

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

Infantry

**Item number:** 23/43/25

**Title:** 26th Infantry Battalion

August 1917



AWM4-23/43/25



WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(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	VOLUME 17	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>Ancient's Abbey de Wdestine near St. Omer.</p>	<p>Week ending Aug 4.</p>		<p><u>26<sup>th</sup> Bn. A.I.F. Month ending Aug 31. 17.</u>                      Owing to the exceptionally wet weather and the difficulty in obtaining a suitable training ground, very little work could be done and this usually took the form of route marches. A visit of inspection was paid by Generals Birdwood &amp; Smythe, who watched the different squads carrying on with the usual parade ground work. Lectures on various subjects were given to all ranks during the week.</p>		
	<p>Week ending Aug 11.</p>		<p>The training this week consisted of smartening up &amp; ceremonial drill, bayonet fighting, musketry etc. Route marches were undertaken every day including one all day march. The men are in very fine condition &amp; no one fell out. Lectures have been given on various subjects, including the new German Shell Gas.</p>		
	<p>Week ending Aug 18.</p>		<p>The programme of work this week is similar to last weeks &amp; included wearing the Boe Respirators for long periods at a stretch, the new gas used by the Germans necessitating this. Musketry practices were carried out on the 30 yards range &amp; special attention has been paid to the training of reserves in all arms.</p>		
	<p>From 18-31 Aug.</p>		<p>Similar work was carried out as in previous weeks and in addition the Bn. practised wood fighting in the Forest of Blainmaris. The whole Division was inspected by Field Marshall Sir Douglas Haig on the 29<sup>th</sup> and he expressed great satisfaction with their appearance.</p>		



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<p>Americi Abbey de Woestine near St. Omer.</p>	<p>Aug 17</p>		<p>The weather during the whole of the month has been very unsettled and showery, though we had a few fine days in the middle of the month. Leave is given into St. Omer every day to about thirty men, and a few officers have had leave to Paris. Blighty leave has also been open for all ranks during the month. Several officers have returned from the Training Battalion, their places being taken by other officers from the Div. RA Willa 2/24. Int. Officer 26<sup>th</sup> Bn.</p>	

Shavers  
at base