

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/25/23

Title: 8th Infantry Battalion

November 1916



AWM4-23/25/23

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.

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MARETZ	1/11/16		Left for Pommiers camp at 1200. Remained the night. 2 Boys moved to BERNAFAY Wood.	
Pommiers	2/11/16		Remainder of Battalion joined Boys at BERNAFAY CAMP.	
Bernafay	3/11/16		Parties sent forward to reconnoitre forward positions in Switch Trench. Battalion moved to this position during evening & relieved 6th Battalion in SWITCH TRENCH. - In SWITCH TRENCH. Heavy shelling at frequent intervals. Wet weather.	
SWITCH TRENCH	4/11/16		Remained there all day & night. Intermittent shelling.	
"	5/11/16		Parties sent forward to reconnoitre front line. "B" and "D" Boys relieved 5th BATTN in Liscuit & Grease Trenches respectively. A.M.C. in PIONEERS TRENCH and BULLS RUN. Battalion. Hd. Qs at PILGRIMS WAY	
"	6/11/16		Intermittent shelling over all the area. Casualties A.K. 14. Wd Sick 2 Effective Strength 46 off 870 O Ranks	
"	7/11/16		Wet weather. Men suffering from exposure. Intermittent shelling. Received Orders from Brigade for proposed Attack on HILT and LARD TRENCHES, & SUNKEN ROAD; also to construct Assembly Trenches from Left Point of GREASE TRENCH	

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	7/11/16		to point where WHALE TRENCH joins PETROL LANE. Work carried on by 1 Coy under difficult conditions. Sniping, Machine gun & Artillery fire throughout the night. - Casualties. Nil. Sick 41. Ration Strength 34 Offs 803 O-Ranks.	
	8/11/16		Fine Weather. Heavy shelling at intervals. Trenches very wet & almost impassible. Work on ASSEMBLY TRENCH pushed forward under previous difficulties. Casualties 2k. 5 Wd. Sick Nil. Effective Strength 44 Offs 845 O-Ranks Ration Strength 33 Offs 785 O-Ranks.	
	9/11/16		Fine Day - Sunshine - Shelling less. Considerable Aerial Activity, number of Machines brought down. Owing to increased Activity of Enemy, work on Assembly Trench not continued with.	
	10/11/16		Received Orders not to continue with proposed attack. Relieved by 6 th Batta & moved to BERNAFAY CAMP Men very much exhausted.	
BERNAFAY	11/11/16		Moved to POMMIERS CAMP. Remained there the night.	
POMMIERS	12/11/16		Moved to FRICOURT Boys moving independently. Batta comfortably installed in Huts	
FRICOURT	13/11/16		Batta moved to RIBEMONT. Installed in Huts	
RIBEMONT	14/11/16		Batta resting. Day spent overhauling Clothing, Equipment, Etc.	
"	16/11/16		Batta resting. Duty Battalion. Commenced Lathing Parades. Independent short Coy Route marches.	

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RIBEMONT	17/11/16		Lt. Colonel G. Boulter proceeded to LONDON on leave. Major Mitchell took over command. Lt. W. T. Yates promoted Captain to date from 25/10/1916. Transport moved during morning.	
"	18/11/16		Very heavy snow fell during the early morning. Batta. moved in Motor Buses to "A" Training Area viz ST VAST. Arrived late owing to hitch in Transport arrangements. Ration Strength 33. Off 7/6 O'Ranks.	
ST VAST	19/11/16		Church Parade. Batta resting.	
"	20/11/16		Day spent in Training & re-organizing Batta. specialists. Canteen opened.	
"	21/11/16		Training continued as per approved Syllabus. Conference of P.O's. Leave granted to AMIENS (10%)	
"	22/11/16		Training continued	
"	23/11/16		Usual Batta Parade. Adjut. proceeded on leave to England. Lt. H. R. Weeks took over Adjutants duties.	
"	24/11/16		Parades as per Syllabus. Lecture to all officers by Lieut. J. C. Barrie - Subject "Lewis Gun in cooperation with Infantry. Lecture & Smartening Up Drill for all N.C.O's. by Adjutants. 13 Bags Mail received.	
"	25/11/16		Parades as per Syllabus. Lecture to all officers: - "Discipline as Defined by the Manual of Military Law & King's Regs." by Asst. Adjut.	

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ST. VAST	25/11/16		Quantity of Bomforts received from A.C.F. & distributed to Boys. — " Sags of Mail received.	
"	26/11/16		R. B. Parade held at ST VAST Church, other Church Parades cancelled owing to rain. Battn. visited by Rev. Comdr. Major-General Walker. 10 of 5 M.C.O's instructed in Physical Training & Bayonet Fighting by an Instructor P.T. I. Staff. A quantity of Bomforts received from A.E.F. & distributed to Boys. 3 Sags mail recd.	
"	27/11/16		Parades as per Syllabus. Lecture to all Officers by M.O. (a) How to use the first field dressing (b) Water & how to clear it. Smartening Up & Instructional Parade. Lecture on "Hoard & How to do it" by Asst. Asst. All recruits & L.M.G. Men who had not previously fired exercised in Musketry & L.M.G. Course respectively.	
"	28/11/16		Battn Sports. Battn. visited by Asst. — Lt-Col. G.H. Jess.	
"	29/11/16		Parades as per Syllabus. L.M.G. Officer & 1 Officer per Coy attended a demonstration in M.G. Fire at Sde. Hd. Qs. Lecture to Officers of 7th & 8th Battns on "Liquid Fire" by an Officer of the R.E. Transport moved at 0945 en route to Reserve Area.	
"	30/11/16	1100	Battn entrained at VIGNACCOOR Ten Route to Reserve Area. Arrived BUIRE 1500, visited by Asst. Lt-Col G.H. Jess at 1630. R.C.M. assembled for trial of CPL. DERMODY. 8 Sags Mail received.	

C. W. [Signature]
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