

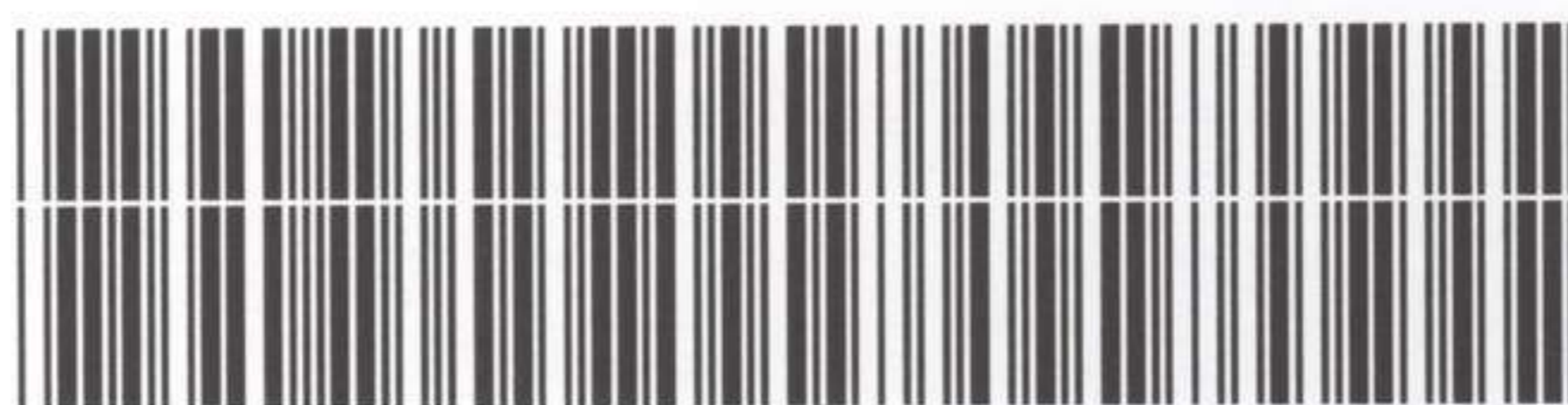
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Machine Guns

Item number: 24/20/11

Title: 15th Australian Machine Gun
Company

January 1917



AWM4-24/20/11

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

Page 1

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.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Inttelpuld	1-1-17	—	<p>Movement ^{order} for move to "T" area issued reference Brigade Order No 72 and No 73. all steel helmets and box respirators stored until move back from "T" area. One section on anti-aircraft duty detailed to stay in "Rebemont" until relieved by 1st Australian Division.</p>	A
	2-7-17		<p>The 13th Machine Gun Coy moved from "Rebemont" to Coisy. Received Bde. Order No 74 and issued movement order in connection with same.</p>	B.
	3-1-17		<p>Moved from Coisy to Vignacourt via Flesselles. Took over 10000 rounds SAA from 13th Machine Gun Coy. Issued company standing orders for billets. Received standing orders for billets in Vignacourt by Town Major.</p>	
	4-1-17		<p>Coy inspected in morning. Billets cleaned up. Seventeen O/R. reinforcements received from machine gun base. Half of these reinforcements from Australia remainder from artillery and infantry.</p>	

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118. 467

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or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY. (B)

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the field	5-1-17		Work as per syllabus carried out during the morning. All pack saddlery cleaned and datted during the afternoon.	
	6-1-17		All tents cleaned and unpacked. Parade as usual for reserves and untrained men. Tents parked in yard of mess billets after being washed.	
	7-1-17		Inspection of billets started etc by O.C. No church parade held during the day. Started clipping horses three men from Coy clipping.	
	8-1-17		Men relieved from anti-air craft work at Rebenant. Personnel reported to Coy H. & Pignacourt. Transport by road. Two trunks of clothing received from Australian Comforts Fund. Work as per syllabus.	

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118. 67

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or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

(A) 3

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the field	9-1-17		Limbers from Rebenmont reported to Coy H.Q. Clipping of horses steadily progressing. Work as per syllabus attached. Through non-arrival of naphtha the waterproofing of belts unable to be gone on with.	
	10-1-17		Oil dressing for limbers not arrived therefore work on these vehicles retarded. Harness steadily improving. Rifles and bayonets in excellent condition.	
	11-1-17		Limbers loaded ready for a move back to line. Seventeen R. reinforcements reported to Coy H.Q. from Machine Gun Base. Details Camiers. All belts filled and packed. Clipping of horses nearly completion. Dressing oil for limbers not yet available work unnecessarily delayed on account of this. No clothes or boots yet issued. Clothing of Coy in bad state.	appendix C

R.H.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

(4)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the field	12-17		<p>Transport left at 8 AM in route for Portsmouth. Suit-Kidgway recharged. Bullets and stables thoroughly cleaned and inspected. Certificates forwarded to Coy HQ of cleanliness and sanitary condition of same.</p> <p>Coy route marked during the morning. Afternoon cleaning up parade. One signaller detached to attend 5th Divisonal School. From the Wilbers.</p>	
	12-17		<p>Coy entrained at Vignocourt Station at 10.4 AM for Inencourt - detrained at 1.30 PM. Bulleting certificates forwarded to B.H.A. New M.B.R. drawn to replace old ones returned to Ordnance. Brigade Order No 76 received and Coy order No 4 issued for move to Montauban on 14th Inst.</p>	<p>Appendix "C"</p>

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

(5)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the field.	14-1-17		Coy moved off at 6 am for Meaulte where it entrained for Quarry siding. Occupied huts at Montautan Brigade Camp. Adibaud Transport moved from Ribemont at 8.50 AM to Mametz Wood. Brigade HQ at Tucourt.	
	15-1-17		Issued orders for the relief of the 7 th Machine Gun Coy in the left Brigade sector. Made final arrangements with P.L. 7 th M.G. Coy. in Middle Trench. Transport located at Mametz.	appendix D
	16-1-17		Relieved the 7 th Machine Gun Coy in the left Brigade sector by 7 P.M. Receipt for trench stores taken over forwarded to Brigade HQ. No Casualties. One man accidentally wounded by bursting of Mills grenade at Montautan Camp.	
	17-1-17		Personnel moved from Montautan camp to 'E' camp where huts of 7 th M.G. Coy were taken over.	

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or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

(6)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the field	18-1-17		<p>During the night about eight thousand rounds on enemy roads and communication trenches. Front line section relieved by section from <u>Rose Reserve</u>. Preparations made for a start on extending new drives in deep dugout in <u>Needle trench</u>.</p>	
	19-1-17		<p>One <u>Sandys</u> <u>Stove</u> drawn for Company. Lt <u>Kerr</u> and <u>Postell</u> returned from leave to England. One man wounded in <u>NEEDLE TRENCH</u>. Fatigue party from E Comp at work cleaning up emplacements and trenches. <u>Indirect fire</u> carried out on enemy rear and support lines.</p>	
	20-1-17		<p>Section relieved in front line by section from <u>Rose Reserve</u>. Positions in intermediate line inspected by G.S.O. 1. one gun returned to Ordnance for repair etc. <u>Indirect fire</u> again carried out.</p>	
	24-1-17		<p>Temporary emplacements in <u>NEEDLE TRENCH</u> commenced also an emplacement in <u>ROSE TRENCH</u>. Deep dugout in front line cleaned out and extended and timbered by section. Also new dugout built for gun crew in <u>Monsoon Trench</u>.</p>	

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
L. the field	22-17		Three new bunkers erected in deep dugout in Middle Trench. Timber and hessian drawn from Trenches for breakdown for horse lines. Two men on leave. Duckboards and timber carried to front line. Section relieved in front line successfully.	
	23-17		Emplacements in Middle Trench steadily nearing completion. Pine timber sent to front line. Improvements to emplacements in front line going ahead. Sgt O/R sent on leave.	
	24-17		Work progressing on deep dugouts in Rose Reserve and Middle Trench. Iron timber & felt sent up to front line to build shelters etc. 12 O/R from 60 th Batt working on Emplacements.	
	25-17		6000 boards S.A.A. drawn from 12 th Div Dump. Hunter Road. Timber for deep dugouts collected at Rose Trench. Two boxes of S.A.A. sent to front line from Rose Reserve. 18 O/R working on Empl.	
	26-17		Six W/O selected from Coy for commission in the Brigade and sent to interview G.O.C.	
			20 O/R from 59 th Batt working on Emplacements. Sections in front line relieved by teams from Rose Reserve West	

WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Tathfield	27-17		Cooperated with Artillery as in Bde Order 77. The working party in Needle Trench Rose Reserve dug dugout further extended and four sets put in. Two I.R. wounded in Gusty Trench by shrapnel.	
	28-17		One Maxim machine salvaged from Anopheane. Fatigue party from F. Camp at work on dugouts and emplacements in Rose Reserve.	
	29-17		Dugouts further extended and timbered. Working party at work on emplacements in Needle Trench. More timber sent to front line. Salvaged machine gun returned to Bde HQ.	
	30-17		Sector in Rose relieved by section from Rose Reserve. Work in Needle and Rose proceeded with. More timber sent to front line. also S.A.A. attended Court of Inquiry at 15 Camp.	
	31-17		Indirect fire carried out on the usual targets ahead enemy lines. Several parties fired on during the day. Selected positions on forward slope of Barkhill for secret M.G. positions.	

[Handwritten initials]

15th Inf. G. Coy Order No. 1

Reference B. de. Orders 72-73

Para (1)

The 15th Inf Bde will move from Rebenant to T. area on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th of December via C. Area. In C. Area units will be distributed in following villages.

- Raineville
- Coisy
- Cordonette

(2)

The 15th Machine Gun Coy will be allotted in Coisy on night of 2nd Inst.

(3)

one section of Machine Gun Coy will remain in Rebenant on anti-air craft work under Capt. Whelpton.

Route (4)

The group will move via Bully - Bonny - La. Beuville - Port Duplessis Quereen.

Units for Cordonette will then proceed from Quereen via Allonville.

Starting point (5)

The starting point will be passed at 9.10 a.m. in morning of 2nd Inst. by Inf. G. Coy.

(6) Distances

The following distances will be kept on the march

- 200 yds between Battalions
- 100 yds between Companies
- 200 yds between Transport & rear column

Transport of M. G. Coy will follow in rear of Coy.

Column will halt for 5 minutes at each clock half hour. A halt will be made at 12 noon to 1. P.M. for lunch

Patrols to be synchronised at Coy H.Q. at 7.10 a.m.



7

Rearguard

Mt. Fitzgerald will be in charge of rearguard and will allow no man to fall out of ranks without a written pass signed by his officer.

(8)

Transport officer to be held strictly responsible for the march discipline of his transport. Correct distances and pace must be kept throughout and no straggling is to be permitted. A L. T. M. B. transport wagon will report to G.O. at transport lines after being loaded.

(9)

Meas

Full marching order
Sheepskins to be carried folded beneath the straps on pack.

1101

Reveille

6.30. a.m.

Breakfast

7. A.M.

Marching out

7.45 A.M.

ParadeFall in

8.40 A.M.

March off

8.54 A.M.

11

Bullets

Sgt. Whelpton will inspect all bullets before moving and will render a certificate to Coy HQ that all bullets have been kept in a clean and sanitary condition.

sgt.

Whelpton Capt.



M. G. by order no 2

Reference Bde Order 74

Coucy. January 2nd

(1) The 15th Bde Group will move from "C District T Area" on 3rd January.

(2) Units for Pignacourt will move via Coucy - Bertangles to the Amiens - Flesselles road to Flesselles thence to Pignacourt.

The 15th Machine Gun Coy will join the Pignacourt column at Coucy at 9.15 am. and take the lead of the column.

The first halt will be at 9 am for ten minutes

The same march arrangements and distances will be observed as on day of 2nd January.

(3) Reveille 6.45 am. Breakfast - 7.15 am

Blankets rolled and hampers loaded 7.45 am.

B ^{after being} lets cleaned will be inspected by lieut Barthote who will forward a certificate to the effect that pellets have been left in a clean and sanitary state to Coy HQ

Company will fall in at 8.40 and march to Church corner where the column will be met.

(4) The motor lorry will travel with transport under orders of lieut Redgrove.

RB Brunson capt



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SECRET.



APPENDIX RC 12

Copy 157
157th
AUSTRALIAN
MACHINE GUN COY.

15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER NO. 75.

Reference Map AMIENS 17 1/100,000.
Map LENS 11 1/100,000.

12th January, 1917.

1. The 15th Australian Infantry Brigade (less detachments to 1st ANZAC) will move to "R" area (RIBEMONT) on the 12th and 13th January.
2. (a) Units (less detachments to 1st ANZAC and Transport) will move by Tactical Trains in accordance with Time Table attached.
(b) Transport and Riding horses will proceed by Road as under:-
12th Jan.- From "I" area to FRANVILLERS via VILLERS BOGAGE and MOLLIERNS.
(c) Transport of Units billeted in VIGNACOURT will pass the Church at 3.50 a.m.
O.C. Column Lieut. McCallum 57th Bn.
58th Bn.
59th Bn.
60th Bn.
15th M.G. Coy. and 15th Bde. H.Q.
"A" Section 14th Field Amb.
(d) Transport of the 57th and 58th Bns., marching independently via BERTANGLES will join the main column (in rear) at VILLERS BOGAGE at 11.30 a.m.
13th Jan.- The combined column will cross the AMIENS road at 9 a.m. and march via NEUILLY to RIBEMONT but will not enter the latter village until the 1st A.I. Brigade has marched out.
3. The following road distances will be observed:-
200 yards between Battalions.
200 yards between Transport and Marching Troops.
100 yards between Companies or Units Transport.
4. No Stores or Personnel will be left in the "I" area.
5. Billets will be left scrupulously clean and inspection certificates forwarded to Brigade Headquarters by 6 p.m. on 13th inst..
6. Advanced Parties will proceed to RIBEMONT by Bus from Brigade Headquarters at 9 a.m. on 13th inst..
7. Supplies for 13th inst. will be drawn on 11th inst.. Supplies for 14th inst. will be drawn on arrival at RIBEMONT.
8. One Motor lorry per Battalion will be available to carry surplus loading and will report on the 12th inst.

Major,
Brigade Major, 15th Australian Infantry Bde.

Copies to No. 1 57th Bn.
2 58th Bn.
3 59th Bn.
4 60th Bn.
5 15th M.G. Coy.
6 "A" Section 14th Field Amb.
7 Staff Captain,
8 Lieut. McCallum, 57th Bn.
9 & 10 Bde. H.Q.
11 War Diary.
12 5th Aust. Div.

2/467 15th Machine Gun Company Order No 3

Reference Base Order No 75

1. The 13th Australian Infantry Brigade will move to "R" area (RIBEMONT) on the 12th and 13th January.
2. (a) Units will move by tactical trains in accordance with time table attached.
 (b) Transport and riding horses will proceed by road as under:—
 12th Jan. — From T area to Franville via Villers Bocage and Molliens.
 (a) Transport of units allotted to Vignacourt will pass the church at 8.30 a.m.
 O.C. Column Limit Redway.
 3rd 9th Battalion
 60th
 15th M.G. Coy and 15th Bde D.L.
 "A" Section 14th Field Art.
 13th Jan: — The combined column will cross the Amers road at 9. A.M. and march via Heully to Ribemont but will not enter the latter village until the 16th A.I. Bde has marched out.
3. The following road distances will be observed:
 200 yds between Battalions.
 200 yds between transports and marching troops.
 100 yds between Companies and units transports.
4. No stores or personnel will be left in T. area.
5. Bullets will be left scrupulously clean and a certificate forwarded to Coy D.L. by Smit. Whelpton by 8. A.M. on 13th Jan.
6. Smit. Copper with Sgt. Truman will report to Bde D.L. at 9. a.m. on 12th as advance party.
7. Supplies for 13th Jan will be drawn on the 12th. Jan. Supplies for 14th will be drawn on

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MACHINE GUN
No. _____
Date _____

arrival at "Rehement"

8. a motor lorry will call at Coy HQ on morning of 13th. for Officers Baggage and office boxes and surplus loading.

9. Personnel of Coy move on morning of 13th.

Reveille 6.45 a.m. Breakfast: 7.30.

Fall in 9. A.M. March out: 9.15 A.M.

10. Smit-Whelpton with 6 O.P.R. will remain behind as rear party to clean up pellets and receipt a receipt from unit taking over as to condition of frames.

R. J. Munson Capt.

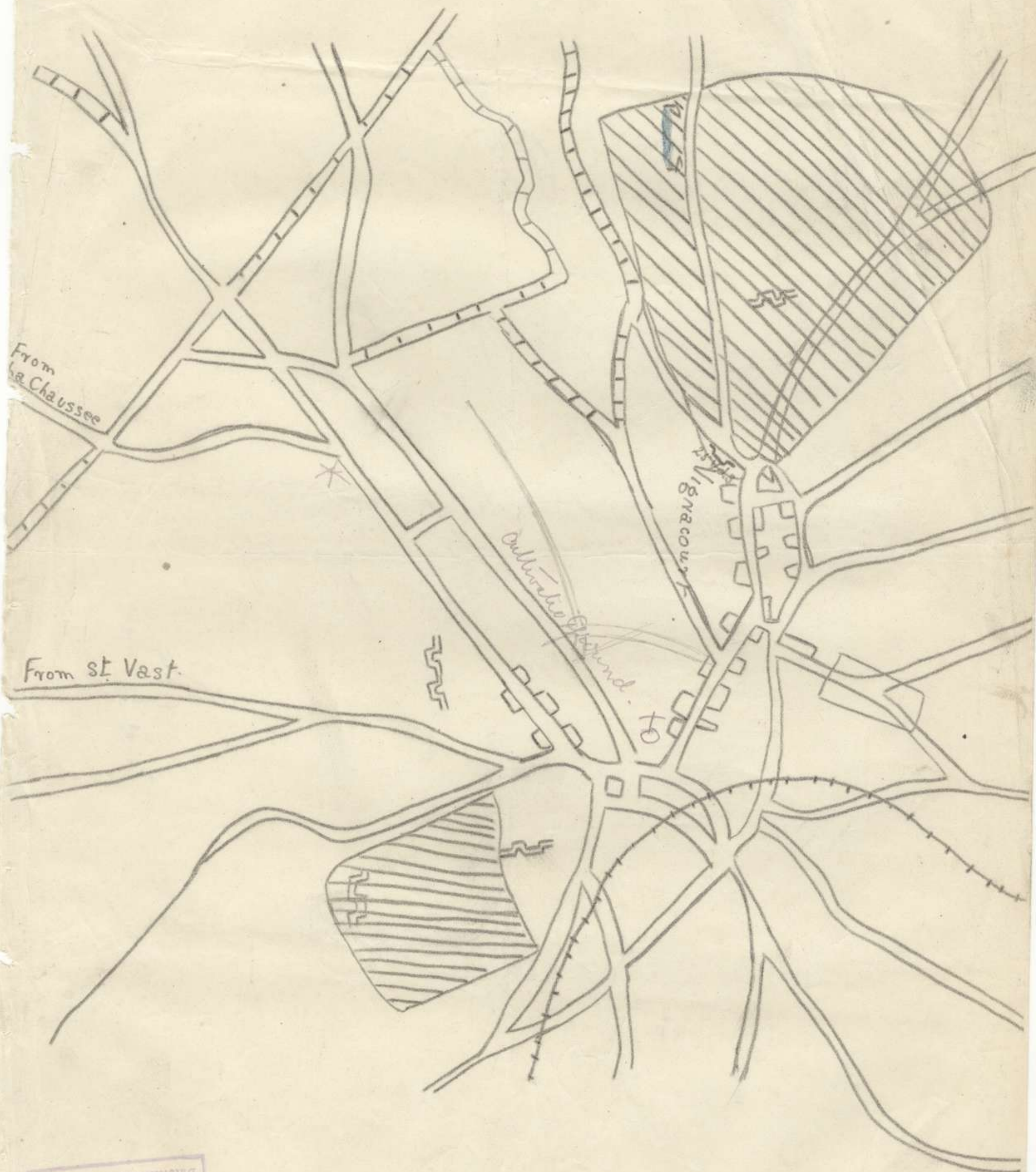
O.C. 15th Machine Gun Coy

Capus to.

A.I.F.

- 11
- 1. Coy. Office
- 2. Smit-Whelpton
- 3. War Drury.

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10TH
 AUSTRALIAN
 MACHINE GUN COY.
 No.
 Date

Syllabus of Work for T Area

(13) 13

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Commencing on 5th January 1917.

	7.15 to 7.45 AM	9 AM to 9.30 AM	9.30 AM to 10.30 AM	10.30 to 12 noon	2 P.M. to 4 P.M.	6 P.M. to 6.30 P.M.
First Day	Physical training and running. Section officers	Feet inspection and massage with whale oil.	Two men mechanism and gun drill. Permanent men signalling.	Belt overhauling and cleaning of ammunition.	mechanism load stripping stoppages and immediate action.	Lecture. Indirect firing. night firing. Capt. Trusson.
Second Day	do Section officers	do	Gun drill mechanism stoppages.	overhauling of tripods and guns. Inspection of same by section officers.	Gun drill from pack horses. selecting of gun position by N.C.O.s	Lecture. Care of guns and equipment in trenches. Capt. Trusson.
Third Day	do Section officers	do	Gun drill with auxiliary mountings.	signalling $\frac{1}{2}$ hr. mechanism $\frac{1}{2}$ hr. stoppages $\frac{1}{2}$ hr.	Lecture on Barr. and strand range finder by C.S.M. Murphy. Visual training judging distance.	Lecture. Trench feet. Care and prevention. Lt. Coppes.
Fourth Day	do Section officers	do	Section lectures. Care of guns in frosty weather. Gyroline and its uses.	Visual training and judging distance. Lecture. Range finding.	Field work with pack horses.	Lecture. Lt. Keatley. Combined sights, vertical searching, bracketing.
Fifth Day	Running Doubling	do	Mechanism. stripping stoppages and immediate action.	Lecture care of guns and equipment in trenches. $\frac{1}{2}$ hr. Fire direction.	Field work with ladders. Digging in and consolidation of shell holes.	Lecture. Fire direction. Passing of orders. Lt. Shelton.
6 th Day	Physical training and running.	do	Lecture. Indirect fire + night firing different methods. Lt. Hoatloti.	Mechanism stripping stoppages and immediate action.	Gun drill stoppages immediate action and stripping signalling.	Lecture. Fire direction. Lt. Fitzgual.

APPENDIX F

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Appendix F: Strength, Casualties & Sickness.

Strength.			Off	Of	Total
Effective Strength,	31.	12.	16	11.	153. 164
Increase					
Reinforcements (from M.G. Corps Base Depot)			37		37
Taken on strength from Hospital			3		3
				40	40
Decrease					
Transferred.			1		1
Casualties	1*	6			7
Sick evacuations		15			15
				1.	22 23
				10	171 181

Casualties & Sickness			Off	Of	Total
Sick: To Field Ambulance	2.	23.			25
Home: New Gren.				15	15
Wounded				5*	5*
Killed				1	1
				2	44 46

* includes 2 of acc. wounded.

* Notification received that Capt H.G. Barber, transferred from 2nd Aust M.G. B., 6/12/16 (A.37 Unit 120) was wounded on 1.11.16.

APPENDIX F

APP. F. 18

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APPENDIX

Copy No. 5

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15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.


 TABLE OF RELIEFS AND LOCATIONS
 (From 26/1/17 inclusive)

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DATE	"B" CAMP	DELVILLE WOOD	NEEDLE AND SWITCH LINE	FRONT LINE SYSTEM.
Jan. 26th.	59th Bn.	58th Bn.	57th Bn.	60th Bn.
27th.	59th Bn.	58th Bn.	57th Bn.	60th Bn.
28th.	59th Bn.	58th Bn.	60th Bn.	57th Bn.
29th.	60th Bn.	59th Bn.	58th Bn.	57th Bn.
30th.	60th Bn.	59th Bn.	58th Bn.	57th Bn.
31st.	60th Bn.	59th Bn.	58th Bn.	57th Bn.
Feb. 1st.	60th Bn.	59th Bn.	57th Bn.	58th Bn.
2nd.	57th Bn.	60th Bn.	58th Bn.	58th Bn.
3rd.	57th Bn.	60th Bn.	59th Bn.	58th Bn.
4th.	57th Bn.	60th Bn.	59th Bn.	58th Bn.
5th.	57th Bn.	60th Bn.	58th Bn.	59th Bn.
6th.	58th Bn.	57th Bn.	60th Bn.	59th Bn.
7th.	58th Bn.	57th Bn.	60th Bn.	59th Bn.
8th.				59th Bn.

The 15th M.G. Company and 15th A.L.T.M.B. will carry out section reliefs as required.

Issued - No.1. 57th Battalion.
 No.2. 58th "
 No.3. 59th "
 No.4. 60th "
 No.5. 15th M.G. Coy. ✓
 No.6. 15th A.L.T.M.B.
 No.7. Brigade Q.M.
 No.8. Staff Captain.
 No.9. Brigade H.Q.
 No.10. War Diary.
 No.11. Right Brigade.
 No.12. Left Brigade.

Geo. J. Weeks

Major.
 Brigade Major 15th Australian Inf. Brigade.

