

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

Infantry

**Item number:** 23/25/1

**Title:** 8th Infantry Battalion

August - October 1914



AWM4-23/25/1

# War Diary Lieut. Col. W.K. Bolton 8<sup>th</sup> BN AIF

Date.

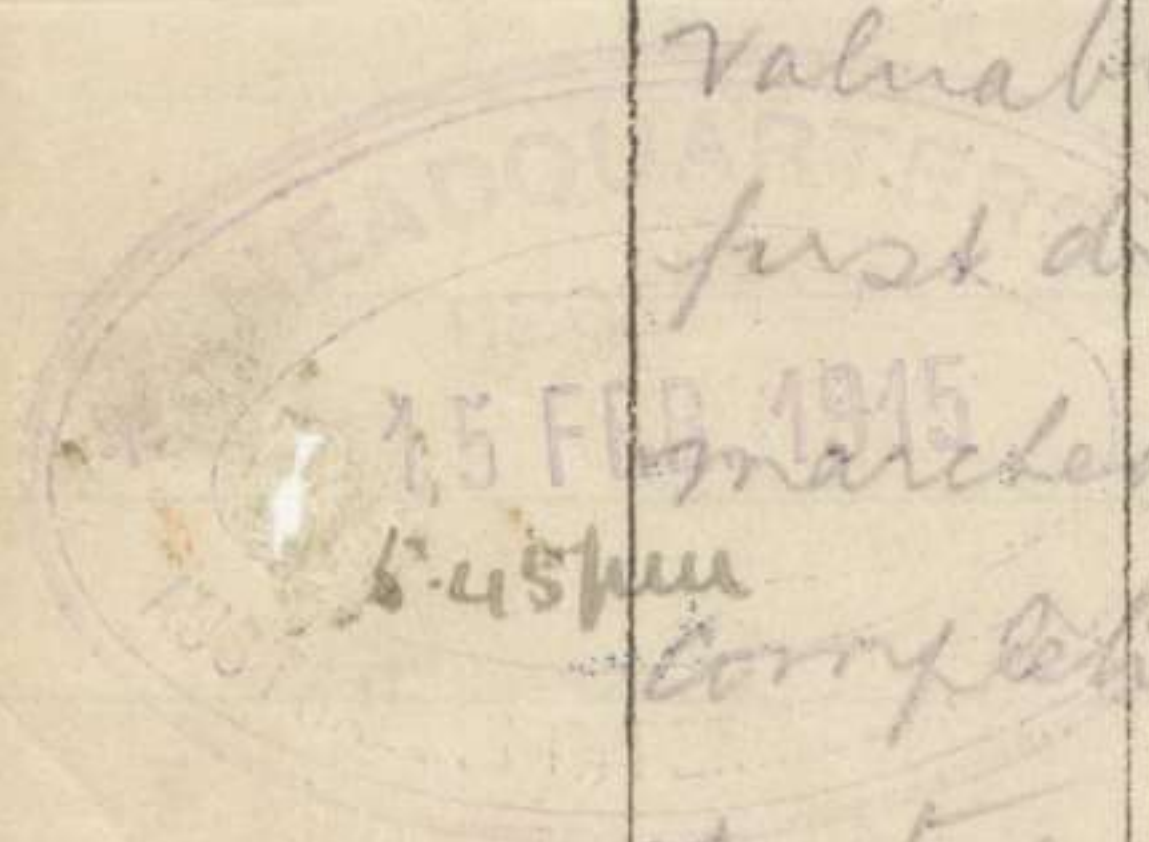
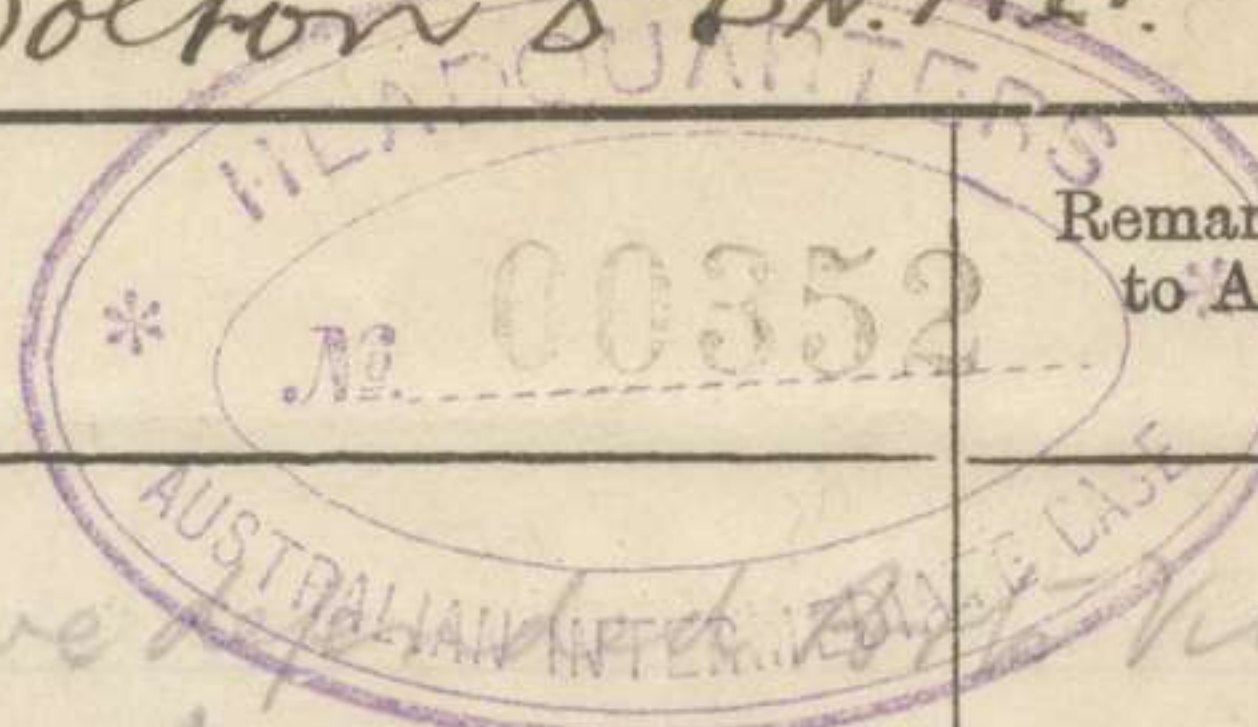
Place and Time.

Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.

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5-8-14

Being mobilised, on duty as O.C. Reserve Military Dist. Australia, from 5<sup>th</sup> Aug. 1914, I received instructions to report at D.H.Q. for duty with A.I.F. on 14<sup>th</sup> Aug 1914, on which date, I reported to Col. McCay Brigadier, 2<sup>nd</sup> Inf. Bde A.I.F., & by his directions, I proceeded with recruiting the 8<sup>th</sup> Batta, having recruiting depots at Drill Hall, Surrey Hills, H.Q. Reserve defended ports Victoria, Drill Halls Geelong Ararat & Ballarat, with sub depots at all Area Officers, in the 48<sup>th</sup>, 69<sup>th</sup>, 70<sup>th</sup>, 71<sup>st</sup>, 72<sup>nd</sup>, & 73<sup>rd</sup> Batta Areas, and at various police stns in Batta Areas, the police rendering valuable assistance in scattered country areas. On 19<sup>th</sup> Aug, the first draft of the Batta, 600 odd, assembled at Victoria Barracks, & marched to Concentration Camp Broadmeadows, from thence to completion of Establishment, recruiting was carried on at various centres as above, drafts being forwarded - - - - -



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	<p>at frequent intervals to Bathurst H.Q. The method of perinting left much to be desired, the dual control + responsibility of D.H.Q. + A.I.F. staff being unsatisfactory. It would have been better that D.H.Q. should have full responsibility of furnishing drafts as required to Bathurst H.Q. The very small percentage of existing Citizen Forces volunteering for service was disappointing.</p> <p><u>Camp Site.</u> In my opinion the Camp Site was totally unsuitable for a standing military camp. The most important &amp; necessary features having apparently been sacrificed in facilitating communication with D.H.Q. and the port of embarkation. Fortunately the abnormally fine weather conditions rendered occupation of the site possible.</p>	

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	<p><u>Supplies</u> On arrival at Camp it was found that great difficulty existed in obtaining necessary Camp + Field equipment for the Unit. due largely to the fact that the 8<sup>th</sup> Battrn. was the last Battrn. of the Bde. in numerical order and Ordnance stores being located East of the site instead of in a more Central position for distribution.</p> <p>Generally the food supplies were good; water supply intermittent + inadequate in hot weather.</p> <p><u>Organisation</u> Organisation was necessarily hurried, not sufficient time to form a correct estimate of capacity and qualification of candidates for N.C.O. rank. Appointments consequently all provisional until arrival in England.</p> <p>Officers appointed largely on personal knowledge of their qualifications extending over a considerable period</p>	

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		<p>Companies were formed on a Territorial basis from the areas mentioned</p> <p><u>Training</u> Training was also necessarily hurried rank &amp; file displayed remarkable aptitude, not sufficient time devoted to elementary training each Company should have had at least one permanent instructional staff Sgt Major attached for instructional purposes up to date of Embarkation. Musketry practice inadequate.</p> <p><u>Discipline</u> On the whole very good. Location of Camp near State Capital, facilities of communication with same, command of money in all ranks, induced overstay of leave &amp; breaking Camp. These were practically the only crimes in the Unit.</p>	

Date.	Place and Time.	Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
19-10-14	<p>Battalion left Concentration Camp by train at 9 am + 9.30 am est Broad meadows for embarkation. 32 Officers 978 O.R. + 10 horses embarked on A24 "Benalla". 11 men + 49 horses being on the "Karoo" of the two men thus under strength one had embarked but was removed to Fairfield hospital as he had developed measles and orders were received by wire for the discharge of the other men.</p> <p>The embarkation Staff expressed satisfaction at the manner in which embarkation was carried out.</p> <p>Embarkation was completed by the transport sailed at 2.27 P.M.</p> <p>During the voyage to Albany routine work as per syllabus was carried out. Boat stations was practised Washing + bathing parades carried out by Companies.</p> <p>Vaccination was commenced on 21<sup>st</sup> Oct + completed on 27<sup>th</sup> Oct.</p>	