

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

Artillery

Item number: 13/122/6

Title: 9th Australian Light Trench Mortar
Battery

October 1918



AWM4-13/122/6

R.20,000-5/18-11069.

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
DUPLICATE.
TRIPLICATE.

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

9th. A . L . T . M . B .

FOR

OCTOBER . 1918

Signature of Officer compiling

A. C. Snowling Capt.

Signature of Officer Commanding

A. C. Snowling Capt.

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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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
QUECHETTE WOOD.	1:10:18.	09.00.	Battery spent day cleaning Rifles, equipment, Mortars and resting. Liason kept with 34th. Bn. Rations and water arrived. Enemy artillery and ours active all day. Enemy shelled intermittently all day in vicinity of Battery Head Quarte	
		16.00	I Pack mule was wounded by shell at 4.0.p.m. and was sent back to Transpot Lines for Vets. attention. Very Cold night. All ranks bivouacked in trenches but could obtain no sleep.	
	2:10:18.	08.00	O. C. Battery and Lieut Mailer visited Headquarters of 33rd., 34th., and 35th. Battalions respectively. 34th. at BENJAMIN POST. F.29b 80.80., 35th. at A 20 d 95. 30., 33rd. at A 20 c 60 60. Information received at 35th. Bn. Hd. qrs that 5th. Division had taken ESTREES and enemy seen retiring up LA MOTTE VALL	
		09.00	4EY. in B 22 & 28 ., and also towards PROSPECT HILL in B I & 2.. On reaching 33rd. Bn. Hdqrs. this information was communicated to C.O. and Bn. had already moved out through BONY. Enemy commenced to shell BONY just as our troops passed through. 10th. Bde. could be seen advancing towards HINDENBURG LINE in squares, A 8 & A 14. Enemy shelled roads with 5.9 & H.V. at long range in vicinity of BENJAMIN POST and QUENNEMONT FARM & Ballons in Squares A 23.	
		10.00	Information sent to Bde. Hdqrs. Battery was ordered to withdraw to transport lines E I7 a 80. 70. Battery withdrew in small parties at 5 p.m. near grid line in Squares ,21, 22, & 23 central and thence East of St. EMILE to Copse in E I7 a 80. 70. arriving at 7.0.p.m.	
E. I7 a 80.70.		17.00	In accordance with 9th. A.I. Bde. Order No. 56. Battery moved to locality of Squares D , 14. 15. 19. & 20. Battery passed starting point E I5 a I.3. at 10.15a.m. and moved with transport via LIERAMONT, D I2 c., D II Central., D IO Central., thence to D 2I c 95. 30. where Battery bivouacked for night.	
COPSE E. I7 a 80.70.	3:10:18.	09.00	Billeting Officer, Lieut Redfern reported to Staff Captain at St. PIERRE FARM, D I5 c 4.5. at 11.0.a.m. and arranged location of bivouac.	
	4:10:18.	15.00	Battery nucleus joined Battery from Div. Aict. wing at PERONNE. at 3.0. pm. Battery spent day cleaning Equipment and resting. Billeting Officer Lieut Redfern and Interpreter reported to Divn. Hdqrs. DOINGT at 11.0am.	
	5:10:18.	17.00	In accordance with 9th. Bde. Order No. 58. Battery moved to PERONNE by Light Railway entraining at D 20d 2.5. and detraining at I 16 9 k IO. thence by road to entraining point FLAMICOURT I28 central. Entrained for ARAINES at 11.0pm. Transport proceeded by road under Bde. T. Officer. passed starting point I I4 c 6.7. moving N.W. at 14.00.	
		23.00		

WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FORCEVILLE EN VIMEU.	6:10:18.	06.00.	Arrived at ARAINES. Had hot cocoa provided by Y.M.C.A. Marched to FORCEVILLE via ALLERY, WIRY AU MONT and arrived at 11.00. Town crier announced coming of Australians troops and intimated to inhabitants that it was the wish of the Mayor of the Commune that these troops should be treated with every hospitality.	
	6:10:18.		Day spent in cleaning of billets, obtaining straw, fitting up stables, horselines and latrines and kitchens. Providing for Mess for N.C.O.s and resting. Billets generally were good.	
	7.10.18.		Battery cleaning and repairing equipment and clothing. Pay disbursed to personnel.	
	8:10:18.	20.00.	Training commenced. Physical training and organised games on Parade ground 100yds. N of V in FORCEVILLE EN VIMEU. Instruction in cleaning and tidying of billets. Weather fine. Transport arrived by road from forward area. Weather fine. O.C. attended Conference at Bde. Hdqrs. at 16.00 regarding training etc. of units and reorganisation.	
	9.10.18.		Three hours/day training to be done excluding "Smoko". Afternoons recreational training. Training as per Syllabus (Apendix III). OISEMONT out of bounds to troops of 3rd. Aust. Divn.	
	10.10.18.		Training as per (Apendix III). Football practice. Weather finer. Preparations for inspection by G.O.C. which was postponed. Weather finer. cold nights, foggy mornings.	
	11.10.18.		c Canteen opened. Training as per Syllabus (Apendix III).	
	12.10.18.		Rained during night. Training as per Syllabus. Men played scratch football match in afternoon.	
	13.10.18.		Church Parade and Inspection by O.C. at NEUVILLE AU BOIS with 9th. Fld. Amb. Rainy weather. Strength as at 5/10/18. Eff. Strength. 5 Off. & 68 o/rs. 1 o/r. Detached. 7 o/r With leave. 1 Off. & 3 o/r School. 3 o/r Attached. Strength as at. 12/10/18. Eff. Strength 5 Off. & 75 o/rs. 1 o/r Detached. 5 o/r Leave. 1 Off. & 3 o/r. School. 3 o/r Attached.	
	14.10.18.		Training as per Syllabus. (Apendix IV). Bathing parade at factory in village.	
	15.10.18.		" " " " " " O.C. attended conference of C.Os. Bns. & O.C. L.T.M.Bty. at B.H.Q. at 16.00. re training.	
	16.10.18.		" " " " " " Preparing for inspection by G.O.	

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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FORCEVILLE EN VIMEU.	10.00. 17.10.18.		Inspection of Battery and Transport by G.O.C. 9th. Inf. Bde. on Parade ground. Battery congratulated on good turnout and on past work in the Line Battery marched past in Column and had photos taken afterwards. Men drilled well and were very keen on the turnout.	
	18.10.18. 19.10.18.		Training as per Syllabus (Apendix IV). Wet day. " " " " " " N.C.Os. were very keen on revolve practice and some good shooting was regestered. Battery played Football in afternoon.	
	20.10.18.		Battery attended church Parade at NEUVILLE AU BOIS at 11.00 . Wet weathe Strength as at 19/10/18. Eff. Strength. 50ff. & 78 o/rs. Detached 1 o/r., 1 Off. & 7 o/rs. Schools., 6 o/RS Leave., 2 o/r Attached.,	
	21.10.18.		Training as per Syllabus (Apendix V). Battery carried out Advance Guard scheme through Woods from ALLERY to FORCEVILLE. O.C. attended conferece of Commanding officers at B.H.Q. at 16.30.	
	22.10.18.		Training as per Syllabus. Fine weather. Battery played football during afterncon. Elementary French Class held from 19.00 to 20.00 by Capt. R. C. Nowland. Attendance 20.,	
	23.10.18.		Training as per Syllabus (Apendix V).	
	24.10.18.		Brigade had photos taken by special Photographer at NEUVILLE AU BOIS.	
	25.10.18.		Strength as at Training as per Syllabus. (Apendix V). Training as per Syllabus (Apendix V). Played 11th. Fld. Engrs. Foot- ball successfully.	
	27.10.18.		Church Parade at 9th. Fld. Amb. at NEUVILLE AU BOIS. O.C. attended conference at Divn. Hdqrs. Strength as at 26/10/18. Eff Strength, 5 Off. 79 o/RS., 1 o/r Detached., 7 o/r School., 1 Off & 7 o/r Leave., 1 Off. & 2 o/r Attached.	
	28.10.18.		Training as per Syllabus . (Apendix VI). Played Bde Hdqrs Football successfully.	
	29.10.18.		" " " " " " Football training during afternoon.	
	30.10.18.		" " " " " " Battery Team played 34th. Bn. and were defeated 9 to nil . Weather fine.	
	31.10.18.		Training as per Syllabus (Apendix VI). Combined Battery and Bde. Hdqrs. team practiced for Divn. competition commencing Saturday 2nd. Nov. 1918.	
			Weather fine. Strength as at 2nd. Nov. Eff. Strength. 40ff. 79 o/RS., 1 o/r Det. 6 o/r School. 4 o/r leave., 1 Off. & 20/r Att. Lieut. Reafern to	

(A10266) Wt W 5300/1715 750,000 2/10 Sch. 22 Form C. 2118/18

Chestnut College. Cambridge. Educational Scheme.

R. C. Nowland
R. C. Nowland
LIGHT. TRENCH. MORTAR BTRY

WAR DIARY APPENDIX

OF

166

9th. A. L. T. M. Battery .

FOR

October

~~SEPTEMBER~~ 1918

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
I	Sheet 62c France I/40,000.
II.	Sheet VIGNACOURT. I/100,000.
III.	Syllabus of training.
IV.	" " " .
V.	" " " .

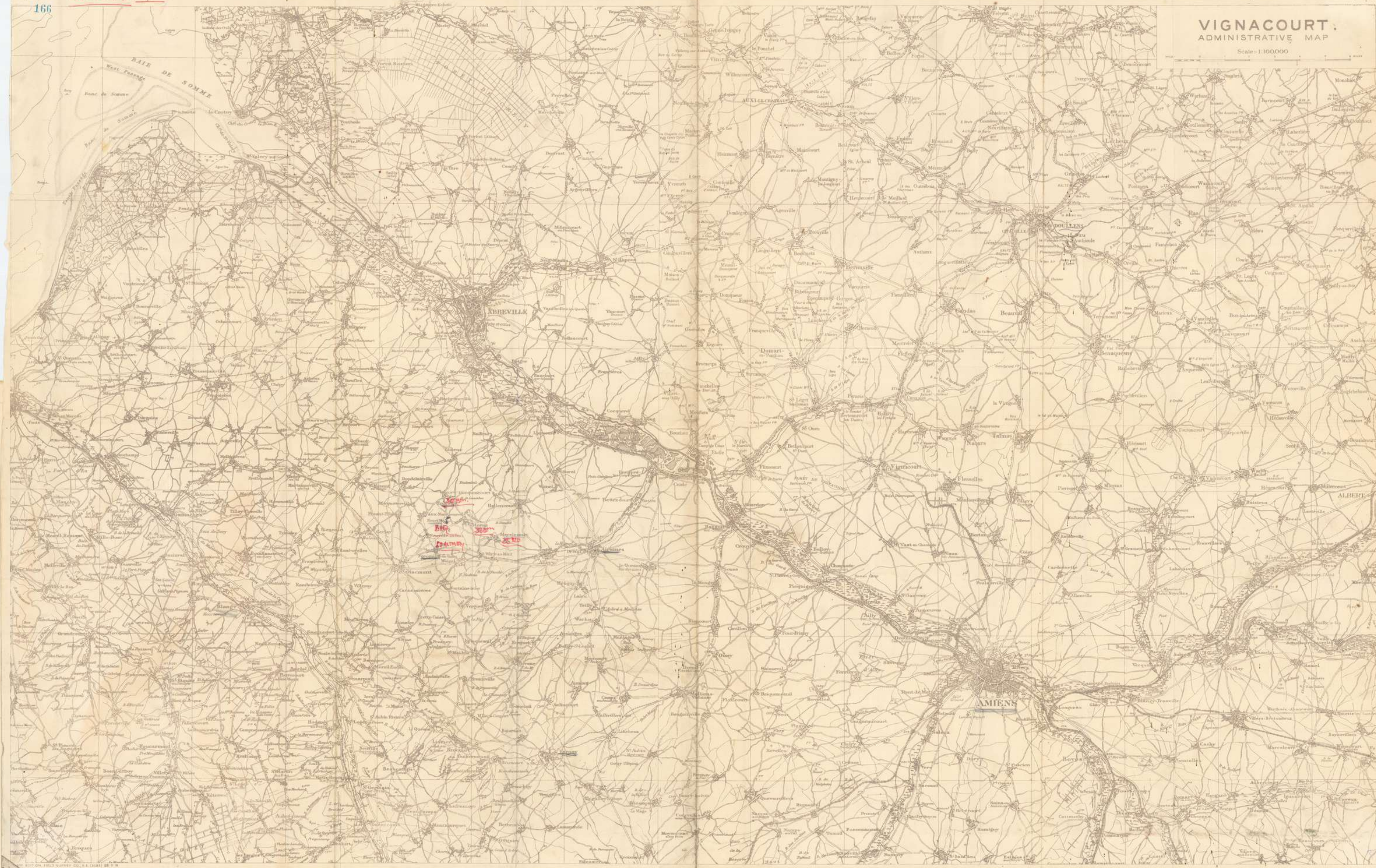
A. Crowland Capt

cc 9th AUSTRALIAN
LIGHT TRENCH MORTAR BTRY

E. Compiling Officer

VIGNACOURT
ADMINISTRATIVE MAP

Scale 1:100000



9LT MIBT

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APPENDIX 2

MEMORIAL

16/1
15/1
13/1

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III

SYLLABUS OF TRAINING.

9th Fus. L.T.M. Battery.

Parade Ground - "FORCEVILLE".

Week ending Sat. 12.10.18

Day	Date.	09-00 To 09.30.	09.30 To 10.30.	10.30 to 11.30	11.30 to 12.45.	Remarks.
Tuesday	8.10.18	Inspection. Reading of Orders.	Physical Training and Organised Games.	Inspection of Clothing Equipment etc Equipping. Instruction in cleaning & tidying billets.		
Wednesday	9.10.18	Inspection. Reading of Orders	do	Rifle Exercises. Close Order Drill.	Musketry. Ceremonial Drill.	
Thursday	10.10.18	do	do	Stokes Gun Drill.	Route March.	Communication Drill. Junior Ncos.
Friday	11.10.18	do	do	Stokes mortar Drill with Sling.	Lecture:- Hygiene & Sanitation. Close Order Drill. Ceremonial.	
Saturday	12.10.18	do	do	Lecture:- Stokes in attack in Open Warfare. Map reading.	Prismatic Compass. Bearings. Night Marching ceremonial drill.	

NOTE:- All duties including Ordroom Cpl. QMS. Batmen. Signallers & Transport personnel & Orderly & Mess Orderly & COOKS, parade at 10.30 am. Dress Drill Order. This parade will be closely inspected by Orderly Officer who will send unrequired details to Parade Ground.
Church Parade. Sunday. as arranged with chaplains.

A. Crowland Capt.
9th Fus. L.T.M. Battery.

SYLLABUS OF TRAINING.

9th ~~AUS.~~ 166 L.T.M. Battery. A.I.F. Parade Ground, 100yds North of V in FORCEVILLE en VIMEU. Week ending Sat. 19.10.18.

Date.	09.00 to 09.30	09.30 to 10.30	10.30 to 11.30.	11.30 to 12.30	Remarks.
Monday 14.10.18	Detailed inspections Reading of Orders.	Physical Training and Organised Games.	Close Order Drill. Rifle Exercises.	Bathing Parade.	10.30 Officers lecture F.G.C.M.S. at Billet N ^o 24. CITERNE by D.C.M.O. M.O.
Tuesday 15.10.18	do	do <small>Gas Training SS 534. Pos. No. 327. 2 hours</small>	Lecture. Open Warfare. Advanced flank and Rear Guards.	Musketry. Elementary & Rapid loading. Visual Training Recognition of targets.	Signallers and learners (2) instruction in writing and despatch of Messages.
Wednesday 16.10.18	do	do <small>Gas Training SS 534. Pos. No. 327. 2 hours</small>	Stokes mortar Gun Drill. Drill with Slung.	Setting up Mortar. Shell in detail chronometer. Ceremonial Drill.	Signallers instruction in writing. Testing of Phones Use of Buzzer & Morse code.
Thursday 17.10.18	do	do <small>Gas training as above</small>	Inspection by Close Order Drill.	G.O.C. 7 th AUS. 1. Bde. ceremonial Drill.	Signallers - Semaphore. Signalling. instruction to 2 learners.
Friday 18.10.18	do	do	Laying Mortar by Prismatic Compass. Ranging. Map Reading.	*T.M. in Attack. close & Open Warfare.	*Advance in support of Infantry in Semi & Open Warfare. Attack & destruction of trench Strongpoint.
Saturday 19.10.18.	do.	do. <small>Gas Training as above</small>	N.C.O.'s Revolver practice. Elementary Musketry Tests. Applications Grouping. Miniature Range.	Miniature Range Practices. Ceremonial.	

NOTE: All details & duties exclusive of Cooks parade at Orderly Room 10.30am daily Dress-Drill Order.
Cooks will be inspected by Orderly Officer in Cookhouse each Morning.
R. C. Snow and Capt.
9th AUS. L.T.M. Battery.

APPENDIX 166

7th L.T.M. Bty.



SYLLABUS of TRAINING.

Lecture 14.30

PARADE GROUND.

100 yards N. of V in FORCEVILLE en VIMEU.

WEEK ENDING 26.10.18.

Day	Date.	09.00 to 09.30	09.30 to 10.30	10.30 to 11.30.	11.30 to 12.45.	Remarks.
Monday.	21.10.18	Inspection. Reading of orders.	Physical Training and Bayonet fighting.	Route march to INRY AU MONT. Lecture. Advanced guards.	Advance guard Scheme back to Parade Ground. Read F.S. Regs. 66-67 & 68. Ceremonial Drill.	Lecture. to NCOs. 7pm to 8pm. Study of Maps & Plotting of information on same. Study in conjunction with Aero-plane photos.
Tuesday.	22.10.18	do	do End with 15 mins. Gas Training SSS34.	Semaphore Signalling 3/4 hr. close order Drill	3" Stokes Gun Drill. Laying Mortar with Prismatic Compass.	Educational Scheme. 19.00 to 20.00. Elementary French class. (Capt. Nowland)
Wednesday	23.10.18	do	Physical Training and Bayonet Fighting. Drill with SBR.	Semaphore Signalling Writing of Messages. The compilation of information.	Dummy firing 3" Stokes. with sling & Eleynting Stand.	Squatters: - Training in use of Buzzer and Lucas lamp.
Thursday.	24.10.18	do	do	Route March VIA WIRY AU MONT. WAIREL - FONTAINE LE SEC. FORCEVILLE (March discipline).		19.00 to 20.00. Elementary Mathematics class. L. E. D. Redfern.
Friday.	25.10.18	do	Physical Training. Bayonet Fighting with SBR. adjusted	Semaphore Signalling Musketry.	Miniature Range Practicals - Grouping & Application.	19.00 to 20.00. Elementary English class. L. E. D. Redfern.
Saturday.	26.10.18	do.	Physical Training. Organised games incorporating the rapid adjustment of SBR.	Semaphore Signalling close order Drill.	T.M. in attack Strong Point. Barrage using Dummy Ammunition.	Squatters. Morse Code. Wiring. detection of defects in Phones.

NOTE. 15 minutes "Smoke" included in 3/4 hrs training. 5 mins at end of each hour work.
Sunday. Inspection & Church Parade as arranged with chaplain

J. Nowland, Capt
re 9th A. L.T.M. Bty.

DIARY

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