	Rifle Exers.	P.T.	Musketry.	Fit. Equip.	B.F.	Rifle Exercises	Musketry.
SATURDAY.	Cleaning up.	R O U T E :: M A R C H. from. 8.30 a.m.			H A L F :: H O L I D A Y.		

No. 12 Camp. HURDCOTT.

(Sgd) W.L.HERON. Lieutenant.
Adjutant 15th Training Battalion. A.I.F.

15TH. TRAINING BATTALION A. I. F.

NO. 3 TRAINING COY.

SYLLABUS OF TRAINING FOR 4th, 5th, and 6th. WEEKS.

DAY.	.6.30 - 7.30	9.30 - 10.30	10.30 - 11.30	11.30 - 12.30	2 - 3	3 - 4	4 - 5	NIGHT.
MONDAY	Coy. Drill.	P.T.	Musketry	Anti-Gas	Musketry	Rifle Exrs. Guards & Sentries	B.F.	Miniature Range.
TUESDAY.	Bombing	P.T.	Musketry.	Musketry.	E.O. Drill.	Rifle Exrs. Guards & Sentries.	B.F.	-----
WEDNESDAY.	Bombing.	P.T.	Musketry.	Musketry.	E.O. Drill.	Rifle Exrs. Guards & Sentries.	B.F.	Miniature Range.
THURSDAY.	Bombing.	P.T.	Musketry.	Musketry.	Coy. Drill.	Rifle Exrs. Guards & Sentries.	B.F.	-----
FRIDAY.	Bombing.	P.T.	Musketry.	Bombing.	Musketry.	Rifle Exrs. Guards & Sentries.	B.F.	-----
SATURDAY.	Cleaning up.	R O U T E M A R C H . from 8.30 a.m.			H A L F H O L I D A Y .			

No. 12 Camp HURDCOTT.

(Sgd) W.L.HERON. Lieutn.
Adjutant 15th. Training Battalion. A.I.F.

15TH. TRAINING BATTALION A.I.F.

NO. 2 TRAINING COY.

SYLLABUS OF TRAINING FOR 7th. and 8th. WEEKS.

DAY.	6.30 - 7.30	9.30 - 10.30	10.30 - 11.30	11.30 - 12.30	2 - 3	3 - 4	4 - 5	Night.
MONDAY.	B.F.	Platoon Drill	Anti-Gas.	Musketry.	P.T.	Bombing.	Musketry.	
TUESDAY.	B.F.	Musketry	E.O.Drill.	Platoon Drill	P.T.	Bombing.	Musketry.	Bombing 7th. Wk. & Rapid Loading 8th.
WEDNESDAY.	B.F.	Musketry	Coy.Drill.	Platoon Drill.	P.T.	Bombing. With Gas Helmets.	Musketry.	
THURSDAY.	B.F.	Musketry.	Entrenching and Wiring.	Entrenching and Wiring.	P.T.	Bombing	Musketry.	Entrenching and Wiring 2 Hours.
FRIDAY.	B.F.	Musketry	P.T.	Bombing	Musketry.	Platoon Drill.	Bombing With Gas Helmets.	
SATURDAY.	Cleaning up.	R O U T E :: M A R C H From 8.30 a.m.			H A L F :: H O L I D A Y.			

No. 12 Camp. HURDCOTT.

(Sgd) W.L.Heron. Lieut.
Adjutant 15th. Training Battalion. A.I.F.

NO. 2 TRAINING COY.

15TH. TRAINING BATTALION. - A.I.F.
SYLLABUS OF TRAINING FOR 9TH. WEEK.

DAY.	6.30 - 7.30	9.30 - 12.30	2 - 5	Instruction on the Range.
MONDAY.	B.F.	RANGE PRACTICE.	RANGE PRACTICE.	IN ANTI - GAS BOMBING. AND JUDGING DISCIPLINE.
TUESDAY.	B.F.	RANGE PRACTICE	RANGE PRACTICE	
WEDNESDAY	B.F.	RANGE PRACTICE.	RANGE PRACTICE.	
THURSDAY.	B.F.	RANGE PRACTICE.	RANGE PRACTICE.	
FRIDAY.	B.F.	RANGE PRACTICE.	RANGE PRACTICE.	
SATURDAY.	Cleaning up.	ROUTE ::: MARCH. from. 8.30 a.m.	H A L F ::: H O L I D A Y.	

No. 12 Camp. HURDCOTT.

Adjutant 15th. Training (Sgd) W.L.HERON. Lieutenant.
 Battalion. A.I.F.

15th. TRAINING BATTALION A. I. F.

No. 2 TRAINING COY.

SYLLABUS OF TRAINING FOR 10TH. WEEK.

DAY	6.30 - 7.30	9.30 - 10.30	10.30 - 11.30	11.30 - 12.30	2 - 3	3 - 4	4 - 5	NIGHT.
Monday	B.F.	R N N G E			P R A C T I C E			
TUESDAY	B.F.	P.T.	Anti - Gas	Anti - Gas	B O M B I N G.			Wiring for 2 Hours.
WEDNESDAY	B.F.	Anti - Gas P.T.	Anti-Gas	Anti-Gas	B O M B I N G Every man to throw with Gas Helmet on.			
THURSDAY	B.F.	P.T.	Entrenching and Wiring	Entrenching and Wiring	B O M B I N G			Bombing Wiring & Entrenching.
FRIDAY	B.F.	P.T.	Entrenching and Wiring	Entrenching and Wiring	Bombing	Bombing	Musketry.	
SATURDAY.	Cleaning Up.	R O U T E :: M A R C H. from 8.30 a.m.			H A L F :: H O L I D A Y.			

No. 12 Camp. HURDCOTT.

(Sgd) W. L. HERON. Lieut.
Adjutant 15th. Training Battalion A.I.F.

No. 1 Training Company.

15th. TRAINING BATTALION A. I. F.

COMPANY,

SYLLABUS OF TRAINING FOR 11th. WEEK.

DAY	6.30 - 7.30	9.30 - 10.30	10.30 - 11.30	11.30 - 12.30	2 - 3 . 3 - 4 . 4 - 5	night.
MONDAY	P.T.	L E W I S	:::	G U N	:::	I N S T R U C T I O N.
TUESDAY	P.T.	L E W I S	:::	G U N	:::	I N S T R U C T I O N.
WEDNESDAY	P.T.	L E W I S	:::	G U N	:::	I N S T R U C T I O N.
THURSDAY	P.T.	L E W I S	:::	G U N	:::	I N S T R U C T I O N.
FRIDAY	P.T.	L E W I S	:::	G U N	:::	I N S T R U C T I O N.
SATURDAY	<i>Clearing up</i> P.T.	L E W I S	:::	G U N	:::	R A N G E P R A C T I C E.
						H A L F H O L I D A Y.

NOTE .

MEM on being Transferred from "B" Company will do this week on the LEWIS GUN, but pending the issue of Battalion Guns, will carry on with "A" Company, Syllabus.

No. 12 Camp.
HURDCOTT.

(Sgd) W. L. HERON, Lieutenant.
Adjutant 15th Training Battalion. A. I. F.

15TH. TRAINING BATTALION. A.I.F.

NO. I. TRAINING COY.

SYLLABUS OF TRAINING FOR 12th. 13th. and 14th. WEEKS.

DAY.	6.30 - 7.30	9.30 - 10.30	10.30 - 11.30	11.30 - 12.30	2 - 3	3 - 4	4 - 5	Night.
MONDAY.	P.T.	<u>FIELD DAY</u> { Artillery formation - Extended Order - Coy in attack with organised Sections, (2 TACTICAL EXERCISES) Entrenching - Wiring - Cooking &c., Fire Control and Direction.						
TUESDAY	P.T.	Entrenching and Wiring	Entrenching and Wiring	Bayonet Assault Course	Anti - Gas Drill.	Musketry	Drill	Night Operations.
WEDNESDAY	P.T.	Bombing Parties	Attack from Trenches (Moppers up, &c)	Bayonet Assault Course.	E.O. Drill	Firing Rifle Grenades.	Drill	
THURSDAY	P.T.	<u>FIELD DAY</u> - SAME AS FOR MONDAY.						
FRIDAY.	P.T.	<u>FIELD DAY</u> - SAME AS FOR MONDAY.						
SATURDAY.	Cleaning up.	ROUTE ::: MARCH.			HALF ::::: HOLIDAY.			
		From. 8.30 a.m.						

SUBJECTS ::: FOR 12 - 13 - and 14 Weeks.

Movement in Artillery Formation.
 " " Extended Order
 Attack in open.
 Entrenching and wiring.
 Movement by night.
 Sentries duties by night.
 Route Marching.
 Attack from trenches including Moppers up.
 Trench Routine day and night.

Bombing Parties.
 Rifle Grenade Firing (Live)
 " " " (Dummies)
 Bayonet Assault Course
 Gas alert and alarm.
 Tactical Handling, Lewis Gun.
 Co-operation of Sections.
 Musketry
 Relief of trenches.

No. 12 Camp. Hurdcott.

(Sgd) W.L.Heron Lieut.
 Adjutant 15th. Training Battalion. A.I.F.