

**AWM4**

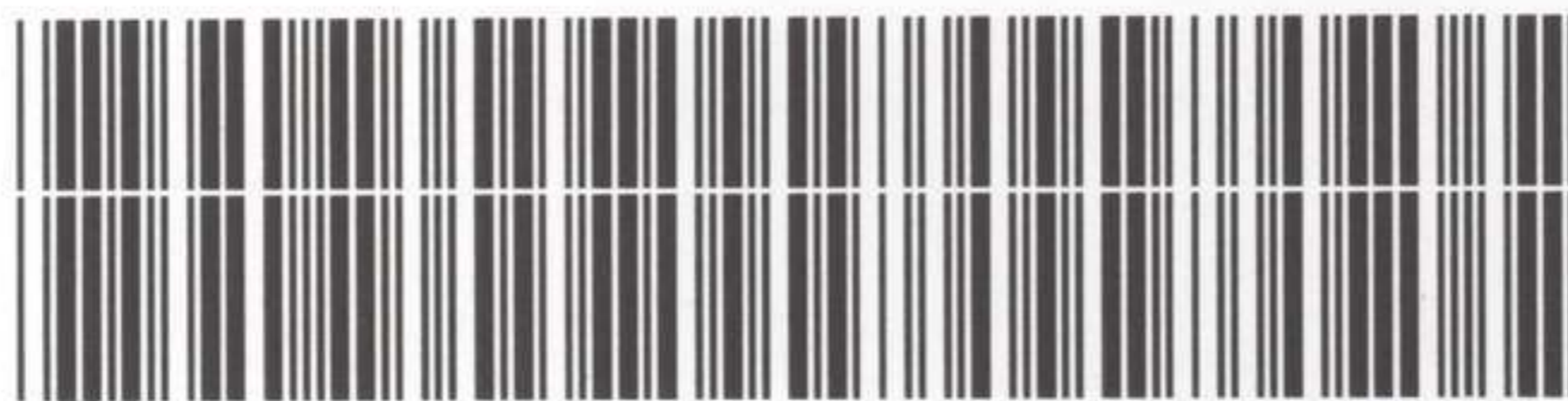
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,  
1914-18 War**

Machine Guns

**Item number:** 24/20/23

**Title:** 15th Australian Machine Gun  
Company

January 1918



AWM4-24/20/23



Original.

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.

WAR DIARY  
or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Vol. 1. Folio 1

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Course Pas de Calais	1918 Jan.	1 <sup>st</sup>	<p>Syllabus of training for week (subject to weather conditions, etc) attached</p> <p>Weather: fine - very cold with strong winds.</p> <p>Holiday for all troops in Division</p> <p>Troops given a good dinner (purchased out of Regt<sup>l</sup> funds) with plenty of good beer; after dinner Officers &amp; men joined in games, etc. Menu for Dinner attached.</p> <p>Instructions received for Lt C. Dutton to report to London for examination for Indian Army.</p> <p>Remfets: Nil Casualties: Nil.</p>	1
		2 <sup>nd</sup>	<p>Weather: fine - bracing, slight thaw set in</p> <p>Holiday in accordance with Divl. Orders</p> <p>Cap. G. Fitzherald &amp; Lt A. G. Kerr to Paris on leave (8 days)</p> <p>Lt. Whelpton temp. in Command of Company.</p> <p>Lieuts. Ridgway, Heathcote, Coppin, Rider, Richards, &amp; L. Errington at Camiers to witness M.G. barrage demonstration given by Officers at Small Arms School</p> <p>Cap. McIntosh to S.A. School, Camiers, for M.G. Course</p> <p>Lt. W. Ridgway nominated for 6 mos. at Grantham</p> <p>Tamting etc. of transport vehicles progressing well.</p> <p>Remfets - Nil Casualties: Nil.</p>	2





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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Course	1918. Jan'y 3 <sup>rd</sup>		<p>Weather: very cold. snow during day. frost at night.                      Training as per syllabus. O.C. very pleased with condition of rifles, equipment etc. upon inspection &amp; complimented officers &amp; men upon entire absence of crime, during Xmas &amp; New Year holidays in particular. Sporting material for Coy drawn from Group Rep.                      Reinpts - Nil. Casualties Nil.</p>	
			<p>4<sup>th</sup> Weather - frosty.                      Training as per syllabus. O.M.S. Smith reverted to ranks at his own request &amp; joined 4<sup>th</sup> Section Signallers Plie &amp; Williams to Brigade School of Signal Instruction, Parvuty. Football practice on Nos 3 &amp; 4 Section grounds.                      Reinpts Nil. Casualties Nil.</p>	
			<p>5<sup>th</sup> Weather - fine, though cold. slight thaw.                      Training as per syllabus. Lt W. Ridgway to leave England after which to report to Grantham for duty there. Corp Whitfield to Gas School.                      Football practice - ground too heavy for match. New slides for tangent sight recd. old slides returned.                      Reinpts - Nil. Casualties Nil.</p>	

15<sup>TH</sup>  
AUSTRALIAN  
MACHINE GUN COY.  
No.....  
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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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Course	19	18	<p>Training syllabus for week attached                      Weather - fine but cold, rain in evening                      Company at massed Church Parade. Marched past S.O.C., after service                      Order received to deliver all guns to L.A.P.O.S. for overhauling                      Reinfects - Nil. Casualties - Nil.</p>	No 3.
"	7 <sup>th</sup>		<p>Weather - Dull - heavy thaw set in                      Training as per syllabus. Guns handed to L.A.P.O.S.                      Lt Heathcote attended meeting of Brigade Sports Committee.                      Reinfects - Nil. Casualties - Nil.</p>	
"	8 <sup>th</sup>		<p>Weather - Heavy snow storm. Frost at night                      Training as per syllabus. Coy bathing parade at Pondeauville baths. 16 OR on leave to Boulogne.                      GMS Walker (now at Grant Ham) awarded D.C.M.                      Reinfects - Nil. Casualties - Nil.</p>	
"	9 <sup>th</sup>		<p>Weather: Morning fine. Afternoon: heavy snow storm                      Training as per syllabus. Coy blankets fumigated.                      Reinfects - Nil. Casualties - Nil.</p>	

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*C. J.*



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Course	Jan. 1918	10 <sup>th</sup>	Weather: fine, thawing. Training as per Syllabus. Painting of transport vehicles nearing completion. Rempts: Nil. Casualties Nil.	
		11 <sup>th</sup>	Weather: fine, still thawing. Training as per Syllabus. #03 Section beat #013 Section at Football (Aust. rules). Rempts: Nil. Casualties: Nil.	
		12 <sup>th</sup>	Weather: dull with slight showers of rain. Training as per Syllabus. Sgt. Wilburn + O'Donohue to Paris on leave. N.C.O's Instruction Class commenced. S.B.L. Rider instructing. Rempts Nil. Casualties Nil.	
		13 <sup>th</sup>	Weather - fine, very wet underfoot. Training Syllabus attached. #02 Section beat #03 Section #04 at Football by 3 points. All officers attended lecture by G.O.C., 15 <sup>th</sup> Inf Brigade when G.O.C. explained latest tactics for offence + defence + exhorted all to greater + more thorough achievements on the battle field, touching upon the anticipation of very severe fighting during the Spring + Summer. Rempts Nil. Casualties Nil.	

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2449 Wt. W14957/M90 750,000 1/16 J.B.C. & A. Forms/C.2118/12.



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Course	1918 Jan 14 <sup>th</sup>		<p>Weather: Heavy fall of snow: dull &amp; cold                      Training as per Syllabus. 66 OK to Paragility for instruction by Bde Bombing officer in bombing, when that officer complimented the men upon the manner in which they had acquitted themselves. Pte Alf Edwards, 402 Section, represented the Coy in Boxing Tournament.                      Rempts - Fil. Casualties - Nil</p>	
"	15 <sup>th</sup>		<p>Weather: Windy with heavy showers.                      Training suspended owing to weather. Coy orders attd. Pay parade. Pamphlet on precautions against enemy gas attacks read to all Sections.                      Rempts - Fil. Casualties - Nil</p>	405.
16 <sup>th</sup>			<p>Weather: Very wet &amp; cold.                      Training suspended owing to weather.                      Gas helmet training in billets.                      New precautions adopted.                      Rempts - Fil. Casualties - Nil</p>	

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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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Course	1918	17 <sup>th</sup>	<p>Weather: Cold, heavy rain            Company attended Brigade Sports held at            Dunderaville. Lt. H. Hackworthy won mile Championship            Lt. H. B. L. Smith organised &amp; conducted a canteen on the            Sports Ground, providing hot drinks &amp; tables.            Signaller Lt. Gyer to X Corps Sig. School.            Reinfects - Nil. Casualties - Nil</p>	
		18 <sup>th</sup>	<p>Weather - very dull, light winds            Training as per syllabus. 20 off &amp; 60 on instructed            in bombing by Bde Bombing Officer.            New practice range made. Preliminary arrangements            for Cay Sports completed.            Reinfects - Nil. Casualties - Nil.</p>	
		19 <sup>th</sup>	<p>Weather - fine            Training as per syllabus. Nos 1 &amp; 2 Sections beat Nos 3 &amp; 4            Sections at Football. Lt. A. Kerr of Bde when Brigade            Major advised officers writing War Diaries with a view            to obtaining uniformity &amp; complying with requirements            for Historical Record Section.            Reinfects - Nil. Casualties - Nil.</p>	



C.V.B.



WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Course	1918 July 20 <sup>th</sup>		Weather: fine with light showers. Training Syllabus attached Inspection of transport by O.C. when condition <sup>etc.</sup> of horses, vehicles, harness & chains was very satisfactory. Lt A Coppin at Camouflage School at Wimereux. Reinfets - Fil. Casualties - Fil.	406.
	21 <sup>st</sup>		Weather - fine Training as per Syllabus. Football match 402 v. 403. won by 402 Section - a very keen & close game. Capt. Whitepton played in Bde rep team (Aust Football) which defeated Div. Team at Lendearville. Reinfets - Fil. Casualties - Fil.	
	22 <sup>nd</sup>		Weather - day fine, heavy showers in evening. Training as per Syllabus. During afternoon Coy attended parade for presentation of medals & marched past G.O.C., A.I.F. Lt H.B.L. Smith to England on leave. Reinfets - Fil. Casualties - Fil.	
	23 <sup>rd</sup>		Weather - dull & misty - very cold. Brigade Route March & March Past G.O.C. I Division. Guns returned from workshops Lt Hackworthy to Camouflage Depot. Reinfets - Fil. Casualties - Fil.	

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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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Course	1918	24 <sup>th</sup>	<p>Weather - fine &amp; warm.                      Training as per Syllabus. Football match 112 v 304 ended in a draw. Sections training for Company Sports. Each of 6 sections held a "trip out" for purpose of choosing section representatives for events.                      Receipts - Nil. Casualties Nil.</p>	
		25 <sup>th</sup>	<p>Weather - fine, sunny.                      Training as per Syllabus. Afternoon - Company gunners on range practice target stoppages etc. conducted by Lt. Backworthy &amp; Murphy.                      24<sup>th</sup> on leave to Boulogne. 404 Section beat 401 Section at Football.</p>	
		26 <sup>th</sup>	<p>Weather: Heavy fog which did not clear until afternoon. Coy marched to Sports Ground at 10am, when sports commenced, with luncheon interval, continued until evening. 402 Section won the championship with the highest aggregate of points, 404 Section being 2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 403 Section third. The sports &amp; outing proved a success beyond all anticipation, for which the chief</p>	

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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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Course	1918 June 26 <sup>th</sup> (Contd)		<p>organiser &amp; controller of the sporting events, Lt B.L. Rider was mainly responsible. A sum of 356<sup>/-</sup> contributed by members of the Company, was distributed in prize money. So high was the standard of athletic ability which was displayed that a subsequent meeting of the officers of the Company decided unanimously to ask that, in future Brigade Sports contests, this Company be allowed to compete as a single unit against the Battalions &amp; not in conjunction with Bde Sqns &amp; the A.L.I.M. Bty as previously. Sports programme &amp; results are attached.</p> <p>Reinpts &amp; Casualties - Nil</p>	
	27 <sup>th</sup>		<p>Weather - fine. O.C., Capt G. FitzGerald detached from Coy while acting I.M.G.O. &amp; Division Preparation for projected movement. Coy orders att'd. Afternoon. Coy paraded &amp; marched to Div. Football Final match at Condeauville when 15<sup>th</sup> Brigade won the Championship, defeating 8<sup>th</sup> Brigade. Capt. Whelpton took over temp. command of Coy.</p> <p>Reinpts Nil. Casualties Nil.</p>	

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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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Course	1918 July 28 <sup>th</sup>		Weather - fine & warm Training Syllabus attached Transport moved out at 7.30 am. Preparation for move continued. No 3 Section defeated No 1 Section at Football. Reinfts Nil. Casualties - Nil.	No 9.
	29 <sup>th</sup>		Weather - fine Routine as per Coy Order. Lt Coppin settling extra rent & claims from civilians No 4 Section defeated No 2 Section at Football. Lt J Howieson joined Coy reinforcement. Reinfts - 1 Officer. Casualties Nil.	
	30 <sup>th</sup>		Weather - fine As per Coy orders with addition that Lt Murphy & 16 Gunners moved by same train as advance party for purpose of staying overnight at gun positions prior to relief & acting as guides to remainder of teams. Reinfts - Nil. Casualties - Nil.	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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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.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Course Messines Sheet 28 1/40,000.	1918 Jan	31 <sup>st</sup>	<p>Weather: very cold; frosty, heavy fog. Balance of company marched out of course at 2.30 am. to entraining point at Samer. Movement report attached. Upon detraining company marched to Rear Headquarters at Bully beef Farm. In afternoon relief moved out to take over in line from 2nd W.G. Coy. Orders for relief attached.</p> <p>Relief was completed without any casualties, but under considerable difficulty owing to extreme darkness &amp; fog.</p> <p>Reinfts - Nil. Casualties - Nil.</p>	<p>ffo: 10</p> <p>ffo: 11</p>
			<p><u>General Remarks.</u></p> <p>During the whole of the month of January the Coy was billeted in Course, a village consisting of a few poorly constructed buildings of the French farmhouse type inhabited by anything but a prosperous population, living very frugally. Course, in itself offered nothing congenial to soldiers just out of the line: not even a decou estamine. The weather, although it improved during the last week, was miserable - rain, snow &amp; frost with heavy fogs &amp; mists. Consequently more than the usual work &amp; organisation was required to fulfil the object of our departure from the line &amp; make the rest a profitable one.</p>	

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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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1918		<p><u>General Comfort:</u> After a good deal of work, the mens billets were made fairly comfortable. Thanks to the liberal issue of good clothing, no one suffered any bodily discomfort. The food ration was a bit light, but that want &amp; the absence of estaminets was very effectively negatived by the establishment of an exceptionally good Coy Canteen, controlled by P. B. L. Smith &amp; managed by Capt V. J. Brown. In addition extra vegetables &amp; fruit were purchased out of Regimental funds - accumulated from canteen profits. A very liberal allowance of egg &amp; fish leave was granted &amp; duly appreciated. The men felt the cold fairly keenly, but were finally comfortable &amp; contented.</p> <p><u>Discipline:</u> The discipline of the Coy could not have been better, as is evidenced by the total absence of crime during the whole period, included in which were the festive holidays at Xmas &amp; New Year, when ample opportunity was offered &amp; more than usual latitude given to the troops. In addition to this commendable &amp; gratifying factor, the evidence of wholesome camaraderie &amp; esprit de Corps was most marked. In fact although everyone is frankly "fed up" with the war, the discipline &amp; spirits of the men have never been better.</p>	

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WAR DIARY

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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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p><i>Training.</i> The inclemency of the weather greatly interfered with the carrying on of routine training such as gun work, but on the other hand the cold called for vigorous exercise, while the snow permitted the enjoyable &amp; to our men, novel sport of tobogganing - one most profitable, also, as a method of training. Added to this, physical exercises, route marches, plenty of football &amp; other sports of an energetic nature have enabled both officers &amp; men to return to the line in perfect health &amp; physical condition.</p>	<p><i>[Signature]</i>  <i>perh</i>  <i>901 00</i></p> <p>Sick wastage appx. 12                      Coy strength " 13                      Transport report " 14.</p>

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18,000-12/17-8723

## WAR DIARY

OF

15<sup>th</sup> Machine Gun Coy.

FOR

January, 1918.

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1.	Coy. Training syllabus.
2.	Menu for New Year dinner.
3.	Coy. Training syllabus.
4.	" " "
5.	Coy. orders.
6.	Coy Training syllabus.
7.	Programme etc. Coy. Sports.
8.	Coy. orders for move
9.	Coy Training syllabus.
10.	" Report on move of troops
11.	" orders for relief.
12.	Sien wastage during month
13.	Coy strength " "
14.	Transport report for "

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# Syllabus of Training - 30<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 1917 to 5<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>r</sup> 1918.

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Day & Date	9 to 9.30 <sup>AM</sup>	9.30 to 10.30	10.30 to 11	11 to 11.45	11.45 to 12.15	Afternoon.
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Company Parade & Inspection by O.C.					Cleaning Limbers.
Monday 31 <sup>st</sup>	Inspection arms & accoutrements by Section Officers.	Physical Training	Route March by Sections independently	Mechanism & Stoppages (In Billets)		Recreational Training
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Holiday in accordance with Divisional Memo.					
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup>						
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Inspection arms & accoutrements by Section Officers.	Physical Training	Squad Drill	Company Parade Inspection by O.C.	Lecture by I.Ds. on Barrage Fire with M.Gs.	Recreational Training
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Inspection arms & accoutrements by Section Officers.	Company Route March				Recreational Training
Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Inspection arms & accoutrements by Section Officers.	Physical Training	Mechanism & Stoppages (In billets)	overhauling, checking & cleaning Guns. & Gun Equipment.		Recreational Training

N.B. If weather permits, Gun Drill will be included.

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1. 15<sup>TH</sup>  
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APPENDIX 1.



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APPENDIX 2.

273 15 Aust. M. G. Coy,  
 JAN 1<sup>st</sup> 1918  
 COURSE.  
 - Men's dinner -  
 - MENU -

SOUP

SUCKING PIG      ROAST BEEF      BOILED MUTTON  
 POTATOES      CAULIFLOWER  
 WHITE SAUCE

PLUM PUDDING      BRANDY SAUCE.

ALMONDS      WALNUTS      RAISINS      APPLES

RED WINE      BEER

appx 2  
 vol. 1. 7. 1.



15<sup>th</sup> A. M. G. Coy. Syllabus of Training. Jan. 6<sup>th</sup> to Jan. 12<sup>th</sup> Inc. 1918

N<sup>o</sup> 2.

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Day & Date 1918	9 a m to 9.30	9.30 a m to 10.30	10.30 a m to 11 a m	11 a m to 11.45.	11.45 a m to 12.15	Afternoon
Sunday Jan 6 <sup>th</sup>	Rifle Inspection	Church Parade.		Boy Parade Inspection by O.C.		Free.
Monday Jan 7 <sup>th</sup>	Inspection of Arms & accoutrements by Sect <sup>m</sup> Officers	Physical Training	Squad Drill	Rifle Exercises	Inspection of Anti-Gas Equipment by Coy Gas T.60	Recreational Training
Tuesday Jan 8 <sup>th</sup>	Inspection of Arms & accoutrements by Sect <sup>m</sup> Officers	Physical Training	Mechanism	Lecture by Sect. Offs. on care & maintenance of guns & gear during frosty weather.	Stoppages.	Limber cleaning.
Wednesday Jan 9 <sup>th</sup>	Inspection of Arms & accoutrements by Sect <sup>m</sup> Officers	Company	Route March.			Recreational Training
Thursday Jan 10 <sup>th</sup>	Inspection of Arms & accoutrements by Sect <sup>m</sup> Officers	Physical Training	Mechanism	Stoppages	Lecture by Sect <sup>m</sup> Offs. on points to be observed B.D. & a fire	Recreational Training
Friday Jan 11 <sup>th</sup>	Inspection of Arms & accoutrements by Sect <sup>m</sup> Officers	Physical Training	Rifle Exercises & Squad Drill.	Route March by sections independently	Boy Parade inspection by O.C.	Recreational Training
Saturday Jan 12 <sup>th</sup>	Inspection of Arms & accoutrements by Sect <sup>m</sup> Officers.	Physical Training	Kit Inspection by Sect <sup>m</sup> Officers	Belt Filling	Cleaning, Overhauling and checking off all guns and gun equipment.	Recreational Training

15<sup>th</sup> AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN COY.  
 No. 113  
 Date 7.3.

KIDDERPICK

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15<sup>th</sup> Aust Machine Gun Coy. Training Syllabus Period 13<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> January 1918

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	9-9.30 AM	9.30-10.30 AM	10.30-11 AM	11-11.45 AM	11.45-12.15 AM	Afternoon.		
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Church Parade Inspection by O.C.							
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Inspection of Accoutrements by Sect. Officers	Training	Physical	Squad Drill.	Rifle Exercises	Foot Massage		
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup>				Inspection of S. B. R's by Co. Gas. & C.O.	Drill wearing S. B. R's	Lecture by Sect. Officers on Care of Guns in Frosty Weather.		
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup>				Company Route March.				
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup>				Training	Physical	Squad Drill.	Rifle Exercises	Foot Rubbing Parade.
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup>						Kit Inspection by Section Officers.	Company Parade and Inspection by O.C.	
Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup>						Route March by Sections Independently.		

Recreation and Training

APPENDIX 4

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after H. H. H.  
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Owing to all Machine Guns being at Ordnance for overhaul, gun drill and mechanism does not show on this syllabus. Should the guns be returned before the expiration of this syllabus these items will be inserted, as the O.C. deems necessary.



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APPENDIX No 5.

273

15TH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN COMPANY.

ROUTINE ORDERS BY

CAPTAIN, G. F. FITZGERALD, O. C.

15th January, 1918.

PROMOTIONS: 1. 1030, Pte Hoffman, W. to be Temp. Sergt. from 5-1-18 vice QMS. Smith, R. A., reverted at his own request.  
 3695, T/Cpl. Boulter, E. V. to be Acting Sergt. from 15-1-18.  
 339, Pte Thomson, J. R. to be T/Cpl. from 25-12-17, vice Cpl. Murgutt, H. O. evac. sick.  
 239, Pte Moysey, WBT. to be Lce/Cpl from 24-12-17, vice L/Cpl. Turner, T. evac. sick.  
 2064, Pte Lewis, L. to be Lce/Cpl. from 2-1-18, vice L/Cpl Wigley, reverted.  
 2337, Pte Buntan, J. to be Lce/Cpl. from 17-10-17 vice L/Cpl Dalitz, to Hospital, England.  
 3109, Pte Gillis, A. to be Lce/Cpl. from 15-12-17, vice L/Cpl Perry, J. died of wounds.  
 2435, Cpl. Whitfield absorbs vacancy of Cpl. Ashton, B. promoted Sergt.  
 Pay books of the above men to be handed in to Orderly Room for the necessary entries to be completed on 18-1-1918.

CRIMES: 2. No. 8, Pte Archer, H. W.O.A.S., A.W.L. from 2 p.m. on 13-12-17 until apprehended by Military Police at Abbeville on 14-12-17 - period 2 days. Awarded 7 days F.P. No. 2 by O.C., 15th M.G. Co No. 2862, Pte Belgrove, R.T. W.O.A.S., after being warned, A.W.L. from morning parade at 10.30 a.m. 13-1-18 until 12 noon 13-1-18 - period 1 1/2 hours. Awarded 4 days C.B. by O.C., 15th M.G. Coy. *Carriers Base Depot from*

PAYBOOKS: 3. It is illegal for any man to make any entry or alteration in his paybook. Any book needing alteration or correction is to be handed in to Orderly Room, where the matter will be fixed up.

15TH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN COY.  
 No.....  
 Date.....

*George F. Fitzgerald*  
 Captain,  
 O. C., 15th M. Gun Coy. *2.1.18*



15th Aust. Machine Gun Co. No. 4. Syllabus of Training Period 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan. to 26<sup>th</sup> Jan. 1918. Inclusive

Day	Time	Activity	Section	Activity	Section	Activity	Section
Sunday Jan 20 <sup>th</sup>	9 to 9:30 am	Inspection of Weapons by Sub-Officers		9:30 to 9:45		9:45 to 10:30	Church Parade.
				10:30 to 11:00 am		11 to 11:45 am	Inspection of Company by O.C.
						11:45 to 12:15 pm	Free
Monday Jan 21 <sup>st</sup>			Physical Training	Squad Drill for Nos 1, 2 & 4 Sections No 3 Section Instruct. on German Machine Gun.	Stoppages for Nos 2, 3 & 4 Sections. No 1 Section Instruct. on German Machine Gun.	Mechanism for Nos 1, 3 & 4 Sections No 2 Section Instruction on the German Machine Gun (Heavy)	Recreational Training Football matches etc.
Tuesday Jan 22 <sup>nd</sup>				Training Suspended owing to 5 <sup>th</sup> Divisional Sports Meeting (with 5 <sup>th</sup> Div. Instructions)			
Wednesday Jan 23 <sup>rd</sup>			Physical Training	Squad Drill and Rifle Exercises	Stoppages for Nos 1, 2 & 3 Sections No 4 Sect. instruction on German Heavy Machine	Training in accordance with Bde Tro. Memo. No 4 Sect. instruction on German Heavy Machine Anti-Gas.	Recreational Training
Thursday Jan 24 <sup>th</sup>			Physical Training	Training in accordance with Bde Tro. Memo No 4 Anti-Gas	Company Drill.	Inspection of Co. by O.C.	Recreational Training
Friday Jan 25 <sup>th</sup>				Company Route March.			Recreational Training
Saturday Jan 26 <sup>th</sup>			Physical Training	Squad Drill and Rifle Exercises	Training in accordance with Bde Training Memo No 3. Anti-Gas	Training, checking and overhauling of Gun Gear	Recreational Training

Inspection of Arms and accoutrements by Section Officers.

Foot Massage Parade

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copy  
28.1.18-7.

15<sup>TH</sup>  
AUSTRALIAN  
MACHINE GUN COY.

No. ....

Date.....



APPENDIX

RESULTS - In order of events.

Tug of War - First Heat, Transport v No.3 Section. Winners, Transport.  
 75 yds " " Granari (1) & Williams (2)  
No.3 Sect. No.4 Sect.  
 Long Jump - Schumacher (4 Sec) Archer (1 Sec) Mills (4 Sec).  
 Tug of War - Second Heat, No.1 Sec. v No.2 Sec. Won by No.2 Sec.  
 220 Yds. Scratch - Weale (2 Sec) Rodgers (3 Sec) Wain (H.Q.)  
 Bomb Throwing, Schumacher (4 Sec) Densley (2 Sec) Kingshott (3 Sec)  
 75 Yds. Second Heat, Schumacher (4 Sec) Weale (2 Sec) Dead Heat.  
 440 Yds Scratch, Rodgers (3 Sec) Bowden (1 Sec) J. Evans (Transport)  
 Tug of War - Third Heat, H.Q. v No.4 Sect. Won by H.Q.  
 High Jump, Schumacher (4 Sec) Lt. Heathcote (Tr. Sec) Whitfield (2 Sec)  
 75 Yds. Final, Weale (2 Sec) Schumacher (4 Sec) Dead Heat (Granari (3 Sec)  
 Tug of War - Fourth Heat, Transport v No.2 Sec. Won by No.2 Sec.  
 880 Yds. Scratch - Lt. Hackworthy (2 Sec) Allen (2 Sec) Schumacher (4 Sec)  
 Run Off - 75 Yds. Weale (2 Sec) Schumacher (4 Sec).  
 Tug of War - Final, No.2 Sect. v H.Q. Won by No.2 Section.  
 Relay Race - Won by No.2 Section Team.  
 Mile Teams Race, No.4 Section, No.3 Section & No.2 Section.

Summary of Points won by respective Sections :-

No. 2 Section	26 points.
4 Section	19 "
3 Section	11 "
1 Section	4 "
Transport	3 "
H. Q.	1 "
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*Haen Race: 1<sup>st</sup>: "Hit" - No 2. sec.  
 2<sup>nd</sup>: "Lizzie" - Hqs.  
 3<sup>rd</sup>: "Dartie" - Hqs.*

15TH  
AUSTRALIAN  
MACHINE GUN COY.

No. ....

Date. ....

15TH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN COMPANY SPORTS MEETING - 26-1-18.

FIRST EVENT - 10.45 a.m.

- Event No. 1 Tug of War - First Heat.
- 2 75 Yds. Scratch - First Heat.
- 3 Kicking for Goal.
- 4 Tug of War - Second Heat.
- 5 220 Yds. Scratch.
- 6 Bomb Throwing.
- 7 Tug of War - Third Heat.
- 8 75 Yds Scratch - Second Heat.
- 9 440 Yds Scratch.
- 10 Tug of War - Fourth Heat.
- 11 880 Yds. Scratch.
- 12 75 Yds. Scratch - Final.
- 13 Tug of War - Final.
- 14 Broad Jump.
- 15 Relay Race.
- 16 Mile Teams Race.

JUDGES: Captain G. F. FitzGerald; Lieut. A. R. Eddington & Sgt. L. Bryant.  
 STARTER: Lieut. A. G. Kerr.  
 Judges' decision to be final for all events.

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15TH  
AUSTRALIAN  
MACHINE GUN COY.

No. ....

Date. ....



Abap Day.

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 Reporson's Sports Meeting held by  
 15<sup>th</sup> Aust. Inf Gun Coy on 26<sup>th</sup> Jan'y 1918

Weather:- The weather was very misty during the morning, but after the interval for lunch, the mist cleared away & the sun shone brightly.

Organization:- The Sports Meeting was organized by L. B. L. Rider, who called together a Committee comprising representatives from each of the Sections.

General:- The interest taken in the Meeting by the men was very keen, & the competitive spirit was prominent. A blackboard shewing the order of events, & also the points won by the respective sections, received much attention after each event.

The Meeting was conducted on the sound principle of "No Delay" with the result that the interest was continuous, & the day passed quickly. This is the first Sports Meeting held by the Company, & the opinion that it should not be the last was freely expressed by the men who are looking forward to another Meeting in the near future.

Some fine talents came to



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APPENDIX 7

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light during the day,  
 which augurs well for the  
 Company's representation  
 at the next Brigade & for  
 Divisional Sports Meeting,  
 if the Company enters such  
 Meeting as a separate unit,  
 there is no doubt the result  
 will be a credit to the 15<sup>th</sup>  
 Aust. M. Gun Coy.

15 <sup>TH</sup> AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN COY.	
No.	.....
Date	.....



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15TH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN COMPANY.

App No 8 24

ROUTINE ORDER

by

CAPT. C. F. FITZGERALD, C. C.

Ref. Callias 1/100000; Sheet 28 1/40000.

27th January, 1918.

Orders in compliance with 15th A.I. Ede Order No. 139.

27th Jan. 1918.

1. Full Section equipment will be packed in limbers, limbers covered, poles standing on swingle trees.
2. The Order regarding tin protection on axles is to be carried out and the tin painted.
3. Officers' Valises, if not required for sleeping purposes, and any other baggage not required until after arrival in the Kennel Area, are to be packed ready for loading.
4. The Orderly Officer will see that the stores etc. in the under-mentioned departments are packed ready for loading, leaving an absolute minimum for transport later: Q.M. Store, A.M.C., Canteen, & Office. And that bootmaker's & Armorer's material are loaded.
5. Ammunition belts are to remain as at present. Section Officers will, however, mark the boxes containing good ammunition and those containing practice ammunition for the purpose of distinction upon handing over.
6. All vehicles ~~containing~~ <sup>moving</sup> with Transport section, when fully loaded, will be drawn up to the Transport lines this evening.
7. C.S.M. will detail 6 breaksmen for duty with Transport Section; breaksmen to report to Transport Sgt at Transport lines this evening.

28th Jan. 1918.

8. Transport Section, less 1 limbered S. wagon, <sup>Water Cart</sup> ~~cooks~~ & Mess Cart, & two riding horses, will move out at 7.30 a.m., joining 3th A. Transport Group and moving with that Group to the new area.
9. All Area Stores to be returned & receipts handed in to Orderly Room.

29th Jan. 1918.

10. General cleaning up of billets & billeting area.

30th Jan. 1918.

11. Advance party, consisting of 1 Officer ~~batman~~ (Lieut. Mackworthy) <sup>and</sup> ~~batman~~ to report to Staff Captain, Samer, at 5 a.m. Batman to meet lorry at Kennel Church on 31st & guide it to its destination.
12. Corporal W. Turner & 3 men from No. 1 Section will report to Q.M.S. at 9 a.m. to act as guard at Samer Station for Rations.
13. Blankets. One blanket will be carried on the man. The second blanket will be rolled lengthwise in bundles of 20, or two bundles per Section, carefully labelled and stacked at Q.M. Store not later than 11 a.m.
14. Sgt. Bruce & 5 men (3 Signaller's, 1 runner & 1 storeman) will accompany the lorry ~~carrying~~ conveying blankets to Devres Station, where they will act as a picket until blankets & bicycles are loaded on the train leaving Devres 8.43 a.m. on 31st, by which train this picket will travel. Bicycles must bear labels showing the unit to which they belong.
15. As much as possible of cooking gear & surplus stores will be loaded on the remaining transport vehicles ready for moving off in the morning.
16. Sections will carry out independently a full marching order parade on their own parade grounds and Section Officers will ensure that the billets are absolutely clean prior to the Sections re-entering their billets. S.Os will tender to O.C. a certificate at 12.30 p.m. that this order was complied with & the billets are absolutely clean & in a sanitary condition and free from all refuse. Surplus equipment etc. found during the S.Os inspection will be stacked outside the billet and handed over to the party which will be detailed to collect it.
17. The Billeting Officer (Lieut. A. Coppin) will arrange for the payment <sup>rent</sup> of claims, and where possible by payment, settle all claims for damage etc.



31st Jan. 1918.

18. The following is the time table:- Reveille 12 midnight; Breakfast 1 a.m. Company parade, opposite Estaminet at Crossroads, 2.15 a.m.; Move Off 2.30 a.m.
19. Remainder of Transport, consisting of 1 G.S. Limber, Cooks & Mess Carts & the riding horses with respective drivers will move off at 4 a.m. Corporal Lewis will take charge of this detail which will join the main portion of the group at the Crossroads, Courset, upon arrival at which place, he will report to the Officer in Charge of the group. Lieut Deane, 58th Bn

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(over)



20. Two privates to be detailed from No. 2 Section will remain behind after the vacation of the billets as portion of the 15th Brigade detail for the cleaning of this area.

21. A party consisting of 1 Officer, 1 N.C.O. and 8 men will proceed with the motor lorry leaving at 5 a.m. This party will act as loading party, and will also collect and stack at convenient places for loading all Section cooking gear after the Company has moved out.

The Orderly Officer for the day will be in charge of the entraining and detraining of the Company.

The Q.M.S. will supervise the issue of rations to the parties detailed above.

*[Handwritten signature]*  
*[Handwritten signature]*

27th January, 1918.

for O.C., 15th M. Gun Coy.





15<sup>th</sup> Aust. Machine Gun Coy Syllabus of Training. Period. Jan 27<sup>th</sup> to Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> 1918. N<sup>o</sup> 5

Day & Date	9 am to 9.30 AM	9.30 to 9.45 AM	9.45 AM to 10.30 AM	10.30 to 11. AM	11 AM to 11.45 AM	11.45 to 12.15 p.m.	Afternoon	
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup>			Church Parade		Inspection of Coy by O.C.			
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Inspection of Arms and Accoutrements by Section Officers	Shot Massage Parade	Range Practice Nos 1 & 2 Sections		Route March Nos 3 & 4 Sections		Recreational Training	
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup>			Range Practice Nos 3 & 4 Sections		Route March Nos 1 & 2 Sections			
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup>			Gas Helmet Inspection by Coy Gas N.C.O.	Gas Helmet Drill	Mechanism Stoppages			
Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup>			Range Practice Nos 1, 2, 3 & 4 Sections.					
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup>			Company Route March.					
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup>			Squad Drill Rifle Exercises	Gas Helmet Drill.	Checking & Overhauling Gun Gear by O.C.	Company Parade & Inspection		

NB. If guns, which are at present at Workshops for periodical overhaul, are not returned before this Syllabus comes into effect, such parades as O.C. may deem fit will be carried out in lieu of Range Practice.

15<sup>th</sup> AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN COY.  
 No. ....  
 Date. ....



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App No 10.

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15TH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN COMPANY.

1st February, 1918.

H. Q.,  
15th Aust. Inf. Bde.

Reference your No. G. 12/2311, of 24-1-18.

In regard to the move of this unit from Course to this area I have to report that prior to the march from Course to Samer (5 miles) a hot drink of tea, with bread & butter, and M & V Ration were served out at 1 a.m. on the morning of 31-1-18. The Q.M.S. and ration guards were sent to Samer to prepare a hot drink of tea, which was served out to the Company at 4.30 a.m. upon arrival at Samer. Hot tea was also prepared and put into petrol tins and distributed amongst the men in the carriages immediately prior to the departure of the train at 6 a.m. This tea, together with bread, jam & M & V Ration, constituted the breakfast of the men.

On arrival at De Kennebek at 11.5 a.m. the troops were marched by the Company Billeting Officer to Y.M.C.A. Cocoa Stall adjoining the station, and each man received a hot drink. On arrival at Bully Beef Farm (Kimmel Area) hot tea was awaiting the men, having been prepared by the Cooks, who preceded the Company, by motor lorry from Course. An hour later a hot meal consisting of fresh meat and vegetable stew, was provided.

During the move no members of this unit fell out.

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v.l. 7. 11

Lieut.  
For O. C., 15th M. Gun Coy.

15TH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN COY.	
No.....	Date.....



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Order for Relief by 15th In. S. Coy. of 2nd In. S. Coy. 31-1-18 (evening)

App No 11.

Right Sector: No 4 section (Lt. Richards) 4 guns add. 1 batman 1 runner.

Right Centre: No 3 section (Lt. Coppin) 1 runner. Equip. same as for right sector. 3 guns.

Left Centre: No 2 section (Lt. Evington) 5 guns add. 1 batman 1 runner.

Left: No 1 section (Lt. Pridel) 4 guns add. 1 batman 1 runner.

Gun teams: 1 NCO + 3 gunners per team.

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Bells + Tripods are being exchanged - Tripods with depression & elevating dials & dep. steps.

1 spare parts box per section will be taken in addition to assets.

Guides will take section officers to section Equip. + teams to positions.

Move off 3.45 pm.

- 1. 24 hrs rations to be taken
- 2. in timber. For help for Capt
- 3. Temp. C.C.
- 4. 15th In. S. Coy



*App/2 No 121*

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15TH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN COMPANY.  
 SICK WASTAGE REPORT FOR MONTH ENDING 31ST JANUARY 1918

1 9 1 8		<u>To Field</u>		<u>From Field</u>		<u>Evac. Div. Area.</u>	
Jan		Off. O/R.		Off. O/R.		Off. O/R.	
1		-	-	-	-	-	-
2		-	1	-	-	-	-
3		-	-	-	-	-	-
4		-	-	-	-	-	-
5		-	-	-	-	-	-
6		-	-	-	1	-	-
7		-	1	-	-	-	-
8		-	-	-	-	-	-
9		-	-	-	-	-	2
10		-	-	-	-	-	-
11		-	-	-	-	-	-
12		-	-	-	-	-	-
13		-	-	-	-	-	-
14		-	-	-	-	-	-
15		-	-	-	-	-	-
16		-	-	-	-	-	-
17		-	-	-	-	-	-
18		-	-	-	-	-	-
19		-	1	-	-	-	-
20		-	-	-	-	-	-
21		-	1	-	-	-	-
22		-	1	-	-	-	1
23		-	1	-	-	-	-
24		-	-	-	-	-	1
25		-	-	-	-	-	-
26		-	1	-	-	-	-
27		-	-	-	-	-	2
28		-	-	-	-	-	-
29		1	1	-	-	-	-
30		-	-	-	-	-	-
31		-	-	-	-	-	-

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15TH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN COY.

No. ....

Date. ....



15<sup>th</sup> Australian Machine Gun Company

Daily alterations in Strength - January 1918.

Date 1918	With Unit		Hospitals		Temp Detached		Total Strength		Movements	
	off	on	off	on	off	on	off	on		
1	10	184	-	1	4	11	14	196	210	Nil
2	10	184	-	1	4	11	14	196	210	Nil
3	8	183	-	2	6	11	14	196	210	2 off Paris leave; 1 off to Hosp.
4	8	181	-	2	6	13	14	196	210	1 off to Bde Sig. School
5	7	174	-	2	7	20	14	196	210	10 off 5 off leave UK; 1 off to Gas Sch; 1 off transfd to 59 Bn.
6	7	173	-	2	7	20	14	195	209	10 off from Gas Sch; 1 off to S.A. School
7	7	176	-	1	7	18	14	195	209	2 off from leave; 1 off from Hosp.
8	7	177	-	2	7	19	14	198	212	3 off from Base; 1 off from Gas Sch; 1 off to Hosp; 2 off to DADOS.
9	7	175	-	2	7	19	14	196	210	2 off transfd to 51 <sup>st</sup> Bn.
10	7	173	-	-	7	19	14	192	206	2 off Evac. Rev. Area; 2 off to Field Compd.
11	7	173	-	-	7	19	14	192	206	Nil
12	10	175	-	-	4	17	14	192	206	2 off from Paris leave; 1 off from Gas Sch.
13	10	174	-	-	4	18	14	192	206	Nil
14	10	174	-	-	4	18	14	192	206	Nil
15	10	174	-	-	4	18	14	192	206	Nil
16	10	174	-	-	4	17	14	191	205	1 off to MGTD; 2 off to Paris leave; 3 off from leave UK.
17	10	169	-	-	4	22	14	191	205	5 off to leave UK.
18	11	169	-	-	3	22	14	191	205	1 off from Scouting Sch.
19	11	169	-	-	3	22	14	191	205	Nil
20	11	168	-	1	3	22	14	191	205	1 off to Hosp.
21	11	172	-	1	2	18	13	191	205	2 off from Paris leave; 1 off to MGTD; 2 off from leave UK.
22	11	171	-	2	2	18	13	191	205	1 off to Hosp.
23	10	168	-	2	3	20	13	190	204	1 off Evac. Sick; 1 off to Hosp; 1 off from leave.
24	10	169	-	3	3	18	13	190	204	1 off Evac; 2 off from DADOS; 1 off from leave.
25	10	169	-	2	3	18	13	189	203	Nil
26	10	171	-	2	3	16	13	189	203	2 off from Paris; 3 off from UK; 1 off to Paris; 1 off to Gas Sch.
27	10	170	-	3	3	15	13	188	201	1 off to Hosp; 1 off transfd to 29 AFSC.
28	10	171	-	1	2	15	12	187	199	1 off to Indian Army; 2 off Evac; 1 off from Base.
29	10	172	-	1	2	15	12	189	201	2 off to Coy transfd from Bns.
30	11	172	-	2	2	15	13	189	202	1 off from Eng. Reinfects
31	11	172	-	1	2	15	13	188	201	1 off Evac.

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15<sup>TH</sup>  
AUSTRALIAN  
MACHINE GUN COY.

No. ....

Date. ....



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15TH  
AUSTRALIAN  
MACHINE GUN COY.

No. .... 15 M. G. Coy.  
Date. .... Transport Report.

APPENDIX. 14

War Diary.  
Jan. 1918.  
Vol I

Appx. No. 13.

Generally speaking the month of January just past has been a very easy one for the transport of the 15th Aust. M. G. Coy. In the first place the weather conditions were not as severe as those of last year, and then we have been out of the line all the month, and thirdly the roads in the Course district were good though hilly. The men and horses of the transport were for the most part billeted at Bois Julien, 1½ km. west of Course. At Course were kept four two-horse teams which were changed every four days. While at Course these teams did practically all of the <sup>transport</sup> work required by the Company. This consisted mainly in drawing supplies, quartermaster's stores, and canteen stores for the Company. In addition to the four working teams, the mess cart and horse and all the officers' chargers were accommodated at Course. Every horse belonging to the Company was under cover, most of them having quite comfortable stables. As a result of this a decided improvement in the condition and spirits of the horses was noticeable towards the end of the month. The horse ration (12 lbs oat & 10 lbs. hay for light draughts) was sufficient though very little grazing was procurable. During the month we were asked to make an endeavour to save oats as the horses



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were not getting much work. This I considered to be not practicable as with the possibility of the horses having to face heavy work, with severe weather on an open line they would need every bit of condition obtainable to see them through. Then, again there are times when, owing to rough handling, the bags of oats are not up to the stated weight by the time they reach the unit. On the 24<sup>th</sup> Jan. the oat ration was cut down to 12 lbs per horse per day. As we experienced very heavy frosts during the month, it was necessary to adopt measures for the prevention of slipping. The issue of shoes bored for frost cuts was a little late in the year, but it was found that sharp calkins or just the ordinary turned down heels were quite satisfactory for ordinary work with the lighter animals and with light loads. While out of the line we took the opportunity to repaint and overhaul all of the vehicles on our strength. All were painted with the service grey color, with the iron work picked out in black. In addition the colors of the company were painted on the sides, while the Australian "Rising Sun" badge was stencilled in black on a white background on the tail-boards of all vehicles. During the month we broke two draught poles, one of which was broken through an accident caused



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by one of the horses slipping on the icy roads. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan. our transport turned out on a Brigade Route March with a "March Past" the G. O. C. 15<sup>th</sup> Bde. and the G. O. C. 5<sup>th</sup> Aust. Div. We were complimented by the latter on our turnout. On the 27<sup>th</sup> Jan. the transport received orders to move with the 8<sup>th</sup> Aust. Bde. transport to the Kemmelt Area, starting on the 28<sup>th</sup> inst. The wagons were loaded on the afternoon of the 27<sup>th</sup> preparatory to the move. Rations up to the 29<sup>th</sup> inst. were carried. The company transport pulled out at 7.30 a.m. on the morning of the 28<sup>th</sup> inst. and picked up the 8<sup>th</sup> Bde Column on the Derres-Senlec-quo road. It was a beautiful day for travelling, though early in the morning the roads were a bit slippery owing to a sharp frost. One or two steep hills caused some bother to the heavier loaded units, but with our horses in good heart we had no bother whatever. A halt of an hour for lunch was made at 12.30 p.m. at Driouville after which we completed the first day's journey to Eves early in the afternoon. The total distance travelled for this day was 25 kms. Our wagon and horse lines were in a small paddock right in the village of Eves, with dry billets for the men quite handy. Rations



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 were drawn at Illus for consumption on the 30<sup>th</sup> Inst. On the 29<sup>th</sup> inst we had reveille at 5.45 a.m. pulled out at 8 a.m. and the head of the column passed the starting point (Samette Sta - near Lumbres) at 8.30 a.m. The weather again favored us. The route for this day was via Lumbres, Selgues, Wizeux, Westove, Arques to Renssures a total distance of 24 kms. A halt of an hour for lunch was made at Fort Rouge Rly. Crossing, just past Arques each day a billeting party of one  $\frac{1}{2}$  from each unit went on ahead with an officer detailed from the 8<sup>th</sup> Bde. to arrange for the billets for the night. At Renssures we found that part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Aust. divisional transport moving out had forestalled us, and we had to put up with makeshift billets etc. Our wagons were parked along a side road and fixed up horse lines on a small spur road off this side road. Rations for consumption on the 1<sup>st</sup> Feb. were drawn at Renssures. On the 30<sup>th</sup> inst we pulled out at 8.30 a.m. the head of the column passing the starting point (Ebbingham Rly Stn) at 9 a.m. The weather was still good and the roads in splendid condition. The route followed was via Hazebrouck, Bone & Rodelles, to Strazelle, at which place we arrived about 1 p.m. a total distance of 20 kms.



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Rations for consumption on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb. were drawn here. The last day of our "break" (the 31<sup>st</sup> Jan.) was very cold with a fog hanging about all day. We left Strazeele at 7.40 a.m. Passing through Baillet, Loere & Kemmel we joined the Company at 1.30 p.m. at the latter place, the distance travelled being 20 kms. Here we reoccupied stables we built when in this area six weeks ago. On the night of the 31<sup>st</sup> Jan / 1<sup>st</sup> Feb. the guns, rations and equipment were taken up the line close to the gun positions taken over by our company from the 2<sup>nd</sup> company. No breakages of any sort occurred to the limbers during the journey, nor did any of the horses have to be placed off duty.

(Sgt.) Norman C. Heathcote. Lieut  
T.O.

15<sup>th</sup> Mach. Gun Co.