

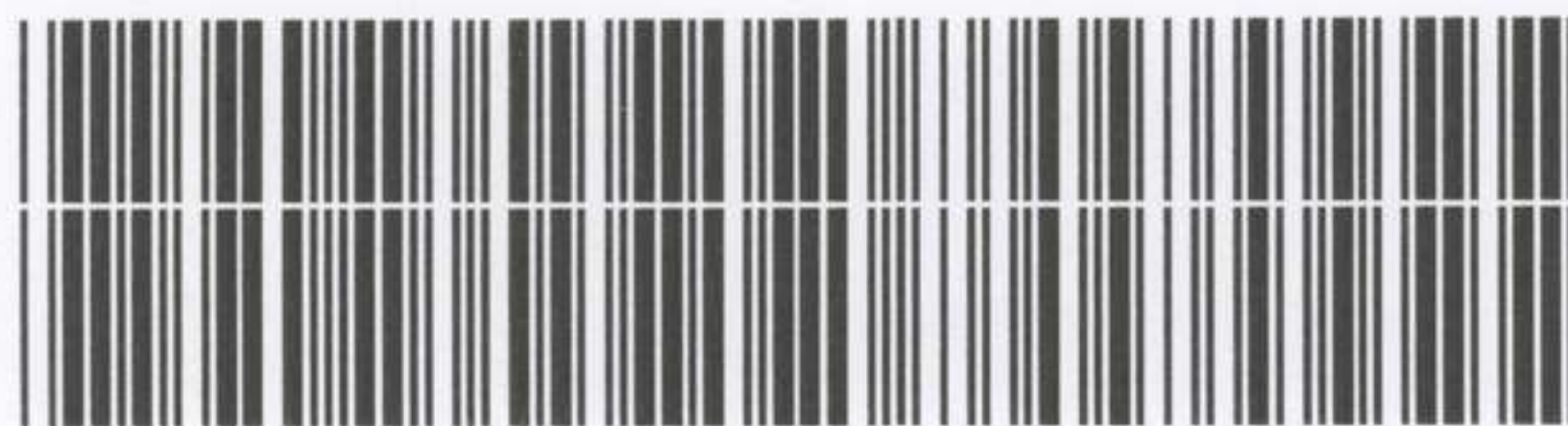
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Infantry

Item number: 23/2/17

Title: 2nd Infantry Brigade

September 1916



AWM4-23/2/17

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

509

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.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

2nd Aust. Inf Bde Hqtrs

VOLUME VII

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
YPRES	September 7	02-15	<p>Relief of 12th (Emb) Brigade complete and command taken over 5th Bn moved from OTTAWA CAMP to BELGIAN CHATEAU Brigade distributed as follows. Right Sector of Divisional Line and area. The line extends from the CANAL to the YPRES-MENIN railway divided into two subsections Right Subsector 7th Bn and one company 6th Bn Headquarters in the BLUFF Left Subsector 8th Bn Headquarters at I 34 B 29 No 2 MG Coy Hqrs CANAL DUGOUTS Reserves 6th Bn SWAN CHATEAU YUKON M MG Coy was attached for duty. Hqrs at I 27 A 65 5 BELGIAN CHATEAU</p>	<p>BELGIUM Sheet 28 NW 1/20000</p>
			<p>BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS at BEDFORD HOUSE</p>	
		14-45	<p>Some 2M and rifle grenade activity for which we retaliated. Remainder of day quiet Survey of condition of works found them in extremely bad condition. Works programme started</p>	
	2	08-55	<p>Gas ALERT ordered</p>	
		23-15	<p>Gas alarms sounded on the right - no gas on our front. The enemy fired some few shells amongst them gas shells - ceased on our retaliation. The day was on the whole quiet. Works of construction went on well</p>	
	3	23-00	<p>YUKON M MG Bty relieved by No 2 MG Coy Enemy's attitude throughout the day was very quiet. Alert still on</p>	
	* 4		<p>works was pushed forward. enemy's attitude was intermittently quite quiet and light shelling</p>	
	5		<p>nothing to report except work. Very quiet</p>	
	6		<p>Some T.M. activity by enemy our retaliation heavy T.M.s and artillery.</p>	
	7		<p>a few mine perfor. thrown by enemy.</p>	
	* 4		<p>1st ANZAC. M MG Battery took over the positions of the YUKON M MG Bty.</p>	
	8	05-30	<p>G.O. Division visited the trenches</p>	
		15-55	<p>Gas shells fell in right subsector</p>	
		16-00	<p>Earth tremor felt slightly. Cause not ascertained. No mine on our front Enemy attitude quiet but an increase noticeable in the MG and rifle fire at night One enemy plane over our lines driven back by our battle planes</p>	
	9		<p>Enemy thinned up and used artillery of all calibres for which we sent back heavy retaliation.</p>	

WAR DIARY

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OR
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Y.PRES	10	September	Work as usual, an improvement of trenches carried out throughout the day & enemy attitude quiet.	BELGIUM Sheet 28 NW 420.000
	11	1800	Very slight earth tremor felt by the Right Battalion but nowhere on the left. Throughout the day at various times the enemy was active with bombs, rifle grenades, artillery up to 5.9 and rifle + MG fire all in short heavy bursts. to each of which we replied heavily onto his front support and reserve trenches.	
	12		Quiet throughout the day and night. During the night the 6th Bn relieved the 7th Bn in the right subsector. relief complete at 02:00 BO No 48	Appendix XVI
	13		Gas alert off. 5th Bn relieved 8th Bn in left subsector and completed relief at 23:50. 8th Bn moved from line to CHATEAU SEGARD	
	14		-visit by Army Corps commander. Lieut-Gen Sir W. Budge Wood KCMG etc. Enemy fired a few shells only.	
	15		Nothing out of the ordinary occurred. Work on improvements carried out as usual. Patrolling & ordinary trench fighting operations. Six patrols out.	
	16		A very quiet day. Very much movement apparently in connection with repairs to works has been noticed during the last few days. Our Artillery carried out a bombardment of enemy lines at 17:00. G.O.C. Division visited the line.	
	17		Nothing of interest to record. Work programme continued with	
	18		Br-Gen. J. Astill C.B.C.M.G. took over command of the Brigade.	
	19		Very quiet.	
	19	12:00 18:00	Enemy artillery active with both HE and shrapnel. our artillery retaliated.	
	20		Again normal machinegun and rifle grenades used by enemy very little shelling done. Arrangements having been made to select parties of the 7th & 8th Bns to raid the enemy trenches at a subsequent date representatives were sent to Division to select suitable training grounds in the back area.	

SECRET.

Copy No. 2.....

2nd AUST. INF. BDE. ORDER No 48.

Headquarters,
2nd Aust Inf Bde.
11th Sept. 1916.Reference M.p. BELGIUM.
Sheet 28 N.W.

1. An internal relief will take place on the nights 12/13th Sept. and 13th/14th Sept.
The 6th Battalion will relieve the 7th Battalion on the night 12/13th Sept. and the 5th Battalion will relieve the 8th Battalion on the night 13/14th., the sectors to be taken over will be the same as at present held by the Battalions in the line.
- One Company of the 7th Battalion will remain in line attached to 6th Battalion.
- The parties attached to the 1st Can. Tun. Coy. will not for the present be relieved, but will continue at the disposal of the O.C. Tunnelling Coy.
- All details including those for guides who must be quite familiar with the route and know their instructions, will be arranged by C.O's of the units concerned. Movement is not to commence before 2030 and then in parties of not more than 50 with intervals of 3 minutes.
- Advance parties consisting of representatives of Intelligence squads, Bombers, Crater Snatching Parties, L.Guns, will be sent into the line immediately to make themselves familiar with the duties and locations.
- Units will notify Bde of the time of completion of relief.
- On relief, the 7th Battalion less the Coy, attached to the 6th Battn, will move as follows :-
SPOIL BANK - 1 Coy.
Various S.P's, and locations - 1 Coy = S.P. 7 & 8 - 2 Platoons.
GUNNERS LODGE - 1 Platoon. BEDFORD HOUSE - 1 Platoon.
CANAL DUG-OUTS - 1 Coy & Headquarters. And the 8th Battalion :-
SWAN CHATEAU - 1 Coy & Hd-Qus. CHATEAU SIGARD - 2 Companies.
G.H.Q. 2nd Line - 1 Company.
Under Battalion arrangements.
- Units relieved will hand over all Trench stores, maps etc., and will obtain receipt, a duplicate of which will be forwarded to Bde Hd-Qrs.
- ACKNOWLEDGE.

J. J. Ulrich

Major.

Bde Major 2nd Aust. Inf. Bde.

No	To Whom	Time	Method.	Copy	No	To Whom.	Time	Method.
1	File	1400			10	8th Bn A.I.F.	1400	D.R.
2	War Diary	"			11	No 2 M.G.Coy.	"	"
3	1st Aus.Div.	"	D.R.		12	2A L.T.M.Bty.	"	"
4	11th Can.Bde.	"	"		13	1st Pioneer Bn.	"	"
5	1st Aus Inf Bde.	"	"		14	8th Aus. Field Coy.	"	"
6	R.A. Group 1st Aus Div.	"	"		15	Staff Captain.	"	Orderly.
7	5th Bn.A.I.F.	"	"		16	Signals.	"	"
8	6th Bn.A.I.F.	"	"		17	Spare.	"	"
9	7th Bn.A.I.F.							

2nd AUST. INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER NO 49. Appendix No. 47

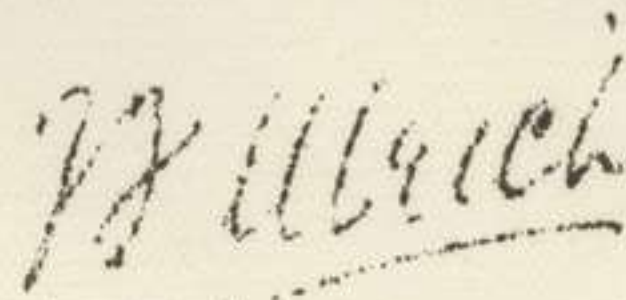
Headquarters

2nd Aust. Inf. Bde.

24th September 16.

Reference Map. BELGIUM
Sheet 28 N.W.

1. The Brigade will be relieved by the 1st Aust. Inf. Bde. on the nights 25/26 and 26/27th September and will move into Div. Reserve.
2. The relief will be carried out in accordance with the attached table. The details being arranged directly between C.O's of relieved and relieving Units.
3. Advance parties of the relieving units will come into the Area today - These will be rationed if necessary ~~by~~ by Units to be relieved.
4. Trench Stores. Defence schemes, Log books, Photographs ~~and~~ Maps, Intelligence reports and all documents or information of value to incoming unit to be handed over and receipt ~~obtained~~ obtained and duplicate to be forwarded to Bde. Hqrs. Each Unit will hand over Tabulated statement showing works in progress, strength of parties etc.
5. The parties attached to the 1st Can. Tunnelling Company for mining will not be relieved until further orders.
6. The C.O. 7th Battalion is to detail a selected Officer to report to the 1st Bde. Hqrs. today to gain information regarding the work in hand in Back Area and this Officer is to arrange for the necessary working parties from this Bde. so that there will be no interruption to the work.
7. Each unit will send 24 hours in advance of relief, an Officer and guides to take over new billets and reconnoitre route from BRANDHOEK and guide the units after relief to new locations.
8. On relief units will move in small parties to YPRES ASYLUM. Completion of relief's will be wired in Code to Bde. Hqrs. Until the Bde. relief is complete, units of this Bde. in the Div. Reserve Area will come under command of G.O.C. 1st Aust. Inf. Bde.
9. Acknowledge.



MAJOR.

Bde. Major 2nd Aust. Inf. Bde.

Copy No	To whom	Time	Method	Copy No	To whom	Time	Method
1	File	1300		12	2A L.T.M. Bty	1300	D.R.
2	War Diary	"		13	1st Anzac M.H.B. Bty	"	"
3	1st Aust. Div.	"	D.R.	14	2nd Aust. F. Coy.	"	"
4	1st Aust. I. Bde.	"	"	15	3rd " " "	"	"
5	3rd " " "	"	"	16	2nd F. Amb.	"	"
6	4th " " "	"	"	17	1st Pioneer Bn.	"	"
7	5th Bn. A.I.F.	"	"	18	3rd A.A.S.C.	"	"
8	6th Bn. "	"	"	19	Right Group Arty.	"	"
9	7th Bn. "	"	"	20	Signals.	"	Ord.
10	8th Bn. "	"	"	21	Staff Capt.	"	"
11	No 2 M.G. Coy	"	"	22 - 24	Spare.		

Dato	Unit to be relieved	Relieving Unit	Unit Relieved to move to.	R O U T E.	Time of entrainment	
Sept. 25/26	6th Battn.	1st Battn.	DEVONSHIRE CAMP G.22.B.65	Route march to YPRES-ASYLUM thence train to BRANDHOEK thence route march	on completion of relief	16 guides (1 per platoon) under an officer to parade at YPRES-ASYLUM at 2030 to guide the relieving unit in.
25/26	7th Battn.	3rd Battn.	DOMINION CAMP G.23.D.45	"	"	" "
26/27	5th Battn.	2nd Battn.	OTTAWA CAMP G.24.C.85	"	"	" "
26/27	8th Battn.	4th Battn.	SCOTTISH LINES G.23.B.17	"	"	" "
26/27	No 2 M.G. Coy.	No 1 M.G. Coy.	SCOTTISH LINES G.23.B.17	"	"	Guides as to be provided as arranged between O.C's.
26/27	No 2A L.T.M. Battery	No 1A L.T.M. Battery	" "	"	"	"
26/27	2nd Aust. Inf. Bde. Hqrs.	1st Aust. Inf. Bde. Hqrs.	G.22.B.43	"	"	

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Appendix No. 47

1st October, 1916.

To - C.O. : Raid :

At 2130 my Party left the Sally Port proceeding to enemy Front Line at a crawl; at 2159 our Artillery opened fire on enemy's position and at 2200 my Party which was then ten yards from the enemy's Parapet, still undiscovered, rushed the Trench headed by Wiring Party under Lieut COWAN. All this Party displayed great gallantry in pushing down the enemy Parapet to enable the Right and Left Trench Party an easy entry. The Right Party under 2/Lt. ANDERSON and the Left Party under 2/Lt. HOPKINS entered the Trench at this point with splendid dash and without difficulty, and the supporting party immediately lined the enemy Parapet.

The Right Party worked in splendid order down the enemy Firing Line about 20 yards when a O.T. was reached. This was worked for 15 or 20 yards when the Party retraced steps and proceeded again along the Front Line, killing one German.

At the same time the Left Party worked most systematically along front Line for fully 80 yards, encountering and wounding one German at about ten yards from place of entry. This man was handed over to supporting Party, but I was compelled to kill him owing to him refusing to move. The Party proceeded down the Trench and reached overhead cover; from this two Germans fired on first Bayonet man who immediately rushed them shooting one and bayoneting the other. At this point the first Bayonet man was wounded slightly but painfully in the back compelling him to withdraw; the party continued, bombing one large deep German dug-out with four entrances. Again a German showed fight by throwing himself on Second Bayonet man while passing as a Prisoner. Second Lieut HOPKINS immediately shot him dead, including 3 others who were encountered immediately afterwards. The N.C.O. of this Party seeing four Germans in a small dug-out attempted to capture them, one firing at him with a revolver. Sergeant BALL who was armed with a revolver shot the four dead. The Second Bayonet man ^{Bayoneted} ~~shot~~ the remaining German when the signal to withdraw was given.

The withdrawal of both Parties was carried out in a most regular way.

Private CASEY, the Bayonet man of the Right Party displayed conspicuous devotion to duty although wounded in both legs by our own shrapnel before entering trench. He carried on with his duties as Bayonet Man throughout the raid. The same devotion was displayed by the First Bayonet Man of the Left Party, Pte. STIRLING who was wounded by our own shrapnel in the back on the way over. Unfortunately on the way back Pte. MAGNELL, Scout, died of wounds he had received from our own shrapnel on the way over, before entering the Trench, and although wounded so severely, he entered the enemy's trench carried out his duties and succumbed on the return, an excellent example of devotion to duty.

All telephone wires were cut immediately on entering the Trench. The Front Line Trench was in bad repair without duck-boards in the places. The sides were revetted half way with basket work and from half way to Bays with Sandbags. Average depth 9 ft.

(2)

Appendix No. 48

C.T. was in excellent ~~repair~~ repair. There were many small dug-outs similar to our own. Left Party entered one M.G. Emplacement not in use and in bad repair. Not one German had his bayonet fixed. All were wearing a kind of fighting Order. Four Rifles, caps, German ~~knockberry~~ knobkerry, notice boards etc. were captured. Other things were thrown out but were unable to be found. The Officers and men carried out the raid in perfect organisation and during the crawl over when our Artillery shells were falling within five yards of the Party not a man became disturbed but carried on with great coolness.

I have never seen any movement carried out in such a state of organisation before. The Party remained over eight minutes in enemy trench.

Casualties -	Died of Wounds	1
	Wounded	<u>2</u>
		3

(Signed) JAMES BOWTELL HARRIS, Captn.
O.C., 7th Raiding Party.

To : 2nd Aust. Infy Bde.

FORWARDED!

(Signed) H.G. BENNETT, Lt Col
O.C. Raid.

1-10-16.

509

Appendix No. 48

10

To - Lieut-Colonel H.G. Bennett, C.M.G.

C.O. - Raid.

I have to report I was in Command of Left Party drawn from 8th Battalion who raided enemy Trench on night of 30th Sept/1st October at 2200

Party started through Sally Port from our Trench at 2125 and were in position outside our wires at 2145, using an old Trench and shell Craters for cover.

At Zero time the mat men threw their mats on wire and Trench Parties entered enemy Trench.

Right Party penetrated Trench for distance of 50 yards, killing one German and bombing four dug-outs. Party was in Trench for five minutes and was recalled by Runner. This Party was led by Lieut. MAGUIRE.

Left Trench Party under 2/Lieut. JOYNT after searching Trench for about 20 yards was held up by our Barage. This party captured one prisoner.

Everything worked smoothly. Officers who entered enemy Trench, report it very lightly held, about 8 feet deep, in very good condition, boarded in bottom and without Fire Step, overhead cover in several places very weak, little more than cover for Sentry.

All telephone wires in Trench were cut on entering by man detailed for purpose.

Found no trip wire in NO MANS LAND. All dugouts under Parapet, also noticed recesses cut in parapet for Sentry.

All men of Party did their work splendidly, showing great dash, determination and courage.

(Signed) D.G. EVANS, Lieut.
O.C., Left Party.

1-10-16.

Casualties.

1 Officer slightly wounded.
2 Other Ranks wounded.

=====
To : Headquarters,
2nd Aust. Inf. Bde.

FORWARDED.

(Signed) H.G. BENNETT, Lt Col
O.C., Raid.

1-10-16.

Headquarters, 2nd Aust. Inf. Bde.
1st October 1916.

To : Headquarters : 1st Australian Division :

Herewith supplementary reports from Lieut-Colonel H.G. BENNETT, C.M.G., who supervised the preparation and the carrying out of the Raid on the enemy's Trenches last night. I have very much pleasure in bringing to the notice of the G.O.C., Division the highly satisfactory, efficient and complete manner in which this Raid was organised and carried into effect. This in my judgement reflects the greatest credit on Lieut-Colonel BENNETT, Captain BOWTELL HARRIS, 7th Battalion, and Lieut D.G. EVANS, 8th Battalion, and upon the whole Personnel concerned.

Unfortunately, from what I have been able to glean from Lieut-Colonel BENNETT and from the Officers and others, it would appear that the enemy has apparently anticipated a repetition of our recent successful Raids and has taken very complete precaution against the procuring of identification, as in every instance where it was possible to make a search, neither numerals, identification disks or papers were found in the Sector raided.

I am informed that the enemy all fought well and doggedly and live prisoners were therefore unable to procure. Every German fought until he was killed with the exception of one wounded man who died shortly after his arrival in our Field Dressing Station.

It would appear that our Artillery were premature in opening Covering Fire on the return of the Party, and I would ask that on future occasions every care should be taken, as the one mortality which occurred was, in the opinion of Colonel BENNETT, the result of the above.

I can only add that one and all of the Personnel concerned in this Raid have carried out this very dangerous mission with the highest credit to all concerned, and it is my intention, after further inquiry, to forward for your favourable consideration, the names of those who are deserving of special mention.

(Signed) J.M. ANTILL,
Brigadier-General,
G.O.C., 2nd Aust. Inf. Bde.

2nd AUST. INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Appendix No. 49

Casualties for month of September 1916.

Unit.	Killed		Wounded.		Remarks.
	Officers	O'Ranks	Officers	O'Ranks	
2nd A.I. Bde. Hqrs.					
No 2 M.G. Coy					
PA L.T.M. Bty.				1 ϕ	ϕ still at duty.
5th Battalion		4	1*	25	* 2/Lt. H.F. MORRISON
6th "		6		18	
7th "		3		6	
8th "		6	1 \otimes	14	\otimes 2/Lt. G.F. JOHANSEN
TOTAL		19	2	64	



MAJOR.

Bde. Major 2nd Aust. Inf. Bde.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

Appendix No. 50

Number of Reinforcements joined during the month of Sept.

5th Battalion.

1 Officer : (2nd Lieut. E.A. HAY)

45 Other Ranks.

6th Battalion.

1 Officer : (Lt. J.W. FORBES)

205 Other Ranks.

7th Battalion.2 Officers. : (2/Lts. Chas. GAWTHORPE SHUTTLEWORTH and
WALTER ERIC SCOTT)

191 Other Ranks

8th Battalion4 Officers : (2nd Lt. R.S. MILES, Lieut. J.E.T. CATRON,
and Lieut. W.D. YATES and 2/Lt. WOODHOUSE)

223 Other Ranks.

M.G. Coy.

2 Officers : (2nd Lieuts. ELLIS and HORAN)

7 Other Ranks.

W. M. M. M.

Major.

39/9/16.

Bde Major. 2nd Aust Inf Bde.

Appendix No. 51

No of Officers and Other Ranks attending Schools
for month of SEPTEMBER. 1916.

Nature of School.	No of Officers. attended.	No Other Ranks attended.	U N I T .
2nd Army Signalling.	1	5	1 officer. 6th Bn. 1 O.R. 5th Bn. 1 " 6th Bn. 2 " 7th Bn. 1 " 8th Bn.
Lewis Gun.	12	12	3 O.Ranks. 5th Bn. 3 " 6th Bn. 3 " 7th Bn. 3 " 8th Bn.
Instructor at Base.	-	1	1 N.C.O. 5th Bn.
Cadet School England.	-	3	1 N.C.O. 5th Bn. 2 " "s 6th Bn.
Course for Officers and N.C.O's.	2	2	1 Officer. 7th Bn. 1 " 8th Bn. 1 N.C.O. 7th Bn. 1 " 8th Bn.
Sniping School.	1	9	1 Officer 6th Bn. 3 O.Ranks 5th Bn. 1 " " 6th Bn. 2 " " 7th Bn. 3 " " 8th Bn.
Vickers M.Gun.	2	3	No 2 M.G.Coy.
Bomb School.	3	16	1 Officer 6th Bn. 1 " 7th Bn. 1 " 8th Bn. 4 O.Ranks 5th Bn. 4 " " 6th Bn. 4 " " 7th Bn. 4 " " 8th Bn.
Stokes Gun.	3	2	1 Officer 5th Bn. 1 " 7th Bn. 1 " 8th Bn. 2 N.C.O's, 2A L.T.M.Bty.
Grenade.	2	4	1 Officer 7th Bn. 1 " 8th Bn. 1 N.C.O. 5th Bn. 1 " 6th Bn. 1 " 7th Bn. 1 " 8th Bn.
Lewis Gun.	3	26	1 Officer 5th Bn. 1 " 7th Bn. 1 " 8th Bn. 7 O.Ranks 5th Bn. 7 " " 6th Bn. 6 " " 7th Bn. 6 " " 8th Bn.

Nature of School.	No of Officers attended.	No Other Ranks attended.	U N I T .
Snipers.	2	10	1 Officer 7th Bn. 1 " 8th Bn. 3 O.Ranks. 5th Bn. 3 " " 6th Bn. 2 " " 7th Bn. 2 " " 8th Bn.

P. Blüch.

Major

30/9/16.

Bde Major 2nd Aust Inf Bde.

HEADQUARTERS - 2nd AUST. INF. BDE.
 =====

Strength as at Noon on September 30th, 1918.

UNIT	On establishment			Attached.		
	Off.	O.R.	Total.	Off.	O.R.	Total.
Headquarters 2nd Aust. Inf. Bde.	6	22	28	4	53	57
No. 2. M.G. Coy.	12	152	164	-	32	32
2 A. L.T.M. Bty.	4	52	56	-	19	19
5th Battalion.	30	750	780	1	7	8
6th Battalion	39	985	1024	2	9	11
7th Battalion.	39	861	900	2	7	9
8th Battalion.	34	795	829	3	5	8
TOTAL	165	3671	3836	12	134	146

TOTAL

Officers 177

Other Ranks. 3805

Total 3982

30/9/18

Which may
Bde may 2nd I Bde