

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

Infantry

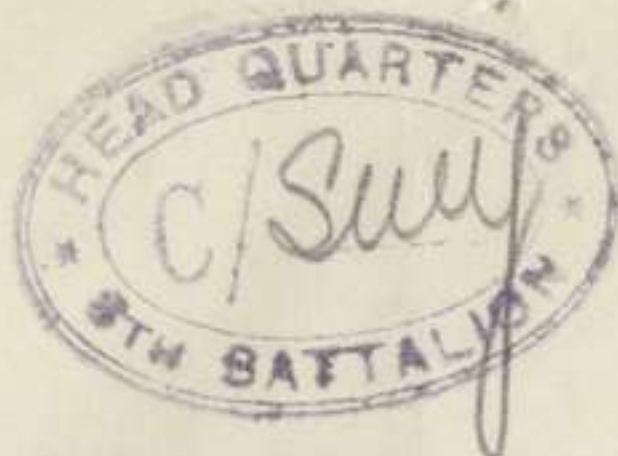
Item number: 23/25/52

Title: 8th Infantry Battalion

April 1919



AWM4-23/25/52



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32

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

EIGHTH BATTALION

FOR

APRIL

191 9

Signature of Officer compiling

Smy Young

Lieut & Adj't

Signature of Officer Commanding

J. M. Schell

Lieut. Col



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.

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

32

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
COUILLET	1919 APRIL	1	Morning - bright and sunny. At 1000, Battalion made use of baths at local Coal Box Mine.	Appendix 1
		2	Battalion moved to new billets situated near Rue de la Canteen Couillet. Draft remained in present billets. The 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th Battalions amalgamated today as one Battalion under command of Lieut. Col J.W. MITCHELL 'D/SO/' - 8th Battn. Syllabus of training for use whilst in present area issued to-day.	
		3.	Morning fine. Troops paraded at 0900 and carried out a short route march.	
		4.	Weather continues fine. Training carried out as per Syllabus.	
		5.	Troops paraded at 0900 in front of Hotel de Ville. Brig-General H.G. BENNETT 'CMG' visited Battalion Headquarters during the morning and inspected the troops of the combined Battalion. Afternoon - Half holiday.	
		6.	Weather continues fine. Church Parade held at Y.M.C.A. at 1000.	
		7.	Battalion formed up in front of Hotel de Ville at 0900. Battalion drill carried out for 30 minute s. After Battn Drill, troops carried out a short route march.	
		8.	Battalion paraded at 0915. After inspection, Battalion attended lecture at Y.M.C.A. at 1000. Subject:- 'Decline and Fall of Turkish Empire' Afternoon - Recreational Training.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
COUILLET	April	9	Bathing carried out to-day at Factory Rue de Marcinelle, Couillet. After men completed bathing, equipment was scrubbed. An issue of blanco had been made to the troops and instructions issued to have all web equipment cleaned. Lieut. A.C. HALL 'MC' 'MM' and 2nd/Lieut. A.G. DASHWOOD 'MM' marched in from Base.	
		10	Battalion paraded at 0915 in Square at Hotel de ville, Couillet. Personnel forming Demobilisation Quota No. 32 marched past Battalion en route to Charleroi for entraining. This Battalion supplied 8 Officers and 107 O/Ranks. The following Officers marched out:- Capt W.T. Yates DSO, Lieut. E.E. Jones 'DCM' 'MM', Lieut. T. Adderson 'MC' 'DCM', Lieut. C.P. Cook, Lieut. A.C. Hall 'MC' 'MM', 2nd/Lieut. A. Nisbet, 2nd/Lieut. W. Butterworth, and 2nd/Lieut. G.T. Weatheritt 'MM'. Quota will entrain from Charleroi Station on 12th inst. Afternoon was devoted to Recreational Training.	
		11.	Battalion carried out training as per Syllabus.	
		12	Battalion paraded at 0730. Permission having been obtained from Brigade, the troops were issued with passes for Charleroi in order that they might say farewell to mx their comrades proceeding overseas.	
		13.	Battalion attended church parade at Y.M.C.A. at 1000. R.C. Church Parade was held at Church, COUILLET, at same time.	
		14.	Battalion paraded at 0915 in front of Hotel de Ville. After inspection, Battalion, headed by Band, marched to Parade Ground where the G.O.C. 1st Div. Infantry Group (Brig-General H.G. BENNETT 'CB' 'CMG') inspected them. Weather turned out very wet during the afternoon.	
			Strength Present 17 Officers 114 Other Ranks Detached 3 Officers 107 " "	



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COUILLET	APRIL 15th		Battalion paraded at 0915 and carried on training as per Syllabus.	
	16th		Troops made use of baths at Factory, Rue de Marcinelle, commencing at 1000. Pay was drawn during the morning and troops paid in the afternoon, 12000 Francs being distributed.	
	17th		Battalion paraded at 0915 and carried out training as per Syllabus. Afternoon: recreational training.	
	18th		Today, being Good Friday, Special Church Parades were held. Protestant Church service being held at Y.M.C.A. at 1000, and Roman Catholic Service at Church at 1000. Afternoon : Half holiday.	
	19th		Battalion parades at 0915 and carried out training as per Syllabus. Afternoon : Half holiday.	
	20th		Easter Day. Battalion attended Church Parade at 1000. R.C. Service was held at Church at 1000.	
			Strength Present 17 Officers 121 Other Ranks Detached 3 " 87 " "	
	21st		The inter Battalion Competition was held to-day. Battalion formed up at 0830 and, headed by band, marched to parade ground where inspection and Battalion Drill was carried out. After competition work was concluded, the troops marched past the G.O.C. Australian Corps. The result of the competition was 3rd Brigade Battn, First; 1st Bde Battn Second and 2nd Bde Battalion Third.	
	22nd		Battalion paraded at 0915 and carried out training as per Syllabus. A party of 20 O/Ranks proceeded to Chatelet for Medical Board's Examination.	



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
COUILLET	1919 April	23	Morning bright and fine. Battalion made use of baths at Coal mine, Rue de Marcinelle. During the past week, competitions between 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th Battalions have been held for times best billets, and inspection. This unit won the Inspection Competition easily, losing only 52 points, but was unsuccessful in Billet Competition which was won by 6th Battn. Chaplain Irwin marched out to-day for return to Australia.	
		24th	Parades and Training as per Syllabus. Weather continues to be very unseasonable and showers of sleet and hail were experienced in the afternoon.	
		25th	Anzac Day. The Battalion fell in at 0915 to proceed to CHATELET to attend 1st Divl. Sports Meeting. Motor Lorries were available to carry the troops there. An excellent programme of sporting events was provided. Arrangements were made for providing a meal for the troops at the sports and each man was issued with two beer tickets entitling him to two pints of beer.	
		26th	A whole holiday was granted to the Battalion today, but the weather was extremely unsatisfactory, heavy showers falling at intervals throughout.	
		27th	Church parades were held in the morning, Roman Catholics falling in at 0900, and Protestants at 0945. A number of men on detached duties returned to-day, bringing our ration strength up to 166. 2nd/Lieut. L.W.G. FORBES returned from duty with Brussels Leave Club on its disbandment. Lieut. R. Woodhouse marched out for Non Military Employment in U.K.	
		28th	Parades and training as per Syllabus. The weather has been most unseasonable. A fair amount of Australian mail has been arriving in the last two days but it is of an earlier date than mail we have already received.	
			Strength Present 18 Officers 143 Other Ranks Detached 2 " 60 " "	
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices														
COUILLET	1919 April 29		<p>Parades and training as per Syllabus but owing to heavy showers of rain in the afternoon nothing could be done. The football, and cricket competitions have been necessarily postponed pending an improvement in the weather.</p> <p>30th Bathing parade held in the morning at baths situated in Rue de Marcenelle. A party was sent to CHATELET for completion of Medical Papers. Rain continued all day without intermission.</p> <table><tr><td>Strength</td><td>Present</td><td>17</td><td>Officers</td><td>142</td><td>Other</td><td>Ranks</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Detached</td><td>2</td><td>"</td><td>61</td><td>"</td><td>"</td></tr></table>	Strength	Present	17	Officers	142	Other	Ranks		Detached	2	"	61	"	"	
Strength	Present	17	Officers	142	Other	Ranks												
	Detached	2	"	61	"	"												
			<p>.....<i>Sully</i>.....Lieut & Adj 8th Battalion, A.I.F.</p>	<p>.....Lieut.Col Commanding Officer 8th Battalion, A.I.F.</p>														

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WAR DIARY

OF
EIGHTH BATTALION



FOR

APRIL

1919

LIST OF APPENDICES.

- | No. | Subject. |
|-----|---|
| 1. | Syllabus of Training for Week ending 12th April
and succeeding weeks |

.....*Smy Young*.....Lieut. & Adj
Compiling Officer

.....*J. M. Mitchell*.....Lieut. Col
C.O. 8th Battalion, A.I.F.

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2nd. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE BATTALION

SYLLABUS OF TRAINING FOR WEEK ENDING 12th. APRIL, 1919.

DAY & DATE	TRAINING - MORNING	AFTERNOON
SUNDAY 6th. April, 1919.	CHURCH PARADE	
MONDAY 7th. April, 1919.	1 HOUR'S INSPECTION BATTALION DRILL MARCH PAST EDUCATION	COMPETITION FOOTBALL MATCH
TUESDAY 8th. April, 1919.	1 HOUR'S INSPECTION BATTALION DRILL LECTURE EDUCATION	COMPETITION CRICKET MATCH
WEDNESDAY 9th. April, 1919	BATHING PARADE EQUIPMENT CLEANING PARADE EDUCATION	RECREATIONAL TRAINING
THURSDAY 10th. April, 1919	1 HOUR'S INSPECTION BATTALION DRILL LECTURE EDUCATION	COMPETITION FOOTBALL MATCH
FRIDAY 11th. April, 1919	1 HOUR'S INSPECTION BATTALION DRILL LECTURE EDUCATION	COMPETITION CRICKET MATCH
SATURDAY 12th. April, 1919	INSPECTION G.O.C's. PARADE BATTALION DRILL MARCH PAST	HALF HOLIDAY

NOTES ON SYLLABUS

Duties will parade at their billets each morning and will be inspected by Company Orderly Officer.

Battalion will parade daily in Square for inspection and Battalion Drums Bands will attend Battalion Parades.

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In Inter-Company Competitions billets, cook houses and general parade marks will be allotted daily.

A. D. Temple Lieut. & Adjutant
2nd. Aust. Inf. Brigade Battalion, A.I.