

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

Infantry

**Item number:** 23/25/18

**Title:** 8th Infantry Battalion

June 1916



AWM4-23/25/18

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

582

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or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required).

8th Aust Bn

Hour, Date, Place.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices.
1/6/16 Fleurbac	Both Barner Farm and Gilbow Farm shelled. One casualty. 1 Off, 4 N & O's and 24 men sent to Bombing school. Lt L. Fay to Bayonet Fighting School. Patrols training at night.	Lt Col Best of Highlanders Army spent 24 hours with Batt for instruction.
2/6/16 "	Batteries near Barner Farm (a boy killed) heavily shelled. Over 300 shells put in between 1400-2000, otherwise quiet. 2/Lt Mallinson ordered to return to Base en route for Australia.	
3/6/16 "	A boy transferred from Barner Farm to safer billets in Fleurbac. Heavy shelling over Barner Farm two shells in it. Glad A Coy shifted. Patrol training at night. Batt run well all day.	

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4/6/16 <i>Harbour</i>	Sunday All cloudy day.	
5/6/16	Quiet day. very little shelling at 2300 terrific bombardment on night of 3 <sup>rd</sup> Brigade. Learnt later two British raids on enemy trenches.	
6/6/16	12 boxes of gift goods received and distributed. Received word to take over the command of 6 <sup>th</sup> Inf Bde. temporarily and granted temp Colonel	
7/6/16	Quiet day Col Briand transferred to command 6 <sup>th</sup> Bde. Major. A. Jackson 7 <sup>th</sup> Batt sent to take command during absence of Major Bunter on short leave	
8/6/16	Few enemy shells at Parmer Farm. Batt holding party training under Lt Wallis.	

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9/6/16	Orders re relief of Batt by 4 <sup>th</sup> Bde issued to boys. All arrangements made.	
10/6/16	Batt relieved by 4 <sup>th</sup> Bde and moved to new billets to Sully. Companies reported in billets by 1100 11/6/16.	
11/6/16 Sully	Men all tired after strenuous night. No 2647 PTE NEVILLE. C.G. of 'C' Coy granted D.C.M. and congratulations of Corps Commander conveyed to him. Men all cleaning up.	
12/6/16	Programming of work laid down. Most of the men detailed for working parties.	
13/6/16	'C' Coy to Bathing parade at Div Baths. Batt raiding party formed consisting of hits, Fay, Bulwin and Blackman and 60 men. Company officers	

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12/6/16 Sully	<p>busy reconnoitering routes to posts which would be occupied in case of alarm viz CHARRED, WINDY WINTERS NIGHT JUNCTION and CROIX BLANCHE. 90 men of the Battalion attended memorial service to Earl Kitchener</p>	
14/6/16	<p>Reading party moved to new billets at Div Bomb School ground under Lieut Far.</p>	
15/6/16	<p>Line duty Major Gunter returned to Command to Battalion. In evening the afternoon he proceeded to reconnoiter roads which would be traversed in case of alarm. Battalion training being carried on. About 275 men of fatigue duty.</p>	
16/6/16	<p>Billets inspected by A Brig Lt Col Bennett and C. O. and Col Major. Very fine day. Batt reading party under Lieut Far.</p>	

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16/6/16 Sully	Continuing training on Air Bomb School ground.	
17/6/16	During last night gas attack made on point about 10 miles away. Men all ordered to stand to. No casualties but gas distinctly felt.	
18/6/16	Fine day. Majority of men engaged on working parties. Church parade held at St Cays Piliets at 1130 received orders to hold ourselves in readiness to move at any time after 19/6/16.	
19/6/16	At 1305 the Battalion commenced move to new positions at NEUVE EGLISE complete with transport. Arrived at new position at 1830. Men provided with shelters 22 per bay. The men rather tired <del>with</del> <sup>after the</sup> march but all in good spirits. All settled down in Piliets by 1930.	

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<p>20/6/16 NEUVE EGLISE</p>	<p>Fine day. Busy completing camp, erecting G. M. Shone, Post Office, completing latrines. Battalion canteen opened. The whole of the Battalion detailed as working parties on work burying cable.</p>	
<p>21/6/16</p>	<p>Fine day men resting after work during the night. No training possible except by specialists.</p>	<p>C.O. I.O.B.O. H.G. O visited trenches to be taken over.</p>
<p>22/6/16</p>	<p>Fine summer's day. Coy commanders reconnoitred routes to trenches to be taken. Over from 12th Royal Fusiliers. Preliminary orders issued for move to new trenches. Advance parties sent to trenches, 1 Officer, 4 N.C.O.'s and 4 men per Coy, 2 men per L.M.G. and complete Scout platoon.</p>	

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<p>23/6/16 NEUVE EGLISE</p>	<p>                     Dull day towards evening heavy rain,                      at 2040 B Co commenced to move to new                      position in firing line. At 2100 B Co                      cleared starting point. March to point                      about 4 miles from camp took 1 1/2 hrs. On                      reaching this point Companies were met                      by guides who guided them to their                      destination. D Coy to reserve on hill at                      B Co H. O. C. Coy to support trench                      (Munich's Trench). A Coy to position on                      right of B Co sector their right flank                      resting on Messines. C Coy to road                      and their left a point 70 yards on left                      of La Douve R. B Coy on left of B Co sector                      with left flank connecting up with                      26th B Co A Coy right flank about 70 yds                      from La Douve R. The B Co therefore hold                      hold approximately a front of 600 Yds                      of which about 150 Yards is unoccupied, 10,750                      on either side of La Douve which is                 </p>	

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23/6/16 NEUVE EGLISE	<p>untenable. The gap between these boys is covered by a strong point manned by 6 boys that is the boy holding WINTER TRENCH. All boys had taken up new positions by 0330 on 24<sup>th</sup>. During relief enemy shelled fairly heavily besides using trench mortars. This considerably delayed the operation as communication trenches were blown out in several places. No casualties.</p>	
24/6/16 MESSINES SECTOR	<p>Dull day men fairly tired after night's work. Our artillery opened fire 0800 to 1200 and 1430 to 1700 with the object of cutting enemy's wire. Enemy retaliated with artillery and trench mortars. We had 3 killed and 4 wounded only, seriously. These men were occupying a dug-out and an enemy bomb got a direct hit. Artillery on both sides very active all the day.</p>	

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<p>25/6/16 MESSINES SECTOR</p>	<p>Coy's getting settled in new positions. At 0135 a small patrol of ours encountered large enemy patrol our party and listening posts withdrew and warned sector. The enemy approached and started to cut our wire fire was immediately opened and the enemy retreated but were driven off. We immediately sent out another patrol and discovered 2 enemy dead, one body was brought in. Enemy again returned but were driven back suffering further casualties. Trenches front line were shelled intermittently. Our artillery was very active. Lt Godin returned from school of instruction also Capt James. B.O.C. 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn of Bde and B.O. made inspection of trenches and proposed works with maps of 1<sup>st</sup> Field Bn, a great amount of work to be done and can only be carried on at night as all our line overlooked by messines</p>	

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<p>26/6/16 MESSINES SOUTH</p>	<p>O. B. Queen visited trenches expressed himself pleased with appearance of men and everything he saw. Heavy rain during day. Intense bombardment at midnight a few miles on night.</p>	
<p>27/6/16</p>	<p>At 0300 Enemy artillery opened on sector 135. One man killed, 2 wounded. No rain. Enemy guns still active. Confidential instructions received regarding operations for night of 28th inst.</p>	
<p>28/6/16</p>	<p>O. B. Queen visited trenches preparatory to relieving this Battalion. Enemy guns and mortars very active on our sector 135. At 2301 our artillery commenced a bombardment of enemy trenches. Led by 8th Buffs from 7th Batt sector. Enemy reworked particularly on 135. Casualties 1 killed 3 wounded.</p>	

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<p>29/6/16 Messines Sector</p>	<p>Arrangements for gas ready but wind unfavorable. Our trenches heavily shelled by 5.9 and minnewipers particularly sector 135. Casualties 5 killed 24 wounded</p>	
<p>30/6/16</p>	<p>Enemy quiet during early morning. Our artillery bombarding heavily all day. Enemy shelled vicinity of cellars. No damage. At 1223 enemy rebated heavily with guns, mortars and H.G. fire on our trenches and supports</p> <p style="text-align: right;">       P.P. Wallis        Lt + Capt        for Co Sgt <u>assist</u> </p>	