

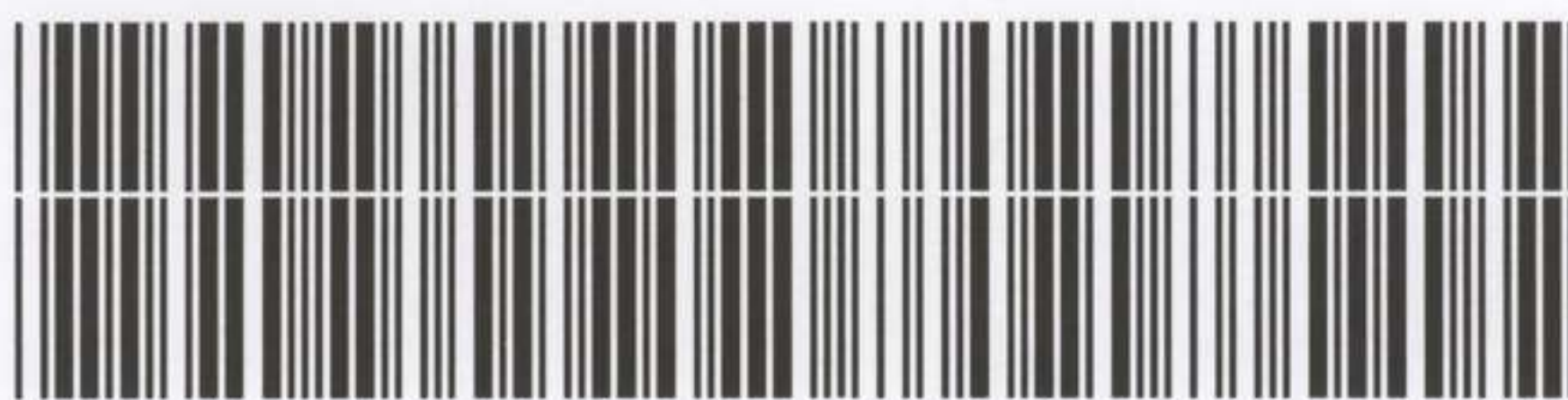
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Infantry

Item number: 23/25/46

Title: 8th Infantry Battalion

October 1918



AWM4-23/25/46

18,000-12/1 -8723



32

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Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

EIGHTH BATTALION

FOR

OCTOBER

1918



Signature of Officer compiling

Smyth

Signature of Officer Commanding

J. Mitchell Lt. Col.



(1)

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VILLERS - SOUS-AILLY	OCTOBER 1st		<p>Fine sunny morning. Battalion paraded in the town square and marched to rifle range. The Battalion Band played the battalion to and from the Range.</p> <p>The afternoon was also spent in musketry on the range.</p> <p>Lieut. W.B. BENNETT and 26 O.Rs. marched in from hospital. Lieut. I.G. MURDOCH (M.C.) marched in from school.</p> <p>The 21st M.G. Coy who had been billeted in part of village, moved out to-day in order to make room for an infantry battalion.</p> <p>Word received that BULGARIA had capitulated.</p>	
		2nd	<p>Although rather cold, the morning was fine and sunny. The Battalion headed by band had a route march through ERGALES, BRUCAMPS, and back to billets - about 10 km.</p>	
		3rd	<p>Rain fell during the night, but the morning turned out fine. During the morning, training was carried out according to Syllabus. During the afternoon, a game of football was played.</p> <p>Capt. R.J. WALLIS (M.C.), Capt. E. FREEMAN, and Lieut T.W. JOHNSTONE returned last night after their tour in the line with the AMERICANS. Later in the day, Capt. R.J. WALLIS (M.C.) left for Senior Officers' School, ALDERSHOT, ENGLAND. Lieut. L.C. MCGINN and 40 O.R. (1914 men) marched out to FLIXECOURT to embus for BRAY en route to AUSTRALIA.</p>	
		4th	<p>Headed by the Pipe Band, the Battalion marched to the Rifle Range. Every available man was on parade and a marked improvement was noticed both in turn-out and shooting. In the afternoon, a very interesting football match was played between 'A' and 'D' Coys. Although handicapped with a small ground, the teams put up an excellent game which resulted in 'A' Coy's favour.</p> <p>During the morning, baths at BOUCHON were made use of and every man obtained a clean change of underclothing.</p> <p>3 O.Rs marched out to Brigade School as Instructors.</p>	
			<p>Strength - Present 29 Officers 404 O.Rs. Detached 6 " 62 "</p>	
		5th	<p>In the morning, the Battalion formed up in Square, and marched to Rifle Range where, favoured with good weather, good results were obtained.</p> <p>38 O.Rs. marched out to Brigade School where an Infantry, Signalling and Intelligence Course has been established.</p>	

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Syllabus of training for the week ending 12th October, 1918

Appendix 1.



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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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VILLERS - SOUS-AILLY	Oct 5th		<p>Lieut. E.L. GILMOUR (M.M.) and Lieut. L. ARNOTT, together with 4 O.Rs. marched out to Australian Corps School at CHAMNEUF FARM near RUE.</p> <p>Lieut. W.D.N. HOOPER marched out to 4th Army Infantry School.</p> <p>2nd/Lieut. A. BREWSTER and 1 O.R. marched out to 4th Army Musketry School.</p> <p>In the afternoon the Battalion again visited the Rifle Range.</p>													
	6th		<p>Winter time comes into force between midnight and 0100 on 6th October, 1918.</p> <p>A Brigade Church Parade had been arranged to be held at AILLY, but owing to unsuitable weather, it was cancelled and a Battalion Church Parade was held in the Chateau Grounds, Padre IRWIN conducting the service.</p> <p>The troops are being granted ample leave to ABBEVILLE and other villages in the vicinity. A prophylactic Hut has been established in ABBEVILLE and also one here at VILLERS. So far no cases of V.D. have been recorded.</p> <p>The general condition of the troops is very good.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Strength</td> <td>Present</td> <td>26</td> <td>Officers</td> <td>352</td> <td>O.Rs.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Detached</td> <td>8</td> <td>"</td> <td>111</td> <td>"</td> </tr> </table>	Strength	Present	26	Officers	352	O.Rs.		Detached	8	"	111	"	
	Strength	Present	26	Officers	352	O.Rs.										
		Detached	8	"	111	"										
7th			<p>The Battalion, headed by Band, marched to Parade Ground where training according to Syllabus. During the morning, the Divisional Commander visited the Parade Ground and, after watching the troops training, congratulated Major TRAILL (Temp. Commanding) on the turn out of Battalion.</p> <p>The afternoon was devoted to Recreational Training. 'B' and 'D' Coys played football but had to stop on account of heavy rain. At half-time 'D' Coy were leading by 5 points.</p> <p>C.O. held Orderly Room in afternoon.</p> <p>Capt. W.T. YATES D.S.O. returned from AUSTRALIA. Lieut. S. BECK and 30 O.R. marched in from ENGLAND.</p> <p>Lt. Col. J.W. MITCHELL, D.S.O. assumed Command of Brigade during temporary absence of the G.O.C. Brigade.</p> <p>2 O.Rs. marched out to BRAY to join party of 1914 men returning to Australia.</p>													
8th			<p>A consignment of gifts was received from the Australian Comforts Fund, consisting of 6 Cases Fruit, 10 Cases Cocoa & Milk, 3 Cases Custard Powder, 3 Cases Sugar, 2 Cases OXO, 4 Cases Jam 3 Cases Milk, 2 Cases Tobacco, 120 pkts Playing Cards, 6 Footballs, 2 Cricket bats, 4 Cricket Balls, 4 doz. Eucalyptus, 444 Pocket Wallets. These gifts were distributed to the troops during the afternoon.</p>													

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices												
VILLERS - SOUS-AILLY	Oct. 8th		<p>Lieut. A.D. TEMPLE (M.C.) appointed Adjutant vice Capt R.J. WALLIS (M.C.) to S.O.S. School, ENGLAND. Lieut. S.W. YOUNG (M.C., M.M.) appointed Assistant Adjutant vice Lieut. A.D. TEMPLE (M.C.) The route march as laid down in Syllabus of training had to be cancelled owing to bad weather. During the afternoon, the weather cleared, and troops played football but owing to the slippery nature of the ground, no brilliant play was witnessed.</p>													
	9th		<p>The weather was fine and the Battalion marched to the parade ground where training, mostly Assault Training and bombing, was carried out. In the afternoon, all the Battalion N.C.Os. paraded at the Assault Course for 2½ hrs instruction under Sgt. GORDON, J.S. Capt W.T. YATES, D.S.O. will act as Second in Command during the absence, on leave, of Major J.C.M. TRAILL, D.S.O.M.C. Since we have been in this village, every night the duties have mounted in the Square. The Brass Band plays the duties on and off the Square, and whilst inspection is being held, plays musical programme. Great interest has been taken in the turning out of Guards and Picquet and, consequently, the Guards are up to a fairly high standard. The Divisional Commander visited the Parade Ground during training hours to-day. Lewis Gun Training is receiving special attention, and No. 1's of L.G's are parading for instruction under Lieut. J.G. EVANS. Rations are good, and R.M.O. reports that sickness is practically nil.</p>													
	10th		<p>The day was very fine and the Battalion made use of Range all day. The Companies shot off to see who would represent the Battalion in the Musketry Competitions arranged by Division. 'A' Coy were selected, although 'D' Coy had an excellent turn out and were very anxious to represent the Battalion, however, they failed to score the number of points obtained by 'A' Coy. A batch of 20 reinforcements marched in from 37th Battalion and from hospital. Major TRAILL D.S.O., M.C. proceeded on leave to U.K.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Strength</td> <td>Present</td> <td>27</td> <td>Officers</td> <td>381</td> <td>O.Rs.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Detached</td> <td>9</td> <td>"</td> <td>117</td> <td>"</td> </tr> </table>	Strength	Present	27	Officers	381	O.Rs.		Detached	9	"	117	"	
Strength	Present	27	Officers	381	O.Rs.											
	Detached	9	"	117	"											
	11th		<p>Battalion, headed by Brass Band, proceeded by march route to Parade Ground where training as per Syllabus was carried out. The afternoon turned out wet, but 'A' and 'B' Coys played a game of football which resulted in a win for the former. C.O's Orderly Room was also held during the afternoon.</p>													

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or

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32

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices												
	12th		<p>Owing to bad weather, the route march for to-day had to be cancelled. The Companies carried on with specialist training in their billets. The C.O. inspected the billets and was well satisfied with the turn-out. Capt. E. FREEMAN and Lieut. R. WOODHOUSE went on leave to U.K. In the afternoon, 'D' Coy played 'A' Coy, a football - for a dinner; although it rained during the afternoon, a rattling good game resulted in 'A' Coy. winning by a few points. Syllabus of training for the week ending October 19th, issued.</p>	Appendix 11												
	13th		<p>A Church Parade, under Brigade Arrangements, had been ordered to take place at AILLY, but owing to the bad weather prevailing, the Battalion formed up in Chateau Grounds and a Service was held there.</p> <p>The Padre (Chap. IRWIN) in conjunction with the Y.M.C.A. people is working very hard to supply amusement for the troops during the evening and have already a series of lectures have been started on. Debates and illustrated lectures on Australia, etc. in the hall at AILLY and also in Y.M.C.A. at VILLERS.</p> <p>The C.O. (Lt. Col J.W. MITCHELL D.S.O.), on return of G.O.C. Brigade, relinquished Command of Brigade, and resumed duty with Battalion.</p>													
	14th		<p>The bad weather again interfered with training arrangements, and the route march set down for today had to be cancelled owing to same. The Coys, carried on with specialist training in their billets.</p> <p>23 O.Rs. marched in from Base.</p> <p>The sanitary inspector came round and, after inspecting the billets, complimented the Battn on the excellent state of sanitation.</p> <p>The Medical Officer reports an increase in the sick parades, probably due to the men catching a chill after football. There are no baths available in this town, so the footballers have to 'cool off' without a shower.</p> <p>Corp. ANSON and L/Cpl WEATHERITT marched out to attend Cadet Battalion in U.K.</p>													
			<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Strength</td> <td>Present</td> <td>24</td> <td>Officers</td> <td>389</td> <td>O.Rs.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Detached</td> <td>12</td> <td>"</td> <td>124</td> <td>"</td> </tr> </table>	Strength	Present	24	Officers	389	O.Rs.		Detached	12	"	124	"	
Strength	Present	24	Officers	389	O.Rs.											
	Detached	12	"	124	"											
	15th		<p>The Range had been allotted to the Battalion to-day and it was intended to shoot off by Platoons to see who would represent the Battalion but the weather was against this, so that the Battalion had to return without doing any range work.</p>													

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Villers - Sous - Ailly	15th		<p>Lieut. Col. J.W. MITCHELL, D.S.O. proceeded on Leave to PARIS. Capt W.T. YATES D.S.O. to be 2nd/Lieut. W.G. DUNN returned from Leave. No. 399 Sgt. J.S. GORDON was promoted to Temp. R.S.M. (W.O. Class i.) vice R.S.M. Littlewood DCM, on leave to Australia.</p>	Temp C.O.												
	16th		<p>The weather was much better to-day and the training went ahead very smoothly. The G.O.C. the Brigade visited the Parade Ground during the day and was well satisfied with the way the training was progressing. Recreational training in the form of games was carried out during the afternoon. Lieut. H. ECCLES (D.C.M) went on leave to U.K. 8 O.Rs. marched in from Base. C.O. held Orderly Room during the afternoon.</p>													
	17th		<p>The Battalion was allotted the Rifle Range 'C' but owing to wet weather, the men were unable to make full use of same. At present, the troops rations are ample and with extra vegetables procured in the village, the Battalion cooks are able to put on some very good meals. The M.O. reports a decrease in the number of men parading sick.</p>													
	18th		<p>The baths at BOUCHON - about 3½ km from Villers, were allotted to the Battalion to-day so that the route march set down for to-day was cancelled and instead, troops made use of baths. A clean change of underclothing was available, including an issue of singlets. 2/Lieuts A.J. RICE, H.T. SWINDELLS, JONES (MM) proceeded on leave to U.K. to-day.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Strength</td> <td>Present</td> <td>23</td> <td>Officers</td> <td>411</td> <td>O.Rs.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Detached</td> <td>13</td> <td>"</td> <td>123</td> <td>"</td> </tr> </table>	Strength	Present	23	Officers	411	O.Rs.		Detached	13	"	123	"	
Strength	Present	23	Officers	411	O.Rs.											
	Detached	13	"	123	"											
	19th		<p>The training for to-day as laid down in Syllabus was Musketry on 'C' Range. Every man fired at least 10 shots at 300 yards. The Commanding Officer also planned a tactical scheme, of 'Coy in attack on Strong-post'. The Operation Order was issued to all Coys, and each Coy carried out the stunt whilst the other two Coys. were shooting.</p> <p>In connection with the competition for the Military Cup, presented by the G.O.C. the Brigade, 'A' Coy was selected to represent the Battalion in same. Syllabus of Training for week ending 26th October, was issued to-day</p>	Appendix iii. Appendix iv.												

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VILLERS - SOUS - AILLY.	20th		<p>Brigade Church Parade for to-day was cancelled so the Battalion formed up for Service but owing to heavy rain, parade was dismissed. A voluntary Church Parade was held in Y.M.C.A. VILLERS.</p> <p>A draft of 22 reinforcements marched in to-day from hospital.</p> <p>Each man received an extra blanket to-day as part of the winter issue.</p> <p>The Divisional Concert Party 'The Sentimental Blokes' are holding concerts at PONT REMY every night, but the troops in this village are at a disadvantage as PONT REMY is over 10 km. from here.</p> <p>To enable the troops to go to the Concert, two motor lorries reported from Division and about 50 men availed themselves of this opportunity.</p>	
	21st		<p>The Battalion marched to the Parade Ground and after one hour of ceremonial drill (in preparation for Bde Inspection) training as laid down in Syllabus was proceeded with.</p> <p>Advice received from Division that a number of Officers of this Battalion had been awarded honours. In publishing same in Battalion Orders the Commanding Officer desired to add his congratulations to these of Army, Corps, Division, and Brigade Commanders to the recipients on their well-earned honours. The following is a list of same.</p> <p>Lieut. Col. J.W. MITCHELL DSO- Awarded A Bar/to D.S.O. Lieut. I.G. MURDOCH MC - Awarded a Bar to M.C. Capt. D.M. GRAHAM - Awarded Military Cross " L.A. BLACKMAN - Awarded Military Cross Lieut. R.W. DOWLING - Awarded Military Cross " A.C. HALL MM - Awarded Military Cross " T.W. JOHNSTONE - Awarded Military Cross " T. ANDERSON DCM - Awarded Military Cross</p> <p>The following appeared in A.I.F. List No. 398, dated 15.10.18:- 'The President of the French Republic has conferred the Medaille Militaire on No. 1173 Sgt (C.S.M.) George PEATEY, 8th Battalion.</p> <p>In publishing same in the Battalion Orders, the C.O. heartily congratulated the recipient on his well-earned honour.</p>	



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VILLERS SOUS AILLY	22nd		<p>Battalion again practised ceremonial drill and afterwards carried out Coy. and Platoon in attack.</p> <p>Lieut. Col. J.W. MITCHELL, D.S.O. returned from leave and resumed Command of Battalion.</p> <p>A lecture entitled 'Public Speaking and Debating' was given in the Y.M.C.A. Villers in the evening by Padre IRWIN.</p>													
	23rd		<p>The Battalion formed up in Square at 0900 and marched to Review Ground, south of VILLERS.</p> <p>The whole Brigade including Transport marched past the G.O.C. Brigade and afterwards carried out ceremonial drill. A football match between the Battalion team and the M.G. Coy resulted in a win for the Battalion. The Game was very fast considering the condition of the men. Both teams were very keen to win and a top-top game was witnessed.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Strength</td> <td>Present</td> <td>20</td> <td>Officers</td> <td>429</td> <td>O.Rs.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Detached</td> <td>16</td> <td>"</td> <td>127</td> <td>"</td> </tr> </table>	Strength	Present	20	Officers	429	O.Rs.		Detached	16	"	127	"	
Strength	Present	20	Officers	429	O.Rs.											
	Detached	16	"	127	"											
	24th		<p>A, B, and C Ranges were allotted to the Battalion and were used by all Coys all day.</p> <p>Special practices were carried out by the teams competing in the Coy. and Platoon Competitions of the Divisional Rifle Meeting. Great keenness is being shown by all the competitors.</p> <p>The weather was fine and visibility good for shooting.</p>													
	25th		<p>The Battalion again made use of the A, B, and C Ranges and special attention was given to the competing Company Team and also the Platoon Team and satisfactory times were recorded; the turnout of the competing teams being very good.</p> <p>A draft of 21 reinforcements marched in, a few coming from 37th Battalion, remainder from hospital.</p> <p>The Commanding Officer held a conference of Coy. Commanders during the afternoon, and several points of advantage in connection with the forthcoming rifle competition were put forward and explained to those present.</p>													
	26th		<p>In accordance with orders, 'A' Coy accompanied by the Pipe Band marched from Square at 7.40 a.m. and carried out their route march of 5 miles in 1½ hours as laid down in the conditions of the Rifle Competition. Conditions of Rifle meeting lay down that each competing team must complete a route march of 5 miles in 1½ hours, and on arrival at range, an inspection would be held. After inspection the following practices will be fired:-</p> <p>(1) Rapid fire at 300 yards, targets exposed for 1 minute.</p>													

(1) Rapid fire at 300 yards, targets exposed for 1 minute.
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VILLERS SOUS AILLY	26		<p>(ii) There will be 35 seconds after the targets disappear, in which the teams will advance to 200 yards, where there will be 8 exposures of 3 seconds each. (head and shoulder targets) 5 second between each exposure.</p> <p>(iii) There will be 35 seconds after these targets disappear in which the teams advance to 100 yards, where there will be 5 exposures of 3 seconds each (head targets) Ammunition unlimited.</p> <p>Each hit counts 1 point.</p> <p>All advances will be carried out under orders of the Officers, and all bolts must be closed and safety catches back before the men advance.</p> <p>Dress:- Marching Order.</p> <p>'A' Coy. did their march in the time stated, and their shooting practices were very satisfactory.</p> <p>'D' Coy's Competition platoon also went over their course of firing and reduced their previous time by over a minute.</p> <p>In the afternoon, a football match was played between teams picked from members of the Battalion.</p> <p>Syllabus of training for week ending Novr. 2nd, issued.</p>	Appendix v.
	27th		<p>The Battalion marched over to AILLY to Brigade Church Parade, but the service had to be cut short owing to rain.</p> <p>In the evening, Padre IRWIN delivered an address to members of the Battalion in the Y.M.C.A., Villers.</p> <p>A consignment of Comforts from the Australian Comforts Fund arrived and were distributed to the troops.</p> <p>Major J.C.M. TRAILL, D.S.O., M.C. returned from leave. He proceeded to 5th Battalion to take over the Command of that Battalion, having been appointed Temp. Lieut. Col. whilst on leave.</p>	
	28th		<p>Strength Present 21 Officers 451 O.Rs. Detached 15 " 125 "</p> <p>Weather is fine and the Coys. went out to the Parade Ground where they carried out training as per Syllabus.</p> <p>During the morning, the C.O., Adjutant, 2nd in Command, and all Coy Commanders attended a conference at PONT REMY. Subject of conference :- Training.</p>	

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WAR DIARY

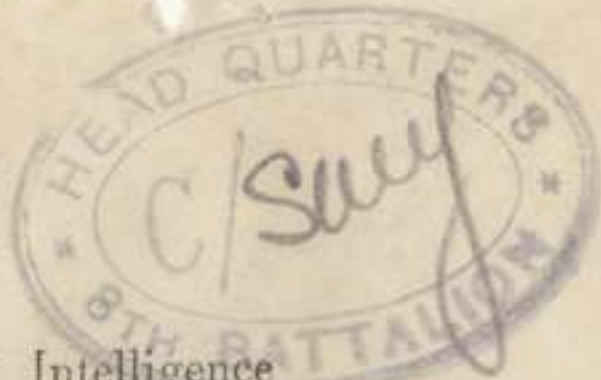
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VILLERS SOUS AILLY	29th		<p>'A' Range was allotted to the Battalion for the day, so th competing teams made use of same practising for the Divisional Competition. The remainder of the Battalion did training during morning. (Coy. Drill, Platoon Drill etc)</p> <p>A number of decorations have been awarded to the members of this Battalion in connection with the operations carried out by this Battalion on August 9th, 10, 11th, and August 23/26th August, 1918. In publishing same in the Battalion Orders, the Commanding Officer offered his hearty congratulations to the recipients on their well earned honours.</p> <p>The following Officers received decorations:- <u>Operations at HERLEVILLE WOOD.</u></p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Capt. P.J.F. O'SHEA M/C - Awarded Distinguished Service Order Lieut. A.D. TEMPLE M.C. - Awarded Bar to Military Cross Lieut. S.W. YOUNG M.C., M.M. - " " " " " Lieut. L.C. MCGINN - Awarded Military Cross Lieut. J.G. EVANS - " " "</p>	Appendix vi.
	30th		<p>The Divisional Rifle Meeting opened to-day, but the light was bad for the competing teams. 'A' Coy, under command of Lieut. D.W. KENNEDY, carried out their practice very satisfactorily but were not so successful as a few of the other teams. The Company competition was won by the 12th A.I. Battn, the 8th Battalion team securing 4th position.</p> <p>In the platoon competition, 14 platoon, 'D' Coy, secured 4th place, but ran the winning team very closely - all four teams scoring well.</p> <p>Capt. E. FREEMAN returned from leave to U.K.</p>	
	31st		<p>The morning turned out very dull and showery, but this weather did not prevent the competing teams from attending the second day of the Rifle Meeting. In the individual competition our representative secured second place. In the Officers Revolver Competition, 8th Battalion team filled 5th place.</p> <p>The weather during the two days of the meeting was against accurate shooting altogether, but all competitors evinced a keen interest throughout the meeting, and some very fine shooting was recorded.</p> <p>Lieut. T. ANDERSON, M.C., D.C.M. & Lieut R. WOODHOUSE returned from leave, U.K.</p>	



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2

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices																								
VILLERS SOUS AILLY	31st		<p>In the evening a Whist Drive was held in the Y.M.C.A. Villers, and proved a great success, over 70 players being present.</p> <p>A cinema is showing nightly at AILLY, 15 minutes walk from this Village. A concert has been arranged for Saturday night, 2nd Novr, to take place in the Y.M.C.A. Villers.</p> <p>Leave to ABBEVILLE is being granted to the troops, also leave is obtainable to the villages in the vicinity. Men away on leave average 30 daily.</p> <table border="0" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">Strength</td> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">Present</td> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">25</td> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">Officers</td> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">466</td> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">O.Rs.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Detached</td> <td>9</td> <td>"</td> <td>122</td> <td>"</td> </tr> </table> <p>The following amount of salvage collected by this Unit during the week ending 31st October is as follow:-</p> <table border="0" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr><td style="padding-right: 20px;">Fat</td><td>-</td><td>50 lbs.</td></tr> <tr><td>Paper</td><td>-</td><td>100 lbs</td></tr> <tr><td>Cardboard</td><td>-</td><td>10 lbs</td></tr> <tr><td>Solder</td><td>-</td><td>14 Sacks tins</td></tr> </table> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 20px;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p><i>Smy</i>Lieut & A/Adj 8th Battalion, A. I. F.</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p><i>J Marshall</i>Lt. Col. Commanding, 8th Battalion.</p> </div> </div>	Strength	Present	25	Officers	466	O.Rs.		Detached	9	"	122	"	Fat	-	50 lbs.	Paper	-	100 lbs	Cardboard	-	10 lbs	Solder	-	14 Sacks tins	
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Solder	-	14 Sacks tins																										

WAR DIARY

OF

EIGHTH BATTALION

FOR

OCTOBER

1918

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1.	SYLLABUS OF TRAINING FOR WEEK ENDING 12th Oct.
2.	SYLLABUS OF TRAINING FOR WEEK ENDING 19th Oct.
3.	OPERATION ORDER NO. 1.
4.	SYLLABUS OF TRAINING FOR WEEK ENDING 26th Oct.
5.	SYLLABUS OF TRAINING FOR WEEK ENDING 2nd Novr.
6.	LIST OF DECORATIONS AWARDED TO N.C.Os. AND MEN
7.	QUARTERMASTER'S SUMMARY FOR MONTH ENDING OCTOBER 31st
8.	TRANSPORT OFFICER'S SUMMARY FOR MONTH ENDING OCT. 31st
9.	MEDICAL OFFICER'S SUMMARY FOR MONTH ENDING OCT. 31st.

.....

.....
J. Mitchell
Lieut. Col.
 Commanding, 8th Battalion, A.I.F.

Appendix 1.

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HEADQUARTERS, 12
8th Battalion, A.I.F.
5th October, 1918.

SYLLABUS OF TRAINING.

FOR WEEK ENDING 12.10.18.

APPENDIX

Date	Morning		Afternoon.
	From 8.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.		2 p.m. till 3.30 pm.
Sunday 6th	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX Brigade Church Parade		
Monday 7th	Platoon and Company Drill Guards and Sentries. Assault Training.		Recreational Tng.
Tuesday 8th	Route March - Full marching order		Recreational Tng
Wednes. 9th	Lewis Gun Training. Bombing. (Mostly with 36 grenades) Assault Training.		Recreational Tng.
Thurs. 10th	Musketry.		Musketry.
Friday 11th	Platoon in attack. Assault Course Training by Platoon and Company.		Recreational Tng.
Sat. 12th	Route March - Full Marching Order		Half-holiday.

NOTES ON SYLLABUS.

1. Battalion will be formed up every day in village square, and be played by Bands to and from Parade Ground.
2. Waterproof sheets, rolled at back of belt, will be carried on all Parades.
3. Transport will accompany Battalion on Route March on Tuesday, 8th Oct.
4. Signallers will parade under Sig. Officer daily for instruction.
5. Bands will parade under Pipe-major daily for a short period of Drill.

Smyth Lieut. & Adj
8th Battalion, A.I.F.

Appendix II.
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HEADQUARTERS,
8th Battalion, A.I.F.
12th October, 1918.

SYLLABUS OF TRAINING.

FOR WEEK ENDING 19.10.18.

Date	Morning From 8.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.	Afternoon. 2 p.m. to 3.30 p.m.
Sunday 13th	Brigade Church Parade	
Monday 14th	Route March - Full Marching Order Transport will attend same.	Recreational Tng
Tuesday 15th	Musketry on Rifle Range	Musketry.
Wednesday 16th	Platoon and Company Drill. Assault Course Training. Specialist Training (Lewis Gun & 36 Grenade)	Recreational Training.
Thurs. 17th	Musketry on Rifle Range ASSEMBLY (Practices as laid down for Div. Rifle Meeting)	Musketry
Friday. 18th	Route March Full Marching Order	Recreational Training.
Saturday 19th	Musketry on Rifle Range.	Half-holiday

NOTES ON SYLLABUS.

1. Should any wet day occur, Lewis Gun and Specialist Training will be carried out in billets.
2. Battalion will be performed up every day in Village Square, and be played by Bands to and from Parade Ground.
3. Waterproof sheets, folded neatly in haversack or pack, will be carried on all Parades.

A. D. Temple
.....Lieut. & Adjt.
8th Battalion, A. I. F.

Appendix III

OPERATION ORDER NO. 1.

Copy No....

HEADQUARTERS,
8th Battalion, A.I.F.
16th October, 1918.

6 Ref. Map. Sheet France 57E.

1. Your Company will attack and occupy the enemy position at O.20.A.1.5. to A. 18 as soon as possible.
2. It is known that the enemy is holding this position with about 50 rifle strength and 4 M.G.'s, and in addition they have a M.G. Post at O.20 A.25.50 and another at O.20. A. 50.80.
3. Both your flanks are protected by units holding the line at O.14 D. 44 to O.20. D.76 but the enemy has protected his flanks by posts on his right and left rear and troops attacking the enemy position from the flanks will come under the fire of those rear enemy posts.
- 4.(a) Reconnoitre the position and submit your disposition for attack by 12 noon to-morrow.
(b) Sketches to be included.
(c) Artillery or T.M. assistance required to be stated.

Smyth
.....Capt.
Temp. Commanding, 8th Battalion,
A.I.F.

<u>Distribution.</u>			
<u>Copy No.</u>	<u>To whom.</u>	<u>Method and time.</u>	
1.	C.O.	1730	
2.	O.C. 'A' Coy.	1730	Runner.
3.	O.C. 'B' Coy.	1730	Runner.
4.	O.C. 'D' Coy.	1730	Runner.

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APPENDIX

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Appendix 32

SYLLABUS OF TRAINING.

for Week ending 26th Oct, 1918.

Date	Morning 0830 till 1100	Afternoon. 1400 to 1530
20th Sunday	CHURCH PARADE	
21st Monday	Platoon and Coy. Drill Handling of arms. Platoon in Attack. Assault Course Training.	Recreational Training
22nd Tuesday.	Battalion Drill. (Ceremonial) Coy. Drill. Coy. in attack.	Recreational Training
23rd Wednesday	BRIGADE PARADE	
24th Thursday	Platoon and Coy. Drill. Specialist Training. (Lewis Guns and No. 36 Grenades) Platoon in attack.	Recreational Training
25th Friday.	Musketry - A, B, & C. Ranges.	
26th Saturday	Route March. - Full Marching Order Transport will accompany Battalion	Half-holiday

NOTES ON SYLLABUS.

1. Battalions will be formed up each day in Square, and marched by Bands to and from parades.
2. Should any wet day occur, specialist training will be carried out in Billets.

A. D. Temple
.....Lieut.
8th Battalion, A. I. F.

Appendix
v. 32

APPENDIX

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HEADQUARTERS,
8th Battalion, A.I.F.
28th October, 1918.

SYLLABUS OF TRAINING.
FOR WEEK ENDING 2nd NOVEMBER, 1918.

Date	Morning 0830 to 1100	Afternoon. 1400 till 1530
27th Oct Sunday	CHURCH PARADE.	
28th Oct Monday	Company and Platoon Drill. Assault Training. Platoon in attack.	Recreational Training
29th Oct Tuesday	Musketry - A Range - Musketry	
30th Oct Wednesday	Battalion Drill - Ceremonial Marching Platoon in attack. Specialist Training (Lewis Guns & No. 36 Grenades)	Recreational Training
31st Oct Thursday	Specialist Training. (Lewis Guns and No. 36 Grenades)	Recreational Training
1st Novr Friday	Route March. Transport will accompany Battalion.	Recreational Training
2nd Novr Saturday	BRIGADE PARADE	

NOTES ON SYLLABUS.

1. Waterproof Sheets, folded neatly in haversack or pack, will be carried on all parades.
2. Should any wet day occur, specialist training will be carried on with in billets.

.....*A. D. Rimpl*..... Lieut & Adjt.
8th Battalion, A.I.F.

HEADQUARTERS,
8th Battalion, A. I. F.
29th October, 1918.

LIST OF DECORATIONS AWARDED TO N.CO's and MEN, 8TH BATTALION, A.I.F.
FOR OPERATIONS CONDUCTED BY BATTALION

For Operations, August, 9th, 10th, 11th, 1918.

BAR TO MILITARY MEDAL.

No. 239 L/Cpl L. ARNOTT, M.M.

DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT MEDAL.

542 Sgt. (2nd/Lieut) H.R. DAVIS
2802 " (2nd/Lieut) A. BREWSTER
575 C.S.M. (2nd/Lieut) F.E. JONES (M.M.)
457 C.S.M. (2nd/Lieut) A.J. RICE
958 Pte D.O. MORGAN
365 Sgt A.C. CHAN

MILITARY MEDALS.

6071 L/Cpl J. McAVOY	6829 Pte J.H. PERCIVAL
7214 Pte L.O. COATES	3061 L/Cpl S. GRATTIDGE
6883 " W.N. JONES	3135 Sgt J.A. RIGBY
1006 Dvr J.W. FITZSIMMONS	3712 Cpl A.C. COLLARD
399 R.S.M. J.S. GORDON	5205 L/Cpl J.H. PRIME
5135 Sgt C.G. KENYON	5400 Pte L. KENNEALY
1173 C.S.M. G. PEATEY	3674 L/Cpl W.G. NOTTINGHAM
7129 Pte R.B. WRIGLEY	6395 Pte J.O. GRANT
2567 Pte V.L. BOURKE	5162 Pte J.P. MILLER
3454 Cpl A. SMITH	4883 Pte G.S. SHELL
7454 Pte J. BRAITHWAITE	512 Pte J.H. LEE
4746 Pte A. BRYANT	2823 Sgt (2nd/Lieut) L.C. WHITE
6862 L/Cpl R.R. MAITLAND	

For Operations, August 23rd - 26th, 1918.

DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT MEDAL.

3674 L/Cpl W.G. NOTTINGHAM M.M.
518 Sgt. G. ARNOTT
3712 Cpl A.C. COLLARD M.M.
2893 Sgt C.H. MASTERS M.M.
3068 Sgt T. DUNCOMBE

BAR TO MILITARY MEDAL

6343 Pte J.T. SMITH M.M.
4269 L/Cpl J.R. MURRAY M.M.
3904 Pte R.J. ROBERTS M.M.
6395 Pte J.O. GRANT M.M.
6071 L/Cpl J. McAVOY M.M.

MILITARY MEDALS

6305 Pte G.H. MONTGOMERY	1247 Sgt. J.W. EAVES
4126 Pte R.C. ALLEN	3254 Pte F.W. SEARLE
687 L/Cpl F. LANGDON	7335 Pte (2nd/Lieut) W.G. DUNN
1318 Sgt R. JONES	3971 L/Cpl H.D. CARRUTHERS
3052 L/Cpl J. CAIN	6472 Pte J.G. BAULCH
7324 L/Cpl P.F. WILKIN	1714 Sgt. A.S. WILLIAMS
1580 Sgt. P.T. MASTERS	

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HEADQUARTERS,
8th Battalion, A.I.F.
1st November, 1918.

QUARTER-MASTER'S REPORT FOR MONTH ENDING OCTOBER 31ST, 1918.

SUPPLIES

During the above period, supplies have been normal. Since the reduction of the Bacon Ration has come into effect, the present issues are not sufficient and complaints are general. Oatmeal is much appreciated but the sugar ration is not sufficient to sweeten same.

Fresh Meat has been plentiful, and of good quality

Vegetables are some days very good.

Bread - Very good.

Groceries - Jam has been on the light side, otherwise good.

Tobacco & Cigarettes - Good.

ORDNANCE STORES.

Stores have come to hand to meet demands with few exceptions. Second blanket has been issued, winter clothing has been drawn and issued as follows:-

Gloves, woollen,	500
Gloves, fingerless	390
Jerkins,	500
Cardigans	350

S.D. Clothing ~~returned~~

	<u>Drawals</u>	<u>Returned</u>
Tunics	67	61
Breeches, D.S.	44	66
" M.S.	16	8
Puttees	50	83
Greatcoats,		
D.S.	-	2
M.S.	3	-
Hats, felt	26	30
Boots	250	113

Underclothing - Frequent, clean changes have been made at Baths, winter issue of underclothing has been made in lieu of summer. Each man is now in possession of 3 pr Socks.

TECHNICAL STORES - have now been completed up to establishment.

Bicycles. - Complete.

Lewis Guns - "

Signalling Equipment -, with few exceptions, complete.

Transport equipment - Complete. Limbers have been thoroughly overhauled, painted, and one travelling kitchen has been condemned by I.O.M. and repaired.

AUSTRALIAN COMFORTS FUND

The following has been received:-

Fruit	6 Cases	Milk	10 Cases
Cocoa & Milk	20 "	Jam	1 "
Cust. Powder	3 "	Tobacco	3 "
Sugar	5 "	Playing Cards	120 pkts
Oxo	2 "	Fooyballs	8
Eucalyptus	4 doz.	Cricket bats	2
Underpants	75 prs.	Cricket Balls	4
Socks	460 prs.	Wallets, writing	444
Sauce	1 case	Oatmeal	1 Case
Cigarettes	1 "	Cough Mixture	4 dozeh

SALVAGE. The following is the return of salvage for the month.

Fat	-	5 drums
Paper	-	270 lbs
Solder	-	20 bags empty tins
Cartons	-	Nil
Cardboard	-	61 lbs.

.....Capt
Quarter-Master, 8th Battn, A.I.F.

32nd Div VIII

APPENDIX

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HEADQUARTERS,
8th Battalion, A.I.F.
1st November, 1918.

TRANSPORT SUMMARY FOR MONTH ENDING 31st OCTOBER, 1918.

At the commencement of the month were situated at VILLERS SOUS AILLY with the Battalion. The lines were moved to a much better place in the open but now the horses have a brick standing. An endeavour was made to secure stabling material and provide cover for the horses but a sufficient supply could not be obtained owing to the demand for same for men's billets. The watering arrangements in this Area are very good, all the water for our requirements being drawn from the well in Square and also from well in 'A' Street.

The D.A.D.V.S. and D.A.Q.M.G. inspected the wagons, horses, harness and transport equipment on the 16th Oct. and reported very favourably on the turn-out.

During the month, transport were employed on rations and general work for the battalion. For a short period we were engaged in drawing fodder and rations from the railhead to the Supply Dump. A limber was also engaged in carrying rations etc for the Brigade school and was attached to Brigade School, COCQUEREL, for a fortnight.

A Brigade Review was held on the 23rd when the whole Brigade and transport were reviewed by the G.O.C. Brigade. 8 vehicles from Transport accompanied the battalion for this parade, and marched past in two lines of vehicles. During the month, the Battalion have had two Route Marches and Transport has accompanied the Battalion each time.

In the present area, a fair amount of grazing has been available and the horses are in excellent condition.

All the wagons have been overhauled and repaired. Painting of vehicles has been carried on with and during the month, ten vehicles have been repainted.

Transport equipment is complete and all supplies are up to the standard. Winter clothing has been issued to the men but horserugs are not, as yet, to hand.

One heavy draught died on the 10th. A post-mortem was held and it was found that the horse died from flatulent colic. The horse took sick and died within 15 minutes. There has been no other sickness during the month.

Two light draughts were taken on strength from 1st A.M.V.S.

H. Aukon
.....Lieut.
Transport Officer, 8th Battalion, A.I.F.

R. M. O's
WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(1)

(Erase heading not required.)

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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VILLERS SOUS AILLY	OCTOBER 1918 1st-6th		<p>Syllabus of training being carried out. Parades are not too strenuous but well and interestingly varied and harmoniously blended with assorted games, amusements etc. - everything in the Battalion being aimed at to bring battalion to its usual high standard of efficiency both in military and physical training.</p> <p>Health of troops generally is good. Sick parades, mostly of boils, cuts and lesions sustained at football, boxing, running, etc.</p> <p>Sanitation very good and the Divisional Sanitary Sergeant on his visits credits the Battalion with the best reports on sanitation and cleanliness of billets, approaches to same etc.</p>	
	7th-14th		<p>Training as usual. Slight increase in sickness due to colds, slight pyrexia caused, I think, by chills caught after football - no facilities for a bath after same being available - but the number is very small. The general health of men is very satisfactory - sick parades of about 12 per day. Rations are good and the troops feeding very well. Each of our Coys. run a company fund - each man contributing a little and this goes to buying extras for them and proves very satisfactory and much appreciated by the men.</p>	
	15th-20th		<p>Decrease in sickness, only about 8 per day parading mostly boils. Dental work is very satisfactory and the dental work of the battalion is nearly completed. Men feeding very well and in good spirits. Plenty of football and outdoor games every afternoon - many matches being played both in and outside the Battalion.</p> <p>Men bathed at BOUCHON and received a clean change of underclothing and a winter issue of singlets.</p>	
	21st-26th		<p>We are receiving many reinforcements from the 37th AI. Battalion.</p> <p>The troops are doing a great deal of musketry and, in it, a keen interest is shown by them. Health and spirits of men still at a very high standard.</p> <p>Innoculations were done. A marked feature of our stay in the village is that we have kept a firm hand on V.D. Full use is made of prophylactic hut and 'Rubber protectors' are sold in Battalion Canteen. Altogether the V.D. question has been most satisfactory. About a dozen cases have been kept and cured in a very short time, mostly by the 'sealing up' method.</p>	
	27th-31st		<p>Nothing of interest to note. Everything continues satisfactorily. Health of men good, rations good and ample but, as usual, green vegetables issue is conspicuous by its absence. However same is replaced by vegetables bought in and around village - Coy. funds providing for</p>	

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D. D. & L., London, E.C.

APPENDIX 9 20

R. M. O's
(2)

Army Form C. 2118.

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VILLERS SOUS AILLY	OCTOBER 27-31st		<p>During our stay here, I have treated numerous civilians for influenza but happily this has in no measure attacked the troops, undoubtedly due to their healthy outdoor and not over-strenuous training, thereby assisting their resistance powers to infection. The village is so situated and in such a condition that it readily lends itself to the harbouring and spreading of such infectious diseases as influenza. All ranks have been encouraged to report to P.A.P. on the feeling of the first symptoms and by the use of anti-pyretics, many cases have been aborted.</p>	
			<p style="text-align: right;"><i>P. J. O'Shea</i>Capt. A.A.M.C. R.M.O. 8th Battalion, Australian Imperial Force,</p>	<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; text-orientation: mixed;">APPENDIX 921</p>

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT FOR MONTH ENDING OCTOBER 31st, 1918.

Generally speaking, the month has been a most useful one indeed, both from the point of view of training, organising and resting, although the village in which we find ourselves leaves much to be desired in the matter of cleanliness. Sickness has been, in the unit, down to a minimum throughout. Situated as we are in a dead village, all amusements had to be provided regimentally for the troops. This was done in the way of sports, football competitions, Y.M.C.A. Huts etc. all of which were invaluable.

The behaviour of the men has up to the present been excellent. Very liberal leave to all places within reach has been given to the troops at all times, and great advantage taken of same by all ranks, but only in very isolated cases has it been abused. The appearance of the men has undergone a most marked change. They are healthy, well turned out, equipment and clothing complete and good in all cases. The keenest possible interest has been displayed by all ranks in all competitions, especially in the Divisional Rifle Competitions.

It is worthy of note that, although ^{my} men have been daily to places such as ABBEVILLE, not one single case of evacuation has occurred through V.D. contracted whilst here. This is entirely due to the excellent Medical arrangements provided regimentally. It is also worthy of note that quite a number of men from U.K. and French Leave have been suffering from V.D.

The transport has undergone a complete change. Horses have improved, waggons painted etc. with a most pleasing result.

The weather has at times been very unsettled and has prevented training during certain periods, and, owing to the limited facilities of indoor training, these days have to a large extent been of necessity 'dud' days but happily they have not been many.

The fact of a Company Fund having been established in all Companies, where each man has donated One Franc per fortnight, has been responsible of a continual change of diet. throughout. This has worked excellently and the men have the result and all are more than satisfied. This good feeding is doubtless one of the great reasons of the splendid health of the troops.

The remainder of the Month's Diary, I think, explains itself and does not call for further comment on my part.


Lt. Col
 Commanding, 8th Battalion, A.I.F.