

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/25/24

Title: 8th Infantry Battalion

December 1916



AWM4-23/25/24

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Luire	1/12/16	1330	Route Marches under Coy arrangements. D' Coy. bathing parade at HEILLY. 19 Bags Mail received.	
--	2/12/16	1115	Route Marches + Bathing under Coy arrangements Ln. visited by a/Brig - Lt-Colonel Jess.	
--	3/12/16	1000	Church Parade + Short Route March. Presentation of Sports Prizes.	
--	4/12/16	0920	Ln. moved to FRICOORT. Conference of C. O's at B. H. Q.	
Fricourt	5/12/16		Ln employed in cleaning up camp. Lieut. Col. Coulter returned from leave & resumed command.	
--	6/12/16	1200	Ln moved to BERNAFAY.	
Bernafay	7/12/16	1000	Check Roll Ball	
--	8/12/16	1000	All Coy. Commanders to reconnoitre Ln position in front line.	
--	9/12/16		Capt Fay resumed duty from seconded list 12/11/16, vide A.I.F. List. 2/Lt D.R. WEEKS restored to the Establishment from Super/dest. 25/11/16. 2/Lt F. D'Arcy Power taken on strength from reinforcements 13/11/1916. Ln. on fatigue at various points. Raining & Camp in a muddy condition.	
--	10/12/16		Capt J.C. A. Traill, restored to establishment from Super/dest VIDE A.I.F. List 119. Dated 29/9/16 2/Lt. R. B. Dabb reported died of wounds while prisoner of war struck off strength vide A.I.F. List 119. Dated 26/9/16	

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Lernafay "B" Camp	10/12/16		Lieut. A. G. Campbell is appointed Sn. Bombing Officer vice Lt. Lovett transferred to "D" Coy. All available men on carrying & digging parties.	
"	11/12/16		All Sn. on fatigue. Conditions wet & muddy. Coy. wiring parties training under Capt Traill. Major Mitchell, Capt Wallis & Lieut. Davidson reconnoitre trenches.	
"	12/12/16		Wiring Parties carried out training under Capt. Traill. All other available men on Working Parties. Dying Shed fitted up for use of Battr. Coy's Officers reconnoitre forward area & front trenches.	
"	13/12/16		Lt. G. T. Mummery having returned from short leave resumed duty as Sn. Intell. Officer vice Lt. J. R. Davidson who resumes duty with "A" Coy. Wiring Parties carried out training. Conference of Officers held in morning re taking over of trenches.	
"	14/12/16		Sn. moved forward & took over trenches from 6 th Battr. Coy's moved up under cover of darkness & relief was carried out without any hitch & without casualties, same being complete at 2100. Dispositions were as follow:—	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p><u>"A" Coy.</u> 2 Platoons Frosty Trench - 2 Platoons & Coy. Hd. Qs. Cheese Rd.</p> <p><u>"B" Coy.</u> Coy. Hd. Qs. at Sun Pits. Posts in Sunken Road, Petrol Lane & vicinity of Pits.</p> <p><u>"C" Coy.</u> In support in Bulls Run Tunnell</p> <p><u>"D" Coy.</u> " " " Smoke Trench</p>	
Front Line	14/12/16		<p>Ln. Hd. Qs. Bulls Run. Sun Pits were shelled fairly heavily during night.</p>	
	15/12/16		<p>Brigadier & Col. Williams of Army Corps, accompanied by Major Mitchell & Adjutant, inspected whole system of Trenches. Frosty Trench & Petrol Lane in very bad condition. Working Parties on Frosty Trench, Fatigue Alley & Flinders Support engaged all night, & parties worked on Salvage while light was good.</p>	

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570

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Front Line	16/12/16		<p>Redistributions of posts made at Fritz's Folly & work commenced on connecting up German dugouts underground. Fatigue Alley & Frosty Trench considerably improved & a new trench parallel to the old comm. trench is being dug through along Fatigue Alley. When completed this will make communication possible through trench from Cheese Road to Frosty Trench, which at present is done to a great extent over the tops. Gun Pits & Sunken Road heavily shelled during night. Party of Germans approached Advance Post at Fritz's Folly & were fired on but got away during night.</p>	
"	17/12/16		<p>Work proceeding satisfactorily & good progress being made in improvement of trenches. Artillery fairly active during day. Men in front line in good spirits & being well rationed. Two hot meals sent up from rear to front line now per day, & hot Cocoa & Milk was supplied from R.A.P. to all men in front line every night.</p>	
"	18/12/16		<p>Situation normal during day. Two front line boys relieved by two Support boys. Relief was completed successfully by 2000. Gun Pits & Sunken Road Tramway shelled during night.</p>	

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Front line	17/12/16		Heavy posts & ground hard making movement much easier. Our Patrols active every night & communication maintained with Units on both flanks. - Gap between 3 rd Bde & our left flank now up by our left Coy. (About 250 yards)	
"	20/12/16		Artillery fire normal & men in good spirits. M.O. & Staff continue to do splendid work in supplying front line with hot cocoa & Milk at midnight. Sattu. Burying Shed constructed by us doing good work (in Bull's Run). Large quantities of salvage being collected daily & sent to Bde. Hd. Qs.	
"	21/12/16		Enemy Artillery Active during afternoon. Bugader, accompanied by Major Mitchell, Capt. Wallis & Lt. Mummery reconnoitred across No Man's Land from Frosty Trench to Sunken Road at Fritz's Folly, & examined Posts, Dugouts, etc. The two Mines discovered in dugouts in Fritz's Folly were dismantled & dumped. Patrol returned across No Man's Land to Frosty Trench before daylight. Gun Pits heavily shelled just before daylight	
"	22/12/16		Advance Parties from 3 rd Bn. (relieving Unit) arrived in morning & proceeded to take over. Situation normal all day & relieving boys of 3 rd Sattu arrived at dusk. Relief was proceeded with & was completed by 2100 without trouble. Bn. proceeded to Camp at Sagentin (C). All boys were complete by 2330.	

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Lagertun (C)	23/12/16		Weather wet & cold. Mining Platoon reported for duty at Lagertun House at noon. "D" Coy moved to Adelaide Camp & remainder of Bn. proceeded to Melbourne Camp. All reported O.K. at 1530.	
Melbourne Camps.	24/12/16		Day spent in cleaning up camp, clothing, etc. Washing & Mending Parade.	
"	25/12/16		Christmas Day. P. C. Church Parade at 0930. A good dinner was provided for the Bn. Puddings etc had been purchased out of Reg. Funds & also considerable extras received from Comforts Fund. Men in good spirits & comfortable.	
"	26/12/16		Several Working Parties supplied. Specialists commenced training.	
"	27/12/16		All available men on fatigue work of training, partially trained reinforcements proceeding satisfactorily.	
"	28/12/16		All available men on fatigue. Weather Fair.	

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Melbourne	29/12/16		Drying shed arranged for. Working parties out as usual. Officers rejoined from Divisional School.	
"	30/12/16		All available men on fatigue. "C" Coy proceeded on detachment to Sydney Camp to carry on engineering work. Lieut. Fox, s/pts. Waters & Maguire left for Div. School.	
"	31/12/16		R. C. Church service at 0930. Working Parties out as usual. Capt. Fay left as Instructor at Divisional School.	

W. Mitchell Major for Lt Col
C.O. 8th Bn A.I.F.