

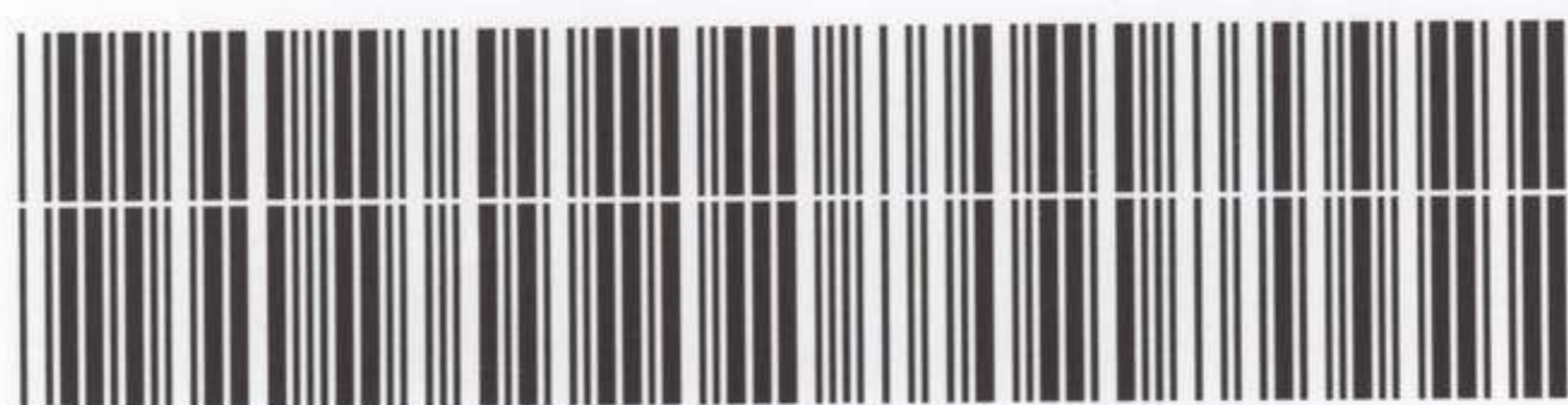
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Infantry

Item number: 23/25/17

Title: 8th Infantry Battalion

May 1916



AWM4-23/25/17

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118.

564

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.

8th Bn AIF

Vol 3

| Hour, Date, Place. | Summary of Events and Information. | Remarks and references to Appendices. |
|----------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1: 5:1916 FLEUR BAIX | C Coy in support to 6 th Bn. and holding 4 posts. A Coy billeted at ELBOW FARM and SMITH FARM as reserve to 6 th Bn. D Coy at LIMIT FARM, remainder of Bn in FLEUR BAIX. Bn Hd. Qrs. shelled at 0830. Ten H.E shells in vicinity. No casualties. | |
| 2: 5:1916 Do. | General Sir W. Birdwood called at 1300 on his way from trenches to tell C.O. how pleased he was to learn from the Commander-in-Chief (General Sir Douglas Haig) that the 8 th Bn had acquitted itself very creditably at the inspection on 27/4/1916. Sir Douglas had told him that the Bn. was one of the best he had seen. Enemy shelled vicinity of Coy billets, no casualties. Enemy after heavy battery near by. Our Div. Artillery engaged enemy. | |
| 3: 5:1916 Do | Between 0900 and 1015 enemy shelled FLEUR BAIX. Many shells landing near D Coy billets in LIMIT FARM. All ranks left billets and took cover in trench close by. Majority of satchmatory shells. 2/6 Blackman bowled over but uninjured. About 200 men of Bn engaged on works in communication trenches at night. | |
| 4: 5:1916 Do | Enemy again shelled FLEUR BAIX, none nearer than 100 yards of Bn. Hd. Qrs. Very hot day. Officers and N.C.O.s of B and D Coy paid visit to trenches in view of relief of 6 th Bn. | |
| 5: 5:1916 Do | Hottest day shelling so far, about 15 sent over between 1130 + 1200. Considering the advisability of shifting Bn. Hd. Qrs. At 1940 6 th Bn. was heavily bombarded. A Coy 8 th Bn. moved up in support. B Coy took A Coy place at ELBOW FARM. Rest of Bn moved up to Reserve fighting position, attack renewed - about 2015. At 2100 attack had subsided and at 2200 Bn ordered back into billets. | |
| 6: 5:1916 Do | Close muggy day. Whole Bn on fatigue assisting 6 th Bn to repair damage from last night's bombardment. Chaplain Capt. Tubman transferred to 2 nd Training Bn at STAPLES. | |
| 7: 5:1916 Do | Dull day. Majority of Bn. on fatigues in communicating trenches and reserve trenches. Very little shelling. | |
| 8: 5:1916 | Another quiet shelling day. Units in reserve ordered to stand to from 1900 to 2000 only, not from 0245 to 0345. | |
| 9: 5:1916 Do | Major Carter, Capt Kirsch, Lt Johnstone, Lt Biggsley + W.O. Taylor rejoined the Bn. from Egypt. Hot day. Lecture on Anti-gas given by Capt E. Hamilton (1 st Div. Gas expert). | |

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| 10: 5: 1916 FLEUR BAIX. | Wet dull day. Officers and N.C.O's visited trenches in anticipation of relieving 6 th Bn. Billeto shelled but no damage done. | |
| 11: 5: 1916 Do | Dull day. No rain. No shelling. | |
| 12: 5: 1916 Do | Majority of Bn. on fatigue in communication trenches etc. | |
| 13: 5: 1916 Do | Same as on 12/5/1916. | |
| 14: 5: 1916 Do. | Paid Capt. Heydon £25 for dental equipment. Relieved 6 th Bn. at 2200. Relief took about 1 hour. Frontage of Bn. 1500 yards. | |
| 15: 5: 1916 TRENCHES. | Net day. all settled down in trenches. Enemy threw 6 trench mortar bombs, killing 3 men and wounding 3 others. | |
| 16: 5: 1916 Do. | Fine day. Good progress made with strengthening parapets and dug-outs. Bomb at midnight killed 2 men and wounded 2. Our parapets traversed by enemy M.G. at "stand to". | |
| 17: 5: 1916 Do | Another fine day. Men hard at work. 50 reinforcements arrived. | |
| 18: 5: 1916 Do | Hot muggy day. Enemy artillery active. Bn. working hard on trenches. At night enemy M.G. active. Gas alarm by Bde. on left. Two men killed. | |
| 19: 5: 1916 Do | General Sir H. Birdwood 1 st Army Corps inspected trenches. Satisfied. | |
| 20: 5: 1916 Do. | Fairly quiet day. At night many bombs sent over by enemy. 1 man killed and 6 wounded. Our wiring party un molested. | |
| 21: 5: 1916 Do | Medium and light trench mortar battery in our sector, under cover of artillery fire, registered on enemy trenches. Successful. The medium 2 nd with 60 lb. bombs very effective. Very little retaliation. JAY Post shelled at 1700, two casualties. | |
| 22: 5: 1916 Do | Close muggy day. Quiet day. P.C. Div. through the lines. Patrol out at night. | |

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| 23:5:1916 TRENCHES. | One man hit in back with bullet. Quiet day. We are gaining the ascendancy in sniping and machine guns especially at night. Patrol out. | |
| 24:5:16 Do | Trench mortar duel to-day. Lt Grant killed. Cpl Elliott wounded. No other casualty. Artillery very active on both sides. Div. and Bde. advise every indication of an attack to-night. 3 rd Brigade heavily shelled during the day. Enemy wire in front of B and C Coy. removed. | |
| 25:5:16 Do. | Quiet day except for shelling of J74 Post, no bombs. 2/Lt H. P. MALLINSON, 2/Lt R. S. NIXES and 2/Lt W. R. DOUGAN with 53 reinforcements arrived and allotted to Coy. | |
| 26:5:16 Do. | Enemy shelling consistently. At 1815 C. Coy's trenches heavily bombarded. 50 shells in all. Our artillery replied against enemy trenches. No casualties and C Coy trenches slightly damaged. | |
| 27:5:16 Do | at 0310 enemy Artillery bombarded C Coy trenches again. Over 70 shells thrown in 15 minutes. Our batteries replied but too slow. Parapets breached. 2 men wounded. All quiet at 0400. During day very quiet except for little sniping 1 man killed and 1 wounded. | |
| 28:5:16. Do. | Fairly quiet day. At midnight, we captured German prisoner, first one caught by A. + N.Z.A. Corps. | |
| 29:5:16 Do | At 0300 we retaliated for hostile Bombing during night 28/29 by our Medium + Light Trench Mortars, under cover of two batteries of Artillery. Enemy shelling our line continually during the day. At 2100 6 th Bn. commenced relieving 8 th Bn. latter all in former billets at FLEUR BAIX by midnight. "D" Coy remaining at HUDSON - BREWERY + JAY POSTS. Enemy quiet during relief, eventually a relief on their side at well. | |

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| <p>May 30th FLEUR BAIX</p> | <p>Battn. thanked by Div. for capturing 1st prisoner. Our casualties during tour in trenches 12 killed 16 wounded. At 2030 enemy shelled 3rd Bde. All units standing to in case required to move up to 1st line. Quiet again at 2200+ ordered to stand down. 1 man "C" Coy wounded.</p> | |
| <p>" 31st " "</p> | <p>Quiet. 24 cases gift goods — rolled oats + milk received from Mr Budden received + distributed.</p> | |

W.B. Lodge Captain & Adjutant for c/o
2nd Battalion A.I.F.