

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/25/22

Title: 8th Infantry Battalion

October 1916



AWM4-23/25/22

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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.

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

VOLUME VIII

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Scottish Lines	Oct. 1 st		Syllabus proceeded with. Weather showery. Battalion Blankets sent to be disinfected. Capt. Fells attached Bde. Hd. Qrs to be A/Sgt. Effective Strength 36 Off 928 O Ranks.	
"	2 nd		Weather fine during morning but parade ground very muddy. Training carried out as far as weather & ground conditions permitted.	
"	3 rd		New small Box Respirators issued & fitted. Weather & State of ground prevented the carrying out of Syllabus training to some extent. Lectures in huts on French Tactics by Coy. Command.	
"	4 th		All mounted officers paraded Bde. Hd. Qrs. for Equitation class. Lt. Col. 2 nd in Command. Capt. & Q. M. attended Conference at Bde. Hd. Qrs. No. 747 Pte Smith, who died of wounds received in recent Brigade Raid, was accorded a Military Funeral, & buried with full Military Honours.	
"	5 th		Brigade Sports cancelled on account of inclement weather. Training carried out as far as weather & ground conditions permitted. Parade ground very sloppy & wet. Concert & Dinner held in Y.M.C.A. to commemorate success of Battle Raid. A splendid meal was provided for the men under Battle arrangements & a good concert programme submitted.	
"	6 th		Aeroplane Contact Practice for Officers & A.C.O's. was spoilt through inclement weather & is to be carried out again at a later date. Day to Rennie, Lieut. Summary & Goodwin reconnected trenches in Ypres Salient to be taken over by Sn. All mounted officers attended Equitation class at Bde. Hd. Qrs at 1000. Effective Strength 36 Off 955 O Ranks.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices								
Oct. 7th Scottish Lines	Oct. 7th		Boy. commands reconnoitred trenches to be taken over by Bn. during morning. Six Companies sent to Lewis Sun School. Syllabus training proceeded with effective strength 36 off. 954 Companies.									
	" 8th		Ligade Church Parade held on Lathm. Parade ground followed by inspection by G.C. 6. & March Post. Advance Parties sent up to Trenches to take over & become familiar with trenches.									
	" 9th		<p>Bn. relieved the 12th Ln. A. I. F. in the left sub-sector of the left sector of the Divisional Front in the Upper Salient. Bn. entrained at Grandhook & travelled by rail to Upper Asylum. thence by Route March to Trenches. Guides met Bn. at Station & relief was completed without casualty by 2300.</p> <p>Disposition of boys as follows:</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="1348 1133 2446 1391"> <tr> <td>Right Front Bay</td> <td>B. Bay</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Left "</td> <td>"A"</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Close Support "</td> <td>"B" (Larch Wood)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reserve</td> <td>"D" (Battersea Farm)</td> </tr> </table>	Right Front Bay	B. Bay	Left "	"A"	Close Support "	"B" (Larch Wood)	Reserve	"D" (Battersea Farm)	
Right Front Bay	B. Bay											
Left "	"A"											
Close Support "	"B" (Larch Wood)											
Reserve	"D" (Battersea Farm)											
	" 10th		<p>Line was fairly quiet throughout night. Glasgow Post was manned by 5th Lathm. at dark. Lewis Sun were relieved by daylight.</p> <p>Work of Salving & improving trenches proceeded with. Majority of men withdrawn from front line between 0500 & 0700 and 1700 & 1900 on account of anticipated Morning Activity of enemy on information overheard from telephone.</p>									

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Ypres	Oct 10 th		Minesweepers fairly active during day. We retaliated with Stokes & 18 pounder Battery & finally closed the Boche down. Second Australian Division. Reconnoitering Party visited trenches	
"	" 11 th		Minesweepers fairly active during the afternoon. We retaliated as vigorously as possible. All available men engaged in improving trenches & good progress has been made. Three men wounded during day by enemy's Trench Mortars.	
"	" 12 th		Fairly quiet during day. Trenches bombarded at night. evidently in retaliation for operations on our tanks. We retaliated & smart Artillery action ensued.	
"	" 13 th		Reconnoitering Parties from 21 st Battalion A. I. F. visited Lattr. Sector during morning. Enemy's Trench Mortars fairly active during day. Orders received that Battalion will be relieved following night.	
"	" 14 th		Trenches steadily bombarded with T. M's & 75 ^{lb} during afternoon. At 2000 enemy heavily bombarded trenches just prior to relieving Unit arriving. Eleven men were wounded. At 2030 bombardment eased down & relief was proceeded with. An. marched to Ypres Asylum & entrained to Grandloek, marching from there to Scottish Lines where we billeted for night. Relief was complete by 2330 & last party were in billets in Scottish Lines at 0200.	
Scottish Lines	" 15 th		Lattr. moved at 0900 & Route marched to billets at Eperlecque via St Omer area.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	Oct 15 th		Very comfortable billets. All settled by 1630. Good march discipline maintained throughout & men's feet in good condition at conclusion of march.	
Eppesquelques	" 16 th		Parades consisted mostly of Inspections of Arms & Equipment, clothing etc, & a little smartening-up drill. C.O. inspected Bn. by Coy. at Coy. Billets.	
	" 17 th		Weather fair. Short "smartening-up" Parades held under Coy arrangements. Troops enjoying good billets. Lamp concert held in "A" Coy's Billets in evening.	
	" 18 th		Weather showery & ground very muddy. Parades under Coy arrangements, usual hours.	
	" 19 th		Movement Order received from Brigade, re move to ARQUES & entrainment. Parades as usual. Weather still wet.	
	" 20 th		Party of 100 men sent to ARQUES to act as Detaining Party. "B" Coy supplied this detail. Advance Billeting Party under Sgt. A.D. Temple sent forward to new area.	
	" 21 st		Bn. moved by Route March to ARQUES & entrained there for ST. RIQUIER. "A" Coy & Transport left at 0500 & remainder of Bn. at 0600. Route March & entrainment were carried out without hitch. On detraining Bn. marched to YOUCOURT where they were billeted.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Yaucourt	Oct 22 nd		During night a building adjoining one of our billets was destroyed by fire. Members of Battalion turned out & prevented same spreading. Voluntary Church Service held during afternoon. Transport sent forward brigaded to VERDANCOURT.	
	" 23 rd		Battalion moved to rendezvous & embarked on Motor Buses for new Billeting Area. Embarkation was completed on Buses without hitch. On alighting Battalion marched to billets in VERDANCOURT. Effective Strength 40 Off. 918 O.Ranks.	
	" 24 th		Battalion moved to MAMETZ huts by route march arriving there at dusk.	
MAMETZ WOOD	" 25 th		Day spent improving camp. Maj. & Coy. Commander reconnoitred forward area of Divisional Front.	
	" 26 th		Parades by boys. Extra Combs, Sandbags & Ammunition issued to men. Four boys Officers reconnoitred forward area.	
	" 27 th		Officers' reconnoitring Party proceeded to forward area in morning. Following Officers returned from here. Capt. E. J. Kirby. Capt. J. G. Bolton. Lieut. C. L. Fox. Lt. N. A. Dalton. Lieut. D. P. Weeks.	
	" 28 th		Two boys detailed for work on Road. Effective Strength 44 Offs 890 O.Ranks.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MAMETZ WOOD	Oct. 29 th		Instructions to move to POMMIERS CAMP cancelled. Ltn shared MAMETZ CAMP with Scott's Ltn of 29 th Division.	
	" 30 th		Another 29 th Divisional Ltn came into Camp & was accommodated with number of huts. Weather Wet & Cold.	
	" 31 st		Officers (4) reconnected forward area. Movement Order received from Ade to proceed to POMMIERS CAMP on following day. Party of 100 men from Latta on Road Fatigue.	
				<p data-bbox="1958 1169 2719 1431">Jm Durbell Agos A/O.C. of 8th Bn A.I.F.</p>