### AWM4

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

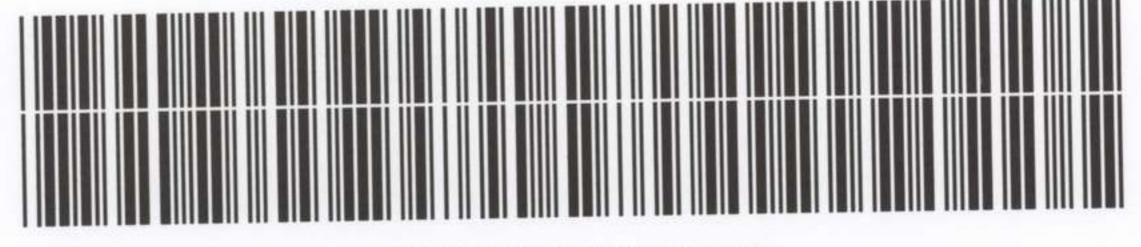
Formation Headquarters

Item number: 1/50/19 Part 3

Title: General Staff, Headquarters 5th

Australian Division

September 1917



AWM4-1/50/19PART3

SECRET.

5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

GERERAL STAFF MEMORANDUM No. 154.

#### "NEW OFFENSIVE TACTIOS!

1. In continuation of General Staff Memorandum No. 153 dated 31st August 1917, the following extracts from a private letter received from the commander of a Scottish Brigade who has been in all the recent operations are of interest:-

"I am firmly convinced that the Booke is incapable of devising means of defence which can stop us provided the men know how to use their rifles, how to support each other, are imbued with the absolute necessity of gotting to their objective (and holding it), and are launched to the attack

in a suitable formation.

"The formation we have adopted now is line with gaps. Sections are extended to 4 or 5 paces between men and the gaps botween sections are decided by the amount of ground allotted to the Brigade. I think a platoon can easily take 150 yards of front, so that on the average initial brigade front of about 600 or 700 yards we can do it with four

platoons, two from each of two companies.

"This gives us extra depth in the assaulting battalions and allows me to keep my support battalion well back. For the past year I have attacked with eight platoons in front .two from each of two companies of two battalions, with a support battalion close behind to escape the barrage. "We found that on the 31st July, owing to the immediate formation of a number of isolated compats round the concrete

posts, that portion of the support battalion were

unwittingly drawn into the front line.

"This time owing to the front allotted to me (nearly 1000 yards). I have to retain the eight platoons in front, but I have kept my support battalion back for an appreciable time. "

2. This letter is not to be reproduced, but the Divisional Commander wishes all C.O's. to read it in conjunction with the previous letter from the Fifth Army, and to base all their training this week, both with and without troops, on these new tactical lessons.

3. The Divisional Commander will be glad to have a short report on Saturday 8th September on any deductions made as the result of the

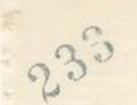
training.

General Staff, 5th Australian division.

2nd September 1917.

Distribution: -1 copy 8th Infantry Brigade 14th Infantry Brigade 15th Infantry Brigade 5th Pioneer Battalion Divisional Engineers Divisional Machine Gun Officer "

Copy to: Divisional Artillery File Har Diary.



## SECRET

5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

GENERAL STAFF MEMORANDUM NO.155.,

#### "S.O.S. SIGNALS"

- 1. From 12 noon on 6th September, the S.O.S. Signal for the I ANZAC Corps will be a 12" parachute VERY Light changing from WHITE to RED.
- 2. All old S.O.S. signal rockets on hand will be withdrawn under arrangements to be made by "Q" Branch of this Division, who will return them to 354th E.& M. Co. R.E. PROVEN.
- 3. ACKNOWLEDGE.

6th September 1917.

Lieut-Colonel.

General Staff.

5th Australian Division.

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#### GENERAL STAFF MEMORANDUM No. 156

#### "NOTES ON RECENT FIGHTING".

1. The following notes on the experiences gained in the recent fighting on Fifth Army front are published for the information of all Commanding Officers:-

(a) A Division can do an advance of about 1,500 yards in one day.

(b) This advance is best done in gradually decreasing stages; 700 yards, 500 yards, and 300 yards.

(c) Between these stages of the advance the pauses or halts should be long. The pace of the several advances must be slow (See Second Army "Notes on Training.")

(d) It is not necessary that all barrages should be actually in

line. Infantry must be warned of this.

(e) Many "pillar boxes" have no loopholes. They are simply dugouts and cannot be destroyed by the artillery barrage; so the preparation of R.E. charges will be necessary for their destruction.

(f) The "worm" formation is almost the only practicable one for

infantry.

(g) The enemy's infantry were often "shepherded" into certain areas from which it was probable they would deliver counterattacks. Concentrated artillery fire was held ready to put on to those areas.

NOTE. This "shopherding" practice was carried out in the SOMME battles by the artillery, but usually for the purpose of inducing the enemy to concentrate his guns in apparently safe localities. Immediately prior to the attack these localities, hitherto untouched by our artillery, were subjected to an intense neutralizing and destructive fire.

It now appears that the practice has been extended to "shepherding" the enemy's infantry to apparently safe localities in a similar manner, and then destroying

(h) It is essential that sufficient gas shells are kept for neutralizing batteries for about four hours previous to ZERO hour.

Gas shells were specially used against batteries near reads.

(j) Advanced infantry posts should be shifted constantly in order to catch the enemy's patrols.

(k) A larger proportion of moppers are now required for mopping up

6th September 1917.

General Staff,
5th Australian Division.

Bith Infantry Brigade 1
14th Infantry Brigade 1
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5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

GENERAL STAFF MEMORANDUM No.157.

### " NOTES ON RECENT FIGHTING "

1. In continuation of General Staff Memorandum No. 156 the following information regarding the recent fighting has been gained as a result of discussions with some Officers engaged in the attacks.

- (a) An attack is no longer delivered solely against a line. We now attack areas. It may take only one company of a battalior to attain the objective, whereas it often takes the remaining three companies to "mop up" the area behind and thus consolidate the gain. In mopping up these areas the chief difficulty has been the "pill boxes". These "pill boxes" are made of reinforced concrete 5 to 6 feet in thickness, and have an iron door. Some hold as many as 30 Bosches. An 8" shell will not smash up these "pill boxes", so the barrage passes over. The Bosche retires into these "pill boxes" with his machine guns. After the attack has swept over he comes out and shoots into the backs of our attacking infantry. The solution to this problem is to drop men behind with bombs to watch these "pill boxes". In one instance a man is reported to have watched a "pill box" for three days. He succeeded eventually in capturing 20 Bosches.
- (b) Another lesson learnt is the necessity of having the protective barra e 600 to 700 yards in advance of the objective, i.e. either 1st, 2nd or 3rd objective as the case may be. This distance, allows our patrols to get out in front and reconnoitre. Also, after the enemy counter attack has been driven off, we have room to follow him up and exploit the success gained.

(c) Troops must be trained to .
1. Always expect a counter attach and be ready to
defeat it by rifle and Lewis Gun fire. If necessary

the artillery will assist by destructive fire on the area between our troops and the protective barrage. As soon as this destructive fire lifts troops must at once get forward close under the barrage i.e. exploit their success.

2. Never pass by a "pill box" without leaving a few men to watch it uncoasingly. Meanwhile send back for some explosive to blow in the door with.

General Staff, 5th Australian Division.

7th September, 1917.

BOUGHT WALLANDER DIVISION

1. In continuation of General Staff Removerdum No. 156 the

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GENERAL STAFF MEMORANDUM No. 158

### " NOTES ON RECENT FIGHTING "

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The Following notes on operations on 22nd, 23rd, and 24th August 1917 in the locality of INVERNESS COPSE, including the area HERENTHAGE CHATEAU, and FITZCLARENCE FARM are published for the guidance of all Officers.

TERRAIN CHARACTERIS-TICS OF

- (a) The crest of the ridge runs from the strong point at J.14.a.3.2. in a curve to a point about J.13.d.3.0. West of STIRLING CASTLE.

  To the East the ground falls from the present Eritish front line, at first very slightly but with a gradually increasing slope towards the BASSEVILLE BEEK. The ridge also slopes gradually from North to South.
- (b) The valley East and South East of HERENTHACE Chau. is very boggy and impassable for infantry. A few men only might dribble through with difficulty.
  - (c) To the South of INVERNESS COPSE the ground was reported by II Corps (previous to our attack on the 22nd August) to be practically impassable. This found not to be the case, as considerable numbers of Germans worked their way through and attacked our defensive right flank.
  - The whole of the Copse is a tangle of broken branches and blown about wire, pitted with shell holes. It, however, presents no sorious obstacle for infantry following a slow creeping barrage.
- (e) The ground between INVERNESS COPSE and GLENCORSE WOOD is flat and open, and pitted with shell holes.

Profest to the Land Service

HOSTILE ACTION (a) Enemy put up a very determined resistance during our attack and made immediate counter attacks with local AND MORALE. reserves on my right battalion very shortly after it had reached its final objective .- HERENTHAGE Chau. and Eastern outskirts of INVERNESS COPSE. These counter attacks took the form of bombing inwards from both flanks (chiefly the left owing to the partial failure of the left battalion) combined with a frontal advance by riflemen popping from shell hole to shell hole. Owing to heavy casualties our line became very weak and was forced to withdraw inside the COPSE to avoid parties being out off and surrounded. Here the fighting was very confused and took the form of individual sniping with alternate advances and retirements on both sides, on a small scale, as respective reinforcements arrived. Hostile Machine Gun fire was very heavy and continuous all through this phase of the fighting and caused numerous casualties.

- (b)At about 6.30 a.m. 23rd August an organized counter attack of about two battalions (probably troops in Brigade or Divisional Reserve) was made on the whole of our front. Enemy advanced in two waves, but was dispersed by our musketry, Lewis Gun and Vickers fire before reaching our line. The Brigade on my left saw this and reported that enemy fled after suffering very heavy casualties. It is also said that our barrage came down and caught him as he retired.
- (c)On morning 24th August, soon after dawn a heavy counter attack was made on our new front line. The Huns advanced in 4 waves, about 50 100 yards apart. The leading wave was formed of "Storm troops" of the 4th Assault Battalion followed by a Battalion or more of 177th I.Regt. Men of the 67th I. Regt. also took part as prisoners of this formation were also captured during this attack.

The method of attack, as stated by prisoners was(i) Groups of "Storm Troops" formed the first wave,

provided with portable flammenwerfer.

(11) The Coys. of 177th Regt. were ordered to follow the groups of "storm troops" in waves - no other orders were issued to them.

This attack was successful on my left and drove back the left battalion to our original line. Unsuccessful on the right in INVERNESS COPSE.

During the rest of the day (24th) confused fighting between small parties of both sides was continually taking place.

In every case as soon as our men in the COPSE received reinforcements, the enemy were seen to retire.

On the whole hostile morale was not good in attack—although small bodies here and there fought and manoeuvered very well indeed, and with a good deal of ininiative.

OUR MUSKETRY.

Very great attention to musketry, especially field firing, had been paid during the two months this Brigade had been "out" training. Open and semi-open warfare had been greatly practised during the time we were close to the old HEBUTERNE - GOIMECOURT Area.

The results were apparent in these operations at INVERNESS COPSE. Our men always held the Bosche with rifle and machine gun fire."

Genoral Staff,
5th Australian Division.

9th September, 1917.

Distribution:-

8th Infantry Brigade 7
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5th Pioneer Battalion 1
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Div. M. G. Officer 1
Div. Bomb Officer 1
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GENERAL STAFF MEMORANDUM No. 159.

#### "NEW OFFENSIVE TACTICS"

1. The Divisional Commander wishes special attention given to the following points in the training of units in the new offensive tactics.

(a) The small columns detailed for the capture of "known" enemy strong points must follow the line or lines of skirmishers closely.

(b) The principle of depth in the attack must be followed out, i.e. the skirmishers or beaters out in front must belong to the company or platoon following in rear. They will then pass information back instead of to a flank.

(c) The Brigade forward party of signallers must be kept in some sort of artillery formation otherwise the whole party may be put out of action by one shell.

(d) In practising an attack, the flanks should be marked by a large flag. This flag should move in an irregular manner, i.e. it should hang back, or move in advance or move away to a flank. This method will afford valuable practice to Company

Commanders on the flanks.

(e) Unnecessary talking in the attack must be stopped. Officers in action want the whole attention of the men under their command.

(f) Men must avoid looking to their right and left in action.

The Barrage gives the line, and direction is the thing that

really matters.

(g) Officers with units in support or units waiting to "leap frog" through, are bound to make themselves acquainted with the

situation in front.

(h) Great attention must be paid in training to the way the supports and reserves are being handled. Senior Commanders should watch this in preference to the front line as the proper distribution of units in depth is going to be the main factor towards success.

(j) All units will take their rifle covers into action, so practice in tying them on to the rifle in a conventient way should be carried out during the week.

(k) In a long days fighting it is essential to husband the strength of the men, so when they are not wanted they should rest. One man should be posted as an abserver, and he should be told to watch a certain place. (The order to "keep a sharp look-out" is useless). The rest of the men can then rest.

September 9th 1917.

Whing Mayor for Lieut-Colonel, General Staff, 5th Australian Division.

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5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

#### GENERAL STAFF MEMORANDUM No. 160

#### "THE PROTECTIVE BARRAGE"

With reference to "Notes on Training and Preparations for Offensive Operations" issued by General Staff Second ERMY, the following further letter has been received from Second ARMY in amplification of the "Artillery Notes".

"According to instructions which obtain at present as soon as a final 'line' or 'objective' has been reached, patrols are pushed forward to cover the consolidation on which the greater part of the Infantry are employed, and which forms the main line of defence, and the 'protective barrage' is advanced some 300 or 400 yards to admit of the movement of these 'patrols'.

The defence against counter-attacks at this period is the

'protective barrage'. In the case of a counter-attack which succeeds in penetrating this barrage the patrols are liable to be either captured or driven hastily in and are then a source of embarrassment both to the artillery and infantry of the defence. it is suggested that definite time should be assigned after

the infantry have reached their final objective and that during that period the procedure should be:-

(i) Protective Artillery Barrage.

(ii) Line of outposts covering main defensive line "only a short distance in front".

(iii)Preliminary work of consolidation of main line of defence

of troops detailed for its occupation.

(iv) Forward movement of supports and reserves in readiness meet organized counter attacks. And that after the expiration of the allotted period the protective barrage should gradually die down and the defence should rely on the main line - (connected or not with the outpost line as the local Commander may decide) - the artillery being in readiness to concentrate their fire on any area from which a counter-attack may be delivered and the supports and reserves available to repel and follow up any such attack."

MKug Wayw W Lieut-Colonel, General Staff, 5th Australian Division.

10th September, 1917.

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GENERAL STAFF MEMORANDUM No. 161.

#### "NEW OFFENSIVE TACTICS"

1. In continuation of the "Notes on Training and Preparation for Offensive Operations" dated 31st August, issued by the General Staff Second Army, the Army Commander has directed that special attention be given to the following points:-

DISPOSITION IN DEPTH BOTH FOR ATTACK AND DEFENCE.

"It must be explained to all ranks why depth of formation is essential and what it means and what it involves. In the task before us we shall encounter/in depth from the enemy, from defensive positions in shell-holes, strong points, etc., and from counter attacks gradually increasing in strength as we advance, and to deal with these our plan is to have sufficient men and allow ample time to clear each area included in our advances, and successive bodies of fresh troops as supports and reserves well forward to meet the counter attacks. To be able to carry out this plan successfully, every commander of supporting troops must know the position and situation of the troops which he is supporting and must utilise every means at his disposal to do this.

It must be explained to all front line troops that supporting troops are behind them and getting gradually nearer, so as to assist them at once to destroy any enemy counter attacks if necessary, and not only officers but N.C.O's. and private soldiers must be kept informed of the situation.

So long as formations are kept intelligently in depth and men realise the superior/which their rifles and machine guns give them against enemy counter attacks, they are in a position to inflict far-reaching destruction on the enemy.

They should understand that there is no danger if there are "gaps" in the line, or if troops on their flanks are temporarily checked. The supporting troops will quickly remedy this provided every unit, however small, clings tenaciously to every point which they have gained until their arrival.

Although troops following a barrage have to move slowly they must be trained to act quickly when occasion arises.

Troops for the initial stage, i.e. the capture of the First Objective, should be lightly equipped, and careful training and practice is necessary to ensure that all attacking troops get started inside the enemy barrage.

Similarly when enemy "strong points" are encountered, these must be dealt with at once and without hesitation. Delay may be fatal.

"Consolidation" should always be in depth."

September 11th 1917.

Milling Way or Lieut-Colonel.

General Staff.

5th Australian Division.

GENERAL STAFF MEHORANDUM No. 162.

#### ARTILLERY.

- 1. The following notes on the action of Artillery are published for the information of Officers. No copies of this memorandum are to be made but the Divisional Commander wishes Brigade Commanders to arrange for lectures to Officers, so that all may know the principles on which the Artillery plan is based before major operations are undertaken.
- 2. The task which the Artillery has to perform has of late changed to a certain extent, owing to the changed tactics of the enemy, but certain first principles, which are all important, still hold good. These are:-

(a) destroying the moral of the enemy by subjecting him to

continuous fire.

(b) destruction of all strong points, machine gun nests, refuges for troops in the forward area, junctions of communications, O.P's. etc.

(c) wire cutting wherever necessary.

- (d) carrying out bembariments of certain localities with gas shell.
- (e) putting down barrages to deceive the enemy as to the probability of attack by the Infantry.

(f) keeping lines of communication under fire.

- (g) using harassing fire against all billets, refilling points, headquarters, etc.
- (h) systematic destruction of dumps, railway sidings, bridges, lines of telephone communication and water supply points, and in particular
- (j) attempting to cut off all the forward area from the rear to such an extent that it will be impossible for the enemy to bring up ammunition and supplies of any kind.
- B. The support of the infantry in the attack, its defence whilst consolidating the ground it has won, and the prevention of the assembly and approach of counter attacks.
- 3. The essential differences in the enemy's tactics in recent operations, and which have been sanctioned by his Higher Command are:-

(a) The holding of the line in depth, and

- (b) The strength and quickness of his counter attacks.
- 4. The regular lines of trenches firing, support and reserve, have disappeared, and in place of them has been organised a systematic occupation of shell holes over the whole front, and extending to a considerable depth behind, which are not even connected by trenches, seldom have communication trenches to the rearand are not often protected by regular lines of wire.
- 5. On the other hand the shell holes have, in many cases, been prepared for defence and concreted, and frequently have deep dugouts descending from them; they are often organised for machine gun defence; strong points are made by connecting up

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several contiguous shell holes and making them thoroughly defensible, and concreted erections are found on the front which do not appear to have any organisation for defence, but are thought to be refuges for the garrison from which they can emerge when required. Protection is sometimes affored by short strips of wire usually concealed from gound observation.

6. For the purpose of dealing with this system of defence the old principles of the creeping and standing barrages are inadequate. What is necessary is to cover the whole ground to a depth of at least a thousand yards with successive lines of barrages from different natures of guns at fixed distances one behind the other, these lines of barrages moving forward together as the infantry advance and thus Resping an area 1000 yards deep in front of them under fire. As the infantry reach each step of their advance and halt for shorter or longer periods to allow of reorganising and in order that the ground behind them may be theroughly cleared by the mopping-up parties before a further advance is made, the line of barrage nearest to our infantry halts, and becomes a standing protective barrage whilst the other lines continue to move forwards and backwards searching the whole area in front.

The whole of the barrages will be back in their normal positions when the infantry are ready to advance, and the procedure will be the same as before for each successive step.

When the final objective has been reached to same procedure will be maintained until the barrage is allowed to die down.

Lieut-Colonel. General Staff.

5th Australian Division.

September 12th 1917.

Bistribution 8th Infantry Brigade 14th Infantry Brigade 15th Infantry Brigade

GENERAL STAFF MEMORANDUM No. 163.

## "STATION CODE CALLS".

- 1. The Code Calls and Station Calls given in I ANZAC Jorps pamphlet entitled "Directory of Code Names, Code Calls, and Station Calls (brown paper cover G43/69) are cancelled.
- 2. The "station" calls allotted in accordance with Training Manual Signalling published on arrival of the Division in FRANCE are also cancelled.
- 3. The new "Station Code Calls" given in the attached list will take the place of both "code calls' and "station calls" and will be taken into use at once.
- 4. The "code names" allotted to units in the I ANZAC Corps pamphlet will still remain in use.
- 5. As soon as the tactical situation permits, arrangements will be made to revert to the system of "Position calls".
- 6. "Station Code Calls" of noighbouring formations will be published as required.

MMKuig Major for

16th Septembor 1917.

	Copies Nos.
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## APPENDIX 3 CONFIDENTIAL

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#### 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

#### STATION CODE CALLS.

5th Aust. Div. H.Q.	AYE	5th Aust.D.T.M.O.	OBZ
5th Aust. Div. Art.	OB4	5th Aust.Div.San.Soc.	AGF
5th Aust. Div. Sig.Co.	AGA	5th Aust. Mob. Vet. Sec.	AGG
C.R.E. 5th Aust. Div.	AGB	8th Aust.Inf.Bdo	AGH
8th Field Co.	AGM	29th Battalion	AGI
14th Fiold Co.	AGP	30th Battalion	AGJ
15th Field Co.	AGY	31st Battalion	AGK
5th Aust. Div. Train	AGC	32nd Battalion	AGL
5th Aust. Pionear Bn.	AGE	8th Aust.M.G.Co	OBQ
25th Aust. M.G.Co.	AGZ	8th Aust. L. T. M. B.	OBR
13th Aust. F.A. Bde	OBB	14th Aust.Inf.Bde	AGN
49th Battory	-O BC	53rd Battalion	AGQ
50th Battery	OBD	54th Battalion	AGR
51st Battery	OBE	55th Battalion	AGS
113th Battery	OBF	56th Battalion	AGT
14th Aust. F.A.Bde	OBG	14th Aust.M.G.Co.	OBS
53rd Battery	ОВН	14th Aust. L. T. M. B.	OBT
54th Battery	OBI	15th Aust. Inf. Bde	AGO
55th Battery	OBJ	57th Battalion	AGU
114th Battory	OBK	58th Battalion	AGV
5th Aust. D.A.C	OBL	59th Battelion	AGW
D.A.D.O.S. 5th Aust.Div.	AGD	60th Battalion	GX
8th Aust. Field Amb.	OBM	15th Aust.M.G.Co.	OBU
14th Aust. Field Amb.	OBOX	15th Aust. L. T. M. B.	OBV
15th Aust. Field Amb.	OBY		
V5A H. T. M. Battery	OBM		
X51. M. T. M. Battery	OBN		
Y5A M. T. M. Battery	СВО		
Z5A M. T. M. Battery	OBP		

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# APPENDIX A

29th Battalion	NOT LIVE WALL		55th Battalion	
A. Co.	RLA	11/5 Y 15 A 74 B	A. Co.	VUA
B. Co.	RLB		B. Co	VUB
C. Co.	RLC		C. Co.	VUC
D. Co.	RLD		D.Co.	VUD
30th Battalion	d.tr. dans 1310		56th Battalion	
A. Co.	RLE		A. Co.	VUE
B. Co.	RLF		B. Co.	VUF
C. Co.	RLG		C. Co.	VUG
D. Co.	RLH		D. Co.	VUH
31st Battalion	D.M. tens Mis		57th Battalion	Jeni dos
A. Co.	RLI		A. Co.	VUI
B. Co.	RLJ		B. Co.	VUJ
C. Co.	RLK		C. Co.	VUK
	RLL		D. Co.	VUL
32nd Battalion	trested dated		58th Battalion	
A. Co.	RLM		A. Co.	VUM
B. Co.	RLN		B. Co.	VUN
C. Co.	RLO		C. Co.	VUO
D. Co.	RLP		D. Co.	VUP
53rd Battalion	Lingues de sé		59th Battalion	
A. Co.	RIQ		A. Co.	VUQ
B. Co.	RIR		B. Co.	VUR
C. Co.	RIS		C. Co.	vus
D. Co.	RLT		D. Co.	VUT
54th Battalion			60th Battalion	
A. Co.	RLU		A. Co.	VUU
B. Co.	RLV		B. Co.	VUV
C. Co.	RLW		C. Co.	VUW
D. Co.	RLX		D. Co.	VUX
		Pioneer	Battalion.	MARINE LOS
	A. Co. RLY		C. Co. VUY	
	B. Co. RIZ		D. Co. VUZ.	

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GENERAL STAFF MEMORANDUM No. 164.

dorpored and enumers must be lext behind by oneh unit.

## "NUCLEUS LEFT BEHIND DURING OPERATIONS"

1. With reference to General Staff Memorandum No. 129 dated 28th April 1917, attention is called to the amendments to section XXX of S.S. 155 "Instructions for the Training of Divisions for Offensive Action".

2, If the unit is up to establishment, the whole of the inumbers

Paragraph XXX now reads as follows:-

"1. Infantry battalions, machine gun companies and Stokes mortar batteries must not go into an attack with their full complement of officers, N.C.O's., riflemen, gunners and specialists; a certain proportion must be left behind in order to provide a nucleus on which to reorganise the battalion in the event of havy casualties.

2. The following are the mimimum number which must be left behind on each occasion when the battalion takes part in an

attack: -(i) Officers

(a) Battalion Headquarters - Either the C.O. or the Second in Command.

> (b) Each Company - Either the Company Commander or tho Second in Command. Not more than two Company Commanders are to go in with their companies.

Not more than 20 officers, excluding the Medical officer, are

to go in with the battalion.

(ii) Other Ranks. (a) Each Battalion. Company Sergeant Majors 33 per cent signallers 33 per cent runners Gas instructor Bombing instructor Lewis Gun instructors Any other instructors in special work such as dugouts

32 (x if up to full strength.)

(b) Each Company. Sergeant Corporal Lance Corporal

(c) Each Platoon. Rifle bomber Scout and sniper Lewis gunners

> 108 Total

5th Pioneer Sattalion

. HOISTVIC HATTANEEDIA AVE

3. In the case of Machine Gun Companies and Stokes Mortar Batteries, a minimum of 25 per sent of officers, sergesute, corporals and gunners must be left behind by each unit. 4. The officers and other ranks left behind, with the exception of those attending courses at Schools, should normally be sent to their Corps Reinforcement Camps until their units come out of the line. As a general rule they should be reserved for the future reorganisation of their units, and should not be ordered forward to replace casualties after the assault".

2. If the unit is up to establishment, the whole of the numbers detailed in Section XXX of S.S. 135 will be withdrawn before the Division goes into action. If the unit is not up to establishment, a proportionate reduction may be made in the numbers laid down in Section XXX of S.S. 135. Units which are over establishment will leave behind their excess over establishment in addition to the full numbers laid down in Section XXX of S.S. 135.

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September 16th 1917.

5th Australian Division.

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Distribution Copies.
Oth Infantry Brigade 7
14th Infantry Brigade 7
15th Infantry Brigade 7 and its out the the parties of the 5th Pioneer Battalion

.notiested ford (a) Copy to: Divisional Machine Gun Officer 1
Divisional Bomb Officer 1

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5th AUSTRALIAN DIWITION.

#### GERERAL STAFF MEMORANDUM No.165

#### "STATION CODE CALLS"

In continuation of General Staff Circular No. 163 dated 16th September 1917, the following additional code names and codo calls are issued on the distribution as shown below. These lists are not to be copied.

						-
	lst Aust.Div.	2nd Aust.Div.	4th Aust.Div.	Alizac Corps H. art.	Aust. A. F. A. Bdes Corps H. A. unit and certain Corps Troops.	
	Copy No.	Copy	Copy No.	Copy No.	Copy No.	-
Sth Infantry Brigade 14th Infantry Brigade 15th Infantry Brigade 5th Pioneer Battalion Divisional Artillery Divisional Engineers Divisional Signal Co. Divisional Train A.D.M S. D.A.D.V.S. D.A.D.O.S. "Q" "G"		2 3 4 5-7 9-20 21 22 23 24 25 26-27	1 2 3 4 5-7 8 9-20 21 22 23 24 25 26-27	146-157 158 	41-48	

17th September 1917.

Tw Lieut-Colonel.

General Staff.

5th Australian Division.

#### GENERAL STAFF MEMORANDUM No.166

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST GAS ATTACKS-

1. Small box respirators are to be carried always by allranks. East of a north and south line through YPRES, box rospirators will be worn in the alert position. The precautions are to be adopted irrespective of the direction of the wind. Unit commandors will take steps to put into operation forthwith arrangements for notifying the state of the wind, and for giving the alarm. Attention is drawn to previous notes on precautions to be adopted. In case of attack by gas shells, only a local alarm will be given, by means of rattles. The KLAXON or STROMBOS horn is not to be used for local alarms.

CAMOUFLAGE.

2. Steps will be taken to camouflage all tent and hut encampments as much as possible. Camouflage may be demanded from Division in the ordinary way. A Camouflage Depot is in existence at VLAMERTINGHE. Unit Commanders are invited by the Officer Commanding the Depot to inspect.

MOV EMENT OF TROOPS. 3. By day, troops will be moved in small parties of a strength not greater than a platoon. The officer or N.C.O. in charge of the parties will see that the party takes cover on the approach of hostile aircraft. Individuals must also be warned to take cover on the approach of hostile aircraft. All lights must be screened at dusk. Movements in the vicinity of all Headquarters will be restricted as much as possible. All troops must be warned against congregating to view the flight of hostile machines.

SHRAPNEL HELMETS.

4. As it is desired to conceal that Australian troops are in this Area, all troops must discard Field Service hats during the hours of daylight while in back areas, and wear shrapnel holmets. Men in possession of caps may vear them in the day time. Field Service hats may be worn in the evening, except when the enemy is shelling the area. In the forward area, shrapnol helmets will be worn both day and night by all ranks.

ANTI-AIRCRAFT 5. Unit Commanders will take immediate steps to mount LEWIS GUNS. anti-aircraft Lewis guns to deal with low flying hostile machines.

> Lieut-Colonel. General Staff. 5th Australian Division.

19th September 1917

MM reference to hava 4 Elect helmet F.S. hat may be worn by the P.T.O. were a country at the description of brigare country. -2-

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#### Distribution:

	Copies
8th Infantry Brigade	7
14th Infantry Brigade	7
15th Infantry Brigade	7
Divisional Engineers	4
Divisional Signal Co.	5 5 5
Divisional Train	5
A.D.M.S.	5
D.A.D.V.S.	2
D. A. D. O. S.	1
A.P.M.	ī
Divisional Salvage Co.	7
Camp Commandant	ī

#### Copies to:

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brag no:	
5th Pioneer Battalion	1
25th Aust. Machine Gun	00. 1
D.M.G.O.	1
Div. Gas Officer	1
Divisional Bomb Office:	1
uðu -	1
Divisional Autillann	1

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Son the trailed Division.

AMENDMENT TO GENERAL STAFF MEMORANDUM No. 166.

With reference to paragraph 4, Field Service hats may be worn by the men in camps at the discretion of the Brigade Commanders and O's.C. Divisional Units.

19th September 1917.

Muy Lieut-Colonel, General Staff, 5th Australian Division.. 233

5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

GENERAL STAFF MEMORANDUM No.167

#### ANTI-AIRCRAFT DEFENCE.

1. Bombing raids or other attacks by hostile aircraft will be reported on as follows :-

(a) When the Division is in the forward area, reports will be sent to Divisional Headquarters. The information will be sent in by units normally in situation reports, but immediately, if it is considered necessary.

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(b) In all sub-areas of the I ANZAC Corps, reports will be made by area Commandants, and Commanders of troops in those area will give all possible assistance towards compiling these reports.

2. The reports submitted should contain the following information:
(a) The time at which the attack took place.

(b) Locality.

(SGE) D.M. HING, Major,

(c) The approximate number of bombs.

(d) The number of machines.

(e) The damage done.

- 3. The following notes regarding measures taken for A.A. defence are forwarded for information -
  - (a) The whole A.A. scheme in Second Army Area is drawn up by Second Army G.S. with command delegated to O.C. A.A. Group, Second Army.
  - (b) (i) The A.A. scheme provides observers by day and by night on the entire Army front, with communications extending to the rear, through all which A.A. guns and the R.F.C. are warned when E.A. cross the line.
    (ii) By day, the reports of these observers include all

E.A. machines seen working behind the German lines.

(c) A.A. guns have a range of 6,000 yards at 10,000 feet, and will engage all E.A. above 2,000 feet, but will not engage machines flying under that height.

(d) Vickers and Lewis Guns can engage E.A. up to a height of 3,000 feet.

4. The following anti-aircraft machine gun defence will be put into force by 7 p.m. to-morrow 20th instant :-

(a) Vickers or Lewis Guns in groups of two will be mounted for the protection of camps in Infantry Brigade areas under the orders of G.O's.C. Infantry Brigades.

(b) Where units are camped in widely separated areas, each camp will have its own anti-aircraft protection.

(c) Anti-aircraft defence for Divisional Headquarters will be arranged by the Camp Commandant by arrangements with the Staff of the nearest Infantry Brigade.

5. Once the identity of a hostile aeroplane is established there should be no hesitation in opening fire on it.

Aeroplanes frequently come down low enough to be within easy range, and such opportunities should be taken advantage of.

-2-

## BY NIGHT.

FEORETEN PRESIDE A-TITA

No aeroplanes or airships will be fired on at night unless they unmistakeably reveal their hostile identity by dropping bombs or by opening fire with machine guns.

(SGD) D.M. KING, Major,

for Lieut-Colonel, General Staff. 5th Australian Division.

19th September, 1917.

Distribution:-

copies. 8th Infantry Brigade 7 sidiagou fia evin lite 14th Infantry Brigade 15th Infantry Brigade Divisional Engineers Lucia battimuse sinogen enT .S Divisional Signal Co. the time at which t Divisional Train D.A.D.V.S. samed to require easinizerage easing D.A.D.O.S. A PROPERTY NO TOURS OF THE Camp Commandant anob sysmab enT (a) A.D.M.S.

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5th Pioneer Battalion 1
Divisional Artillery 1
Div. Salvage Co. 1

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4. The following anti-aircraft machine gun defence uill be put into force by 7 p.m. to-morrow 20th instant :-(a) Vickers or Lewis Guns in groups of two will be areas under

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GENERAL STAFF MEMORANDUM No.168.

#### " S.O.S. SIGNALS "

- 1. The following S.O.S. Signals will be taken into use on the dates shewn :-
  - (a) Signal calling for a "S.O.S." barrage at night :Taken into use througout the Second Army at midday on
    17th instant.

Rifle Grenade - parachute with three coloured lights - RED over GREEN over YELLOW.

- (b) Signal calling for a "S.O.S." barrage during the hours of daylight:To be taken into use throughout the I ANZAC Corps at daylight on the 20th instant.

  Mortar Signal (RED smoke).
- 2. It should be clearly understood by all ranks that when seen, either the Rifle Grenade signal or the Mortar Signal, denote a call for a "S.O.S." barrage.

Millian tw Lieut-Colonel, General Staff, 5th Australian Division.

19th September, 1917.

Distribution:- copies.

8th Infantry Brigade 7

14th Infantry Brigade 7

15th Infantry Brigade 7

Divisional Engineers 1

Divisional Signal Co. 1

Copies to:

Divisional Artillery

#### 5th AUTTRADIAN DIVISION

CHERAL STIF MIMORANDUM No.169.

#### "S.O.S."

- 1. S.O.S. Signals are becoming too froquent, and it is evident that they are being made on slight foundation. In consequence there is not only a great waste of ammunition, but the task of the gunners, already heavy, is being made almost unbearable.
- 2. Remedy is essential. 5.0.8. must only be sent up on the definite authority of some officer who must report the circumstances.
- the idea is prevalent that the signal must be taken up and repeated all along the line. No such need exists, and Commanding Officers will please take steps to stop this practice.

William or Lieut-Colonel, General Staff, 5th Australian Division.

2.rd September, 1917.

Distribution: -

8th Infantry Brigade 7
14th Infantry Brigade 7
15th Infantry Brigade 7

Copies to:
1st Divisional Artillery 1
5th Divisional Artillery 1

233

5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

GENERAL STAFF MEMORANDUM No. 170.

#### "NARRACIVE OF OPERACIONS."

- 1. Captain F.W.ROBINSON has been detailed to interview G.O's.C. Brigades and C.O's Battalions and other units with a view to socuring material from which to write a connected narrative of the operations during the recent offensive.
- 2. The object of the narrative is two-fold, viz:
  (a) To furnish an accurate record of the operations from which
  - the history of the war can subsequently be prepared.

    (b) To collect information for future reference with a view
  - (b) To collect information for future reference with a view to effecting improvements in the:-
    - (i) Organization,
    - (ii) Education,
    - (iii) Training,
    - (iv) Equipmont, and
    - (v) Administration
    - of the unit for war.
- 3. In so far as they apply to the case, the points enumerated in F.S.R. Part II, section 140, section 55, should be recorded when preparing the narrative.
- 4. O's.C. units will please state when it would be convenient for them to give the desired information.

General Staff,
5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

29th September 1917.

	Copie
8th Infantry Brigade	7
14th Infantry Brigade	7
15th Infantry Brigade	7
5th Pioneer Battalion	1
Divisional Artillary	1
Divisional Engineers	4
Divisional M.G. Officer	1
A.D.M.S.	1
Copy to:	
"A"	1
11 C 11	1.

33

5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

TRAINING MEMORANDUM No. 133.

#### LECTURE

- 1. A lecture on the latest developments in anti-gas measures will be given by the Chemical Adviser, Second Army, at 5.30 p.m. on WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 5th.
- 2. The lecture will be given in the Schoolhouse, BLARINGHEM.
- 3. The Divisional Commander wishes all Field Officers, who can be spared to attend this lecture. Accommodation in the schoolroom will be arranged by the Divisional Gas Officer and is allotted as follows:-

45 Cfficers. 8th Infantry Brigade 45 Officers. 14th Infantry Brigade 45 efficers. 15th Infantry Brigade 8 Officers. 5th Pioneor Battalion 8 Officers. Divisional Engineers 2 Officers. Divisional Signal Co. 2 Officers. Divisional Train 12 Officers. A.A.M.C.

4. Transport will be arranged by "C" Branch of the Division.
Details as to time, place and numbers will be wired to "C"
Branch not later than 10 a.m. MONDAY SEPTEMBER 3rd.

Lieut-Colonel, General Staff,

omber 2nd 1917. 5th Australian Division.

Soptomber 2nd 1917.

Distribution:-	Copies
8th Infantry Brigade	7
14th Infantry Brigade	7
15th Infantry Brigade	7
5th Pioneer Battalion	1
Divisional Engineers	4
Divisional Signal Co.	1
Divisional Train	1 5
A.D M.S.	5
D.A.D.V.S.	1 1
D. A. D. Q. S.	1
A.P.M.	
Camp Commandant	1 1
Divisional Gas Officer	+
Divisional Machine Gun Ullion	i
Divisional Musketry Officer	=
Divisional Bomb Officer	-
Copies to:-	
Chomical Advisor, Second Army	
Chemical Adviser, I ANZAU Corr	10

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

TRAINING MIMORANDUM No. 134.

#### I ANZAC Corps School.

1. With reference to Training Memorandum No. 129 dated 16th August 1917, the following technical courses at the I ANZAC Corps School will terminate on the 8th instant, on which date the students march out to rejoin their units :
Stokes Mortar.

Stokes Mortar, Bombing, Lewis Gun, Intelligence.

2. The next courses assemble at the School on the 12th instant. Vacancies are allotted as follows:-

STOKES MORTAR.	Officers	0.R.
8th Infantry Brigade 14th Infantry Brigade	i	-
Instructors.  8th Infantry Brigade 14th Infantry Brigade 15th Infantry Brigade Reinforcements.  8th Infantry Brigade		1 2 5
BOMBING.  Each Infantry Brigade  Pioneer Battalion	1	4
8th Infantry Brigade 14th Infantry Brigade 15th Infantry Brigade Pioneer Battalion	1	4 4 1
INTELLIGENCE.  8th Infantry Brigade 14th Infantry Brigade 15th Infantry Brigade	1 1	2 1

- 3. Particular attention will be paid by 0'S.C. to see that candidates are correctly and cleanly clothed. Al ranks will take full marching order including steel helmets and box respirators; colour patches must be worn.
- 4. Nominal rolls should be forwarded so as to reach this office not later than noon 5th instant.
- 5. Particulars regarding transport arrangements and train timings will be issued later.

2nd September 1917.

W Lieut-Colonel, General Staff, 5th Australian Division.

P.T.O.

233

5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

TRAINING MEMORANDUM No. 135.

#### LECTURE - BOMBING

- 1. A lecture on the employment of bombers in attacking the new German Defensive system will be given by Captain A.D. ELLIS, Divisional Bomb Officer at 3 p.m. on SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 8th in the Schoolhouse BLAKINGHE.
- 2. Accommodation in the Schoolhouse is allotted as follows:8th Infantry Brigad: 60 Officers
  14th Infantry Brigade 60 Officers
  15th Infantry Brigade 60 Officers

As many subaltern Officers as possible should attend this lecture.

3. Transport will be arranged by """ Branch. Details as to time, place and numbers will be wired to Divisional Head-quarters not later than 10 a.m. on FRIDAY 7th SEPTIMETER.

General Staff, 5th Australian Division.

4th September, 1917.

Distribution :-

8th Infantry Brigade	copies
14th Infantry Brigade	7
15th Infantry Brigade	7
Divisional Bomb Officer	1
Divisional M.G. Officer	1
Div. Rusketry Officer	1

Copy to:-

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TRAINING MEMORANDUM No. 136.

#### LECTURES.

1. The following further lectures for Officers have been arranged :-

3.0 p.m. FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 7th.

"The system of supply from BASE to railhead" by Captain G.T.K.Clarke A.S.C., R.S.O. EBBLINGHEM.

3.0 p.m. MONDAY SEPTEMBER loth.

"Forward traffic communications during Offensive Operations" by Lieut-Colonel A.B. Carey C.M.G. D.S.O., C.R.E.
5th Australian Division.

- 2. These lectures will be given in the Schoolhouse BLARINGHEM and all Officers are invited to attend. The numbers attending from Infantry Brigades will be limited to 50 per Brigade, and Pioneer Battalion 8.
- 3. Transport will be arranged by "Q" Branch and details as to time, place and numbers will be wired to Divisional Headquarters at least 24 hours beforehand.
- 4. The Camp Commandant Divisional Headquarters will please arrange the Schoolroom for both lectures.

September 5th 1917.

Mig Majw W Lieut-Colonel, General Staff, 5th Australian Division.

Distribution :copies 8th Infantry Brigade 14th Infantry Brigade 15th Infantry Brigade 5th Picneer Battalion Divisional Engineers Divisional Signal Co. Divisional Train A.D.M.S. -D.A.D.V.S. Divisional M.G. Officer Divisional Bomb Officer Divisional Gas Officer Divisional Musketry Officer 1 Camp Commandant Copies to:-

Lieut-Col. A.B. Carey C.M.G. D.S.O. J. Captain G.T.K. Clarke A.S.C.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

TRAINING HEMORANDUM No. 137.

#### LECTURE.

- 1. A lecture to N.V.O's. on the latest developments in anti-gas measures will be given by Major L.J. Barley D.S.O. Chemical Adviser Second ARMY, at 5.30 p.m. on WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 12th.
- 2. The lecture will be given in the Schoolhouse BLARINGHEM.
- 3. The following will attend: -

Divisional Headquarters	2	N.C.0's
8th Infantry Brigade	50	11
14th Infantry Brigade	50	B *
15th Infantry Brigade	50	0
5th Pioneer Battalion	10	11
Divisional Engineers	10	11
Divisional Signal Co.	5	11
Divisional Train	5	11
A.A.M.C.	10	H
Mobile Vet. Section	1	18
Divisional Salvage Co.	1	H
Anzac Provost Corps	1	u

2. Transport will be arranged by "Q" Branch of the Division.

Details as to time, place, and numbers will be wired to

"Q" Branch not later than 10 a.m. on TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 11th.

5. The Divisional Gas Officer will please arrange the Schoolroom

for the lecture.

Lieut-Colonel, General Staff, 5th Australian Division.

6th September, 1917.	
Distribution:-	copie
8th Infantry Brigade	7
14th Infantry Brigade	7
15th Infantry Brigade	7
5th Pioneer Battalion	1
Divisional Engineers	4
Divisional Signal Co.	1
Divisional Train	5
A.D.M.S.	5
I.A.D.V.S.	1
Div. Salvage Co.	1
A.P.M.	1
Camp Commandant	1
Div. Gas Officer	1
Copies to:-	
Chemical Adviser II ARMY	1
"Q"	1.

138 TRAINING MEMORANDUM No.

#### LECTURE.

- 1. A lecture on "Artillery" will be given by Brigadier General R.P.BENSON C.B., C.M.G., Headquarters V Corps, at 5.0 p.m. on FRIDAY 14th instant, in the Schoolroom BLARINGHEM.
- 2. The following will attend: -8th Infantry Brigade 14th Infantry Brigade 15th Infantry Brigade Divisional Artillery Divisional Engineers Divisional Signal Co.

60 officers 60 officers 60 officers (as many as possible) 4 officers

1 officer.

- 3. Transport will be arranged by "C" Branch. Details as to time and place will be wired to Divisional Headquarters not later than 10 a.m. on Thursday 13th instant.
- 4. The Camp Commandant will please arrange the Schoolroom for the lecture, and detail the necessary horseholders.

M. King Major for Lieut-Colonel.
General Staff.

5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

12th September 1917.

Copies Distribution: 8th Infantry Brigade 14th Infantry Brigade 15th Infantry Brigade Divisional Artillery Divisional Engineers Divisional Signal Co. Camp Commandant

Copy to: Brigadier General R.P. BENSON C. B., C.M.G. R.A. Headquarters, V Corps.

R.A. Headquarters V Corps. "Q".

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5th AUSTRELIAN DIVISION.

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TRAINING MEMORINDUM No. 139.

## FIRST ANZAG CORPS SCHOOL

1. The next infantry and technical courses at the above School assemble on October 6th, and vecancies are allotted as follows:-

INFANTRY		
Each Infantry Brigade	Officers Other ranks	
Pioneer Battalion	6 75	
Divinio 1 Date Call on	6	
Divisional Train	ebs Int victorial data 3	
Medical Services	litte lereny or geometric	
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STOKES MORTAR	nior Isrolatvin	
8th Infantry Brigado	1	
	Control to:-	
Instructors	DASHA Jenly . Jushnesing	
8th Infantry Brigade		
14th inientry Ericade		
10th Infantry Brigado	- 2	
neinforcements	1	
14th Infantry Brigade		
	- 5	
BOMBING		
Each Infantry Brigade		
Fioneer Battalion	1 4	
	• 1	
LEWIS GUN		
8th Infantry Brigade		
TE VII THE ENTRY MATERIA	1 4	
15th Infantry Brigade	- 4	
Pioneer Battalion	- 4	
The social toll	1 7	
INTELLIGENCE		
8th Infantry Brigade		
14th Infantry Brigade		
15th Infantry Brigade	2	
Total Titteller A BLICade		

2. The following officer and N.C.O's. will be detailed by the O.C. Divisional Train and A.D.M.S. respectively to fill the vicancias allotted to the Divisional Train and Medical Services for the

> Lieut. G.M. Gibson Divisional Train 6852 A/Sgt.H.S. Cleary 15th Field Ambulance 4849 Pte. C.H. Griese 15th Field Ambulance

> 6759 " S.F. Wright 8th Field Ambulance

3. Particular attention will be paid by C's.C. to see that candidates are correctly and cleanly clothed. Full marching order, including steel helmots and box respirators, must be taken and colour patches worn, by all ranks.

4. Nominal rolls will be forwarded to this office not later than 1st October.

5. Transport arrangements will be notified later.

Major Hage Hager Lieut-Colonel, General Staff, . September 23rd 1917. 5th Australian Division.

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Distribution: -8th Infantry Brigade 14th Infantry Brigade 15th Infantry Brigade 5th Pioneer Battalion Divisional Train A.D.M.S.

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