

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/25/31

Title: 8th Infantry Battalion

July 1917



AWM4-23/25/31

WAR DIARY

Confidential - Original

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.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

VOLUME 17

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BRESLE	1/7/17		Sunday - Church Parades held in morning. 6 Instructors & 28 Students left for Brigade Infantry School at HENENCOURT.	
	2/7/17		Weather fine. Blankets of troops treated in "Foden" disinfecter. Special Gas Demonstration at RIBEMONT during morning when troops were subjected to Gas & Smoke. Afternoon devoted to bathing in AVCRE near MERICOURT. 4 Other Banks sent to Pigeon course at LAVIEVILLE	
	3/7/17		Seven Mile Route March in morning. Afternoon full marching order parade & Kit Inspection. Major T. F. Ulrich, D.S.O. of 2 nd Inf. Brigade attached for duty as 2 nd in Command. 2 nd Lt. AR Fulton marched in from Cadet Lattr.	
	4/7/17		Weather dull & foggy. Route March in morning. Afternoon recreational training. 4 N.B.O.s. left to attend corps school. 102 tins Cocoa & Milk received from 2 nd Brigade Depot Aust. Comforts Fund.	
	5/7/17		Weather dull. Route March cancelled & Lattr. drill substituted 1430 to 1630. Sn. marched to Sw. Gas Ground RIBEMONT to see FLAMMENWERFER demonstration. Capt J. C. M. Traill, M.C. returned from Senior Officers' School, London.	

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BRESLE	6/7/17		Battalion took part in Brigade Parade in HEVENCOURT WOOD Training Ground. Captain J. M. Trull, M.C. posted to B Coy & Command. Lieut O Scott to D as 2 nd in Command.	
	7/7/17		Parades as per Syllabus. 2 nd in Command, Adjutant & 2 Officers per Coy attended demonstration of Model School Platoon at 1 st Angac Corps School. 20 Reinforcements marched in during afternoon. E.S. 47-1207 R.S. 35-1016.	
	8/7/17		Weather Wet. A party of 60 selected men in charge of Lieut G. T. Mummery, M.C. attended unveiling ceremony of POZIERES Memorial. Church Parades cancelled on account of bad weather.	
	9/7/17		Weather fine. Training as per Syllabus. 89 pairs of socks received from Ladies of South Australia through Mrs Harr. Smith & same distributed among members of Battalion E.S. 47-1217 R.S. 34-1134	
	10/7/17		Weather dull. Training continued as per Syllabus.	
	11/7/17		Weather fine. Training as per Syllabus.	

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BRESLE	12/7/17		Weather fine. Battalion as part of Brigade assembled on Main AMIENS-ALBERT ROAD to be inspected by His Majesty The King as he passed through. Afternoon Dashing parade.	
	13/7/17		Weather fine. Training as per Syllabus. E.S. 46-1224 R.S. 32-1031.	
	14/7/17		Weather dull. Training carried on as per Syllabus. Collecting Party sent forward to BRAY sur SOMME. Head of column passing starting Point at 0630 to prepare for arrival of Battalion.	
BRESLE+	15/7/17		Weather showery. Battalion moved as part of Brigade Group to Training Area near BRAY sur SOMME (L. 2. b.) ALBERT Comb. Spect 40,000.	
BRAY sur SOMME	16/7/17		Training as per Syllabus. E.S. 46-1219 R.S. 34-1060.	
BRAY	17/7/17		Weather dull. Training as per Syllabus.	
	18/7/17		Weather dull. Route March followed by Syllabus Work.	

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BRAY	19/7/17		Route March in morning. Afternoon swimming parade. E. S. 45-1209 R. S. 33-1068.	
	20/7/17		Weather fine. Advanced Guard Scheme carried out during morning. Lieut JB Nair appointed to command Battalion Mining Platoon. 2/Lieut. Wicks, J.H. " Perkin, P.C. " Young, S. " Glanville, R. reported for duty.	
	21/7/17		Route March during morning. Blankets & Clothing of Troops put through "Foden" disinfecter during day. E. S. 48-1212 R. S. 30-1079	
	22/7/17		Sunday - Church Parade held in Y. M. C. A. Hut during morning. 2/Lieut. O. B. Schache Lieut. JB Nair & 7 O. Banks proceeded to 1 st Anzac Corps School.	

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BRAY	23/7/17		Weather fine. Kit Inspection & preparations for Move to new area proceeded during the day. Lieut Ad Temple & 2 Other Ranks proceeded to New Area as Advance Party for Battalion. Capt. J. C. M. Traill, M. B. & Lieut. J. R. Blackman proceeded to AVELUY as Brigade Entrenching Officers.	
BRAY & MEAULTE	24/7/17		Battalion moved as part of Brigade Group to positions near MEAULTE. Move completed by 1800. Word received from 1st Angac Corps School, AVELUY that 2/Lt Grapes had been killed & 2/Lt O. B. Schacke seriously wounded in Bomb Accident there.	
	25/7/17		Route March during morning. Party from Battalion took part in funeral of Lieut Grapes at AVELUY. Word received that 2/Lt. O. B. Schacke had died of wounds.	
	26/7/17		Weather fine. Training under way, arrangements. Party from Battalion proceeded to AVELUY to take part in funeral of 2/Lt. O. B. Schacke.	
MEAULTE, AVELUY, CASTRE, HONDGHEM	27/7/17		Battalion moved by route march to AVELUY where troops entrained & proceeded by train to CASTRE. Thence route march to Training Area at HONDGHEM. E. S. 46-1191. R. S. 35-1038	

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HONDGHEM	28/7/17		Weather fine. Training carried on as per Syllabus.	
	29/7/17		Training as per Syllabus. at Lieut. W. L. Bennett & E. G. Matt with 23 Other Ranks marched in from Base.	
	30/7/17		Weather Wet. Training as per Syllabus.	
	31/7/17		Route March carried out in morning. Syllabus work in afternoon. E. S. 49-1219 R. S. 38-1058	

J. McArthur Lt-Colonel,
Commanding 8th Batty. A.I.F.

CAVALRY, ARTILLERY and INFANTRY only.

Regiment, etc., or Depot 8th Australian Infantry Battalion

Station In the Field

Date 31/7/1917

LIST OF OFFICERS.

* Married or Single	Officers doing duty with the Unit		Date of being taken on the strength of the Unit†	Stations (if on Detachment)
	NAME			
S	Lieut.-Colonel—	Mitchell, J.W.	24/5/14	Attached
S	Majors—	Ulrich, F. F. (R.S.O.)	2/7/17	
M		Eller, J. H. P.	6/5/17	
M	Captains—	Frank, J. G. (N.B.)	9/5/15	Adjutant
S		Wallis, R. J. (N.B.) (Adj.)	11/6/15	
M		Catron, J. G.	24/5/14	
S		Evans, G. L. (N.B.)	7/4/16	
S	Lieutenants—	Graham, D. M. 23/1/17 (S) Blackman J.B.	20/2/16	
S		Mumery G. F. (N.B.) 20/2/16 (S) Harris, J. G. 12/3/16		
S		Scott, D. 1/6/16. Boyd, W. H. 25/7/16. Kerr, G. 24/12/16.		
S		Lasboulle, S. R. 16/12/16. Pown, F. D. H. 16/10/16		
M		Woodhouse, R. 10/9/16. Fenton, H. 23/1/17. Jackson, F.	5/5/16	
S		Tickle, F. W. 5/5/16. Waters, P. A. 5/5/16. Temple, A. H.	6/9/16	
S		Mabwire, J. T. 6/9/16.		
S	2nd Lieutenants—	Bintel, H. L. 10/5/17. Wicks, J. H. 22/7/17. Perkin, P. L.	22/7/17	
S		Pitt, J. G. 13/7/16. Murdoch, L. G. 20/12/16. Andrewartha, H.	24/12/16	
S		Glanville, H. B. 22/7/17. Poynton, W. J. 21/5/17. Fulton, A. H.	31/6/17	
S		Young, L. 22/7/17. Foote, J. 23/7/17		
S	Adjutant—	Captain R. J. Wallis N.B.	11/6/15	
M	Quartermaster—	Lieut. E. Freeman	5/5/16	
M	Riding Master—	Lieut. C. T. Mumery M.C. Adjutant	20/2/16	
WARRANT OFFICERS.				
Master Gunner—				
Serjeant-Major—				
Bandmaster—				
OFFICERS ATTACHED.				
(Including Special Reserve and Territorial Force Officers. Authority to be quoted.)				
Rank	Name	Corps	Authority	Date of joining
Capt.	Lockburn J. F.	A.A.M.C.		24/7/17
"	Booth J. F.	Padre		10/1/17

* The letter "M" or "S" is to be placed before the names of Officers.
 † For Units of Royal Artillery, Depots of all Arms and Special Reserve Units.
 NOTE 1.—The word "Sick" to be inserted against the names of all Officers who are on the Sick List, and the words "Assistant Adjutant," "Instructor of Gunnery," &c., against the name of an Officer holding such an appointment.
 NOTE 2.—This Return should be rendered in Duplicate by units of New Armies only.

Officers absent on duty.

(Exclusive of seconded Officers, but including Officers posted and not joined.)

Married or Single	Rank and Name	On what duty, at what station, from what time
S	Hair Kerby E.F.	O.C. 1 st Anzac H.Q. Camps
S	Kirsch J.P. Capt	5 th Army School
S	Fay L.P. (M.C.) Capt	Hospital 15/6/17
S	Johnston G.E. Capt	2 nd T. B. Eng.
S	Lovett G.F. Lieut	Attached 2 nd Inf Brigade
M	Hair J.B.	School

Officers and Warrant Officers absent with Leave.

	Rank and Name	By whose permission, and date of order	On what account	From what time	To what time
S	Lt. A.W. Finlayson	2 nd Ad Lde.	Leave to Paris	26/7/17	31/7/17
S	Lt. J. Hial	"	"	"	"

Officers and Warrant Officers who have joined during the preceding month, showing whether from leave of absence, on appointment, &c.

	Rank and Name	Date and cause
S	Lieut. Bennett W.D.	29/7/17 From Hospital
S	" Batt S.G.	2 nd T. B.
S	2/Lt. Fulton A.K.	1/7/17 From Cadet Battn.
S	" Weeks G.H.	24/7/17 " 8 th
S	" Perkin W.C.	" " "
S	" Granville R.D.	" 5 th Battn
S	" Poote J.	23/7/17 " C.M.

Officers and Warrant Officers who have quitted during the preceding month, showing whether on leave of absence, removal, death, &c.

	Rank and Name	Date and cause
S	2/Lt. Hutton R.G.	To 2 nd T. Bn. 11/7/17
S	Lt. Stevenson R.K.	" " " 15/7/17
S	" Waters P.A.	" Hospital 23/7/17
M	2/Lt. Grapes J.W.	Killed (acc) 24/7/17
S	" Schache O.B.	" " "

Officers absent without leave.

Rank and Name	Since what time

J.M. Bell Lt. Colonel Commanding.
8th Battalion, A.I.F.