

AWM4

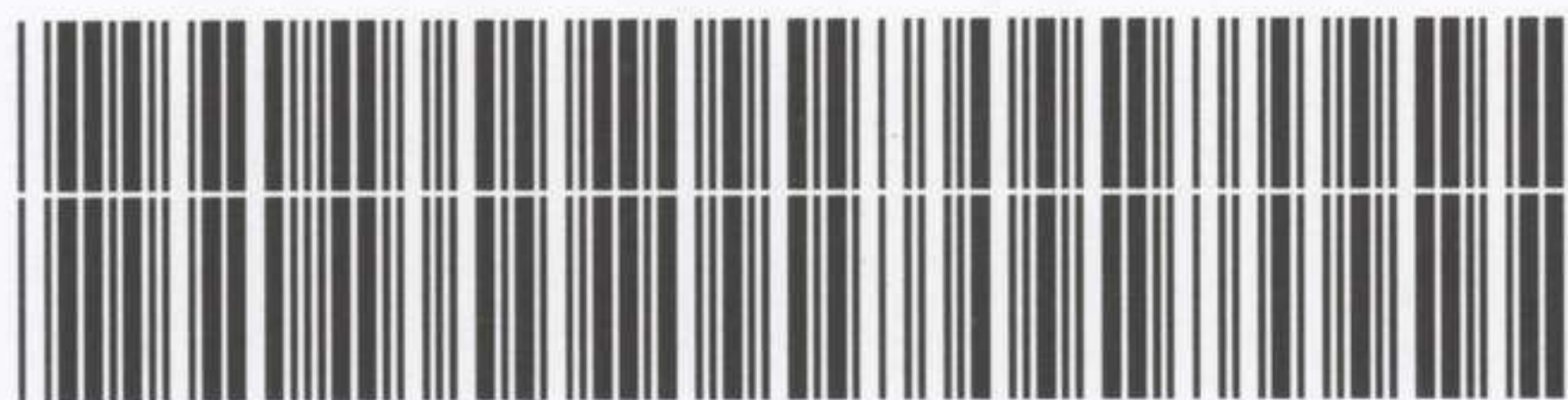
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War**

Machine Guns

Item number: 24/20/10

Title: 15th Australian Machine Gun
Company

December 1916



AWM4-24/20/10

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118. 466

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
In the Field	Dec 1		Two sections in reserve at D. Camp moved to Mamety Camp. Sections in line relieved by 14 th Aust Machine Gun Co. on night of 1/2 nd Dec. Coy headquarters and sections from line moved to D Camp.	
	2.		Coy headquarters and two sections moved back to huts at Mamety. Transport moved to new lines at Mamety Wood.	
	3.		Company inspected, and all gear cleaned. A quantity of equipment, rifles and respirators, (unserviceable), returned to salvage.	
	4.		Company moved back to huts at Bernabray Camp. Transport stayed at Mamety Wood. Did not camp in huts at , as they were occupied by 10 th Battalion.	
	5.		Orders received from Brigade Headquarters to supply fatigues and guards until further notice.	
	6.		Supplied seventy (70) men for fatigues and guards.	

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Army Form C. 2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field	17/16 cont. 7.12.16		<p>as per instructions received.</p> <p>Instructions issued for all men going into line to wear sand bags in lieu of puttees, and in addition each man to carry six extra sand bags tied on to his equipment to be used in construction and repair of emplacements in the front line system. Blankets and packs to be left in camp.</p>	
	8.12.16		<p>Issued instructions in connection with relief of 8th Aust. Machine gun Coy.</p>	
	9.12.16		<p>Table of reliefs to be carried out while in the line issued to section officers.</p>	
	10.12.16		<p>Relieved the 8th Aust. Machine gun Coy in the Right Brigade Sector. Copy of trench stores taken over forwarded to Brigade Headquarters. Exchanged ten tripods and one hundred and twenty four belt boxes (with filled belts) with relieved company.</p>	

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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages
will be prepared in manuscript.

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field	11/12/16		All emplacements inspected and instructions issued for the repair of several which has been knocked about by shell fire.	
	12/12/16	night 12/13	Sections in front line relieved without casualties; four men with sore feet sent back to reserve camp at Bennefroy, wet boots being the cause. Patrol party brought rations up safely; whale oil and rum sent to front line.	
	13/12/16	night 14/12/16	One machine gun was active during the greater part of the night, and was very successful in dispersing enemy working and patrol parties.	
	14/12/16		Commenced making temporary emplacements in the intermediate line (Needle Branch). Sections in front line relieved by teams from support line.	
	15/12/16	night 15/16	Temporary emplacements in intermediate line nearing completion. One machine gun in line was able to disperse an enemy working party with several casualties.	

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(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field	16/11/16	night 16/17	<p>Two reinforcements reported and were temporarily attached to 60th Battalion for duty. Fatigue party of twenty men reported to Advance Coy Headquarters to complete temporary emplacements. Teams in line relieved by reserve section in Bernafay Camp.</p> <p>Indirect fire carried out on target at N. 20 a. 5.0, and ^{from} N. 35 a. 8.8$\frac{1}{2}$ to N. 35 a. 4.8$\frac{1}{2}$, and also from N. 35 a. 8.8 to N. 35 a. 4.4.</p>	
	17/12/16	night 17/18	<p>Emplacements in intermediate lines completed and machine guns mounted in same. Report sent to Brigade Headquarters in same.</p> <p>Fatigue party of enemy were fired on and eight killed. They were carrying no equipment and had sacks thrown over their shoulders. Not one of this party succeeded in entering their front line (French trenches).</p>	

WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the field	18/12/16	night 18/19	Furnished Brigade Headquarters with a report on emplacements as to position and condition of such.	
	19/12/16		Teams in line were successfully relieved by teams from supports without casualties.	
		night 19/20	One officer sent to Kelly, bathes to arrange for a bath and change of underclothing for the company when relieved.	
			Received two anti-aircraft mountings from A.C. (one Lewis and one Vickers mounting).	
			Lewis mounting handed over to 59 th Battalion and receipt forwarded to Brigade Headquarters. Received Bde Order No. 70.	
		night 20/21	Enemy ration parties were fired on intermittently, and several casualties were observed.	
			Enemy parties on our front were fired on	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field	21/12/16	night cont.	and scattered; six casualties were observed by the gunners. Enemy sniping has been reduced to a minimum by the vigilance of our machine-guns. Teams relieved in line.	
	21/12/16	night 7 1/2	Anti-aircraft mounting erected in Rose trench, and gun mounted. Issued instructions for gun to fire on any enemy aircraft coming within range. Enemy machine guns were rather active.	
	22/12/16	night 7 1/2	During the night our guns claimed several victims from hostile working parties in front of our lines.	
	23/12/16		Relieved in line by 6th Aust Machine Gun Co. Receipt for stores, etc, handed over obtained, and copy of same forwarded to Brigade Headquarters. Company Headquarters and sections from line moved back to Bernabry camp.	
			Boarded train at Quarry siding en route	

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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the field	22/12/16	(cont)	for Meaulx. Detained at Meaulx and marched to Ribemont. Transport moved from Meaulx to Ribemont, arriving at 3.30 p.m.	
	24/12/16		Men's feet inspected, and treated for half an hour, morning and evening. Company route-marched to belly bath.	
	25/12/16		Christmas Day	
	26/12/16		Company route-marched to baths, where they bathed and obtained clean clothing. Clothing and equipment thoroughly inspected, and list of shortages taken.	
	27/12/16		All gun equipment inspected and overhauled. Guns inspected by Ordnance representative. Six guns temporarily sent to Ordnance for repairs.	
	28/12/16		Daily syllabus gone through. Route march in the afternoon, and lecture in the evening.	

WAR DIARY

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(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118. 466

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	29/12/16		Transport inspected by officer from Divisional Train. Harness washed and duffed by men. Transport shortages taken.	
	30/12/16		Syllabus followed as usual until 2.38 p.m. Inspection by G.C. Brigade at heavy on Beun-Regiment Road.	
	31/12/16		March Parade at 10.45 am. Second blanket drawn from W.A.D.O. Small box respirators inspected by Divisional Gas Officer.	

Appendix (A)

WAR DIARY

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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

From 15th M.G. Coy.

(Leave heading not required.)

To 15th Inf. Bde. W.A.

Place Date Hour
2-12-16

The 15th Machine Gun Coy were relieved on the night of the 11th inst. without casualties by the 14th Machine Gun Coy. Tripods and bell-tops were exchanged to minimize fatigue.

After the relief the Company moved to the hutments at Inamity Camp. Transport moved from Montauban to new lines at Inamity Wood. All trench stores were handed over and receipts obtained for same. Copy of receipt forwarded to Bde W.A.

W. J. Dawson Capt

APPENDIX A

Appendix A

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.

or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p><i>13th Machine Gun Coy were released on the night of the 13th and withdrawn.</i></p> <p><i>14th Machine Gun Coy were released on the night of the 14th and withdrawn.</i></p> <p><i>After the withdrawal of the 13th and 14th Machine Gun Coy, the 15th Machine Gun Coy was reformed.</i></p> <p><i>All transport stores were loaded over one week's interval.</i></p> <p><i>Copy of receipt forwarded to 1st Lt. [Name]</i></p>	

APPENDIX A

Appendix (B)

Page 11

WAR DIARY

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

15th Machine Gun Coy.

466

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in Part II of the Staff Manual respectively. This page will be prepared in accordance with the instructions.

Branch

Place Date Hour
3-12-16

- 1) The 15th Machine Gun Coy will move to batment at Bemang Camp on the 4th Dec 1916.
- 2) An advance party of 1 MCO & 6 men under Lieut Ridgway will march to the new Camp at 8 a.m. Lieut Ridgway will see that hats taken over are left clean by outgoing unit.
- 3) Remainder of Coy will move at 1 P.M. under Lieut Holmes. Dinner will be at 11.30 a.m. Cooks will move with the limbers.
- 4) Transport will occupy the same lines until further orders. Three hunters will report to Coy. H.O. at 9 a.m. A fatigue party under Sgt Austin will be responsible for the loading of these vehicles and also for the final cleaning up of units. Lieut Scatterte will report to Lieut Holmes when everything is ready for moving off.

A. J. Johnson Capt.

APPENDIX B

13 10

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WAR DIARY
OF
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. 8 Regs. Part II and the Staff Manual respectively. This page will be prepared in manuscript.

Appendix (C)
Page 2

Summary of Events and Information
15th M. G. Coy

Place
Date
6-12-16

Until further orders this Coy will supply the following guards and fatigues daily.

- one officer and forty men R.E. work at Quarry siding.
- one P.C.O of twenty men report to Det H.Q. 8 am daily
- one P.C.O and 60 men as guard R.E. Quarry Siding.
- one P.C.O and three men as guard at Det. H.Q.

- (1) Guards will mount at 8 am daily.
- (2) Working parties for R.E. work reports at 6.45 am and 4.15 pm daily.

R. Dawson Capt.

APPENDIX C

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Where heading not required)

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Appendix D. Page 2

15th M. G. Coy

Bernafy Camp
7-12-16

Section Officers:—

All men going into the line in future will wear sandbags instead of puttees which will be left in their packs at Reserve D.A. Bernafy Camp.

In addition to these each man will carry six extra sandbags strapped on to his equipment. These will be used for the repair and construction of emplacements in the front system of trenches. Men will not carry blankets or packs.

[Signature]
Captain

APPENDIX D

15th Aust. Inf Brigade Order N. 87

466

Reference - 57c S.W.

8th December 1916

1. The 15th Brigade will relieve the 8th Brigade in the Right Sector during the 10th, 11th and 12th December 1916.
 2. Brigade Right Boundary - From N 34 b 9-9, across sunken road at N 34 c 3-7, through T3 Central to road at T 9 a 3-3 thence along road to T 14 a 14-2.
Brigade Left Boundary - From N 28 b 3-3 to road junction at N 27 d 5-3, thence through junction of NEEDLE DRENCH and WINDMILL LANE, T2 Central, T7 b 8-8.
- The 87th Brigade is on our right and the 14th Aust. Brigade is on our left.
3. The Sector is held with:
 - I. One Battalion, 6 Vickers Guns & 8 L.T. M's in the Front Line System. Headquarters - ~~N 33 c 3-3~~ N 27 d 6-6
 - II One Battalion and 2 Vickers Guns in the Intermediate Line (NEEDLE DRENCH). Headquarters - N 33 c 3-3.
 - III Two Vickers Guns in the Second Line (FLERS DRENCH)
 - IV One Battalion in E Camp, BERNHAFAY.
 - V 6 Vickers Guns in Reserve at S 23 c 4-4.
 - VI The 15th Field Coy (less 2 Sers for forward works) at S 24 b 5-7.
 - VII Brigade Headquarters at S 18 d 5-2.

4. Movement of units is as detailed in Table of Orders issued herewith. Vickers guns and L.T. M's will be relieved on night 10th/11th Dec. Brigade H.Q. will move to S 18 d 5-2 at 10 am on 12th Dec: at this hour the G.O.C. takes Command of the Sector.
5. The details of relief will be mutually arranged between C.O's concerned. Advance parties will be sent to take over.
6. Receipts for Drench Stores will invariably be taken and given & must be signed by an Officer: they will be forwarded to Bde H.Q. within 24 hours of the transaction. Discrepancies between numbers shown on Taking Over and ^{Subsequent} Handing Over receipts are to be explained when forwarding the latter.
7. Every man of a Battalion going into the front line system will be issued with 6 sand bags for the purpose of digging gun boots at NEEDLE DRENCH. Units will draw gun boots from the dressing room at S 18 b 1-0. All wet gun boots from the dressing room will be returned to the dressing room by the unit concerned.
8. The Camelty forward Collecting Post is at T2 a 4-9.
9. Completion of any relief is to be reported in CODE to Bde H.Q.

Copy 11-1 - War Plans

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 2 - 57th Tm | 8 - 87th Bde |
| 3 - 58th Tm | 9 - 14th Aust Bde |
| 4 - 59th Tm | 10 - 8th Aust Bde |
| 5 - 60th Tm | 11 - Bde H.Q. |
| 6 - 15th Aust Coy | 12 - |
| 7 - 15th Aust B | |

Redmond
 MAJOR
 BDE. MAJOR
 15th AUS. INF. BRIGADE

Appendix (E)
Page (2)

WAR DIARY

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

15th M.G. Coy

Bernap Camp

Connection with Bd Order no. 69 P-12-16

The 15th Machine Gun Coy will relieve the 8th Machine Gun Coy on the night of the 10th December 1916.

No. 3 section and half of No. 1. will relieve the gun teams of the 8th M.G. Coy in front line.

The remainder of No. 1 and No. 2. section will relieve the teams in Rose Reserve and This here.

Forty eight hours rations will be carried by all men going into the line. Gum boots will be taken over at Beedle Dump. Men in line will draw hot food from infantry.

Trussards and belt-bags will be exchanged with outgoing unit.

All trench stores will be taken over and receipts obtained and forwarded to Coy H.Q. immediately after relief is completed.

Men will be used from the six reserve teams at Bernap Camp as nation parties. Four men will be taken off as guides.

These men will accompany guides of 8th M.G. Coy to the line to familiarise themselves with the way.

R. B. Brown

APPENDIX E
9/14

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Page 2

WAR DIARY

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(These headings not required.)

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in Part II and the Staff Manual respectively. The pages will be forwarded to you.

Needle Dump

To 15th Inf Bde

Date 11-12-16

The 15th M. G. Coy successfully relieved the 8th M. G. Coy on the night of the 10th Dec without casualties. Tripods and bell-boxes were exchanged with outgoing unit to facilitate movement.

All trench stores taken over were signed for a copy of receipt for them forwarded to Bde H.Q.

List of stores handed over by 8th M. G. Coy on night of 10th Dec to 15th M. G. Coy attached.

Disposition of guns as follows:—

Front line	5 guns.
Rear Reserve line	3 "
Flare line	2 "
<u>Reserve Bernaby Camp</u>	<u>6 guns</u>

R. R. Dawson Capt

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APPENDIX F

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Appendix 7
Page 3

WAR DIARY

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Event heading not required)

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in P. 8, Para. II and the Staff Manual respectively. The pages will be printed in the near future.

Needle Dump

To

Summary of Events and Information
15th of Dec 1918

Place
Date
Hour
17-12-18

The four ⁽⁴⁾ temporary machine gun emplacements for the defence of Needle trench were completed this morning. Guns are now mounted in these emplacements.

The work was done at night as the day was rather good for observation. Positions were screened with wire netting and tufts of grass interwoven.

Position of emplacements as follows:-

- T 3. a. 9. 8 Double
- N. 32. a. 9. 2 single.
- N. 32. a. 8 1/2. 3 single.

R. B. Pearson Capt

APPENDIX G

16

15th Inf. Coy connection with Bede Mar 70 Needle Dump

(1) The 15th Inf. Coy will be relieved on the night of the 22nd Dec by the 6th Inf. Coy. 19-12-16

Ammunition and belt belt boxes and tripods will be exchanged with relieving unit.

Sections on being relieved will move to Bernafy Camp where they will draw their packs and blankets.

A receipt for all stores handed over will be handed in to Coy HQ as soon as relief is completed.

(2) On the morning of the 23rd the Coy will board the train at Quarry siding and train to Meulle where they will detrain and route march to Rebemont.

(3) St. Kerr will report to Town Major Rebemont 24 hrs before arrival of Coy with details of Coy strength.

(4) Lt. Elliott will report to R.T.O at least 6 hours before departure of train.

(5) Transport under Lt. Fitzgerald will move via Meulle-Dunancourt Base to Rebemont on same day as Coy moves between the hours of 10 am and 1 pm.

Second Blankets will be drawn from Dado immediately on arrival at Bellefleur area.

(6) Lt. Foster will arrange to have Coy put through baths at Bully on 24th.

APPENDIX H

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Appendix 11
Page 161

WAR DIARY

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(When heading not required)

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466

To

15th Inf Bde HQ.

Bernafy Camp

23rd Dec.

Remarks and references to Appendices

The 15th Machine Gun Coy were relieved on the night of the 22nd, that without mishap. Ammunition etc was recharged with relieving unit.

All trench stores were handed over and receipts obtained and a copy of same is attached herewith. After relief the Coy moved back to huts at Bernafy Camp.

All maps 1/10000 were handed over to 6th Coy.

R. Branson

APPENDIX I

18

3231 The War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs. Part II and the Staff Manual respectively. This page will be prepared in manuscript.

Appendix 1

(Where heading not required)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
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Reinforcements!

It is considered that the class of reinforcements now being sent to Machine Gun Companies is altogether unsatisfactory. The majority of them are inadequately trained and a large number of them are of an inferior physique. The men are unable to carry such loads as the machine gunner is called upon to do therefore the rest of the men have to suffer. The efficiency of a Company as a whole is therefore threatened if this class of reinforcements continues to be sent. After doing seventeen days at a school a man does not become a machine gunner except in name and as most of these men after doing a course at a machine gun school are sent back to Base Details where they wait for a month or so before being included in a draft. During this time they probably never see a machine gun except from a distance. It is therefore absolutely impossible to have a high standard of efficiency unless we get a much better class of reinforcement.

R. Dawson

APPENDIX 1

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Appendix

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WAR DIARY

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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

Comments on work in line.

(Please heading not omitted)

Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

During the period in the line machine guns had many opportunities given them by the enemy which were promptly seized by the crews such to the detriment of the enemy's working parties reliefs and ration parties.

Apparently the enemy used his communication trenches very little in approaching the front line walking mostly on the top.

By learning where he showed himself most the men were able to train their guns on these places and invariably claimed a number of victims.

Enemy used indirect fire but little and what he did do seemed to be very scattered which points to his firing from a long way back behind his lines. Much difficulty was again met with in regard to belts becoming wet and damp in the trenches. Steel belts of property looked after did away with this. It is thought that the waterproofing of Ammunition belts should be carried out universally throughout Machine Gun Companies.

H. Brown Capt

APPENDIX K
Vol 20 K

232 W. 24th St. New York, N.Y. 10011

Appendix
L

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Syllabus.

Day	7.15 - 7.45	9.10 - 9.30	9.30 - 12 a.m	2.0 - 4.0	6.0 - 6.30	Lecturing officer
First	Physical Training	Foot. Inspection Manage with whale oil	Re. organization & cleaning	Route March	Lecture Duties in Billets	Lt. Whelpton F.
Second	do including manning	do	Gun-drill 1 1/2 hr Visual training 1/2 hr Cleaning guns 1/2 hr	do	Lecture. Saluting & Discipline	Lt. Holmes Cth
Third	do	do	Gun drill 1/2 hr Mechanism 1 hr Stoppages 1 hr	do	Lecture. Prevention of trench feet	2/Lt. Heathcote N.A
Fourth	do	do	Rifle drill 1/2 hr Care & cleaning 1/2 hr Stoppages 1 1/2 hr	do	Lecture. Sanitation	2/Lt. Foster
Fifth	do	do	Instruction	do	Lecture. March Discipline	2/Lt. Kew.
Sixth	do	do	Stoppages 1 hr Gun-drill 1 1/2 hr Mechanism 1 hr	do	Lecture. Field cooking	2/Lt. Hutton E.D.
Seventh	do	do	Tactical handling 2 hrs Care & cleaning 1/2 hr	do	Lecture. Dress & equipment	Lt. Fitzgerald.
Eighth	do	do	Instruction	do	—	—

R. Dawson Cpt

APPENDIX
L
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WAR DIARY

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

Appendix M

Strength and Sickness

Strength	off	ofr	M	Sickness	Off	Plac
Effective strength 30.11.16	10	162	172	Sick to Field Ambulance	48	

	off	ofr	M
Reinforcements during Month	-	27	27
Transfers &c	3	7	10
	<u>3</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>37</u>
Decrease during Month -			
Transfers, sickness &c	2	43	45

Evac. Div Area. Struck off strength	1	40
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Effective strength 31.12.16. 11. 153. 164.

R. Dawson Capt

APPENDIX M

app M 11/22