

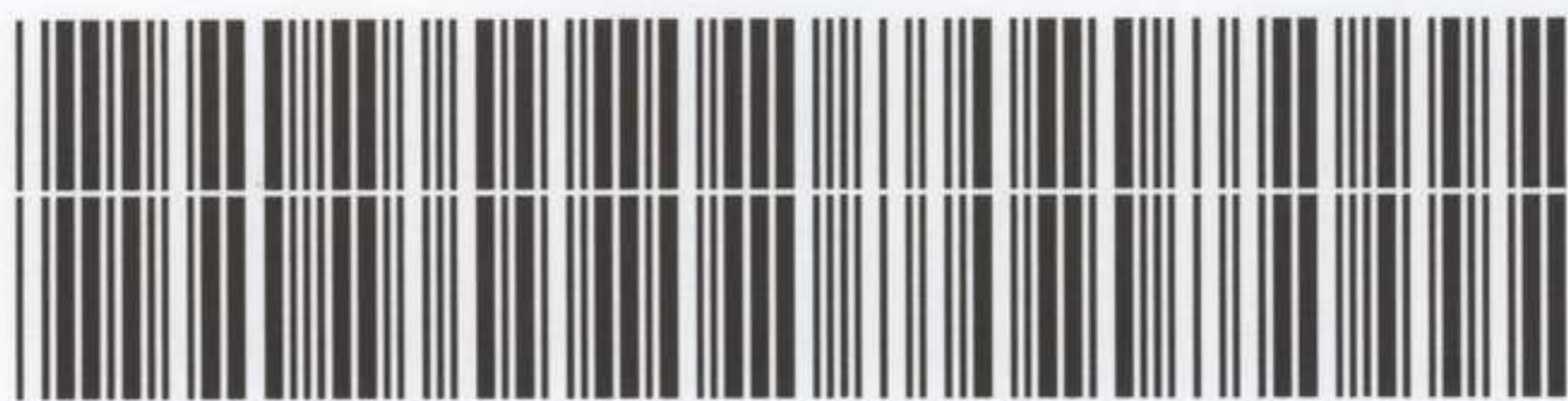
**AWM4**  
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,**  
**1914-18 War**

Infantry

**Item number:** 23/25/38

**Title:** 8th Infantry Battalion

February 1918



AWM4-23/25/38

**CONFIDENTIAL.**

*Original*

ORIGINAL.

DUPLICATE.

TRIPLICATE.

**Australian Imperial Force.**

**WAR DIARY**

OF

*8th Batt*

FOR

*February 1918*

Signature of Officer compiling.....

Signature of Officer Commanding.....

*Original*

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# WAR DIARY

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.

## or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Loire	1-2-18		Weather fine. Training as per Syllabus being carried on. Practice football matches. Canteen well stocked. Dn Officer's Mess, also Sgt's Mess started. ES 52 - 930 RS 36 - 658	
	2-2-18		Major J G M Trull DSO, MC. Having returned from leave takes up duties as 2 <sup>nd</sup> i/c vice Major J H P Eller, DSO proceeding on leave to Eng <sup>d</sup> . Football in afternoon. Training as per Syllabus.	
	3-2-18		Sunday - Church parade. Weather fine. Enemy planes high overhead during morning. Whistle protectors on rifles begun to be attached. Order issued for wearing of Box Respirator at all times.	
	4-2-18		During morning troops were given short lecture on "Prisoners of War" by Div. Int. Officer. Tank lecture given by GSO II in Dairkul. ES 50 - 932 RS 32 - 666.	
	5-2-18		Syllabus training being continued. Special Gas Respirator check inspection carried out. Beat 6 <sup>th</sup> Dn AIF in 1 <sup>st</sup> round inter Dn football compt. Large attendance at match. weather fine.	
	6-2-18		Dn route march carried out during morning. Route from camp via Dranoutre - Croix-de-Poperinghe thence back to camp. March discipline good. Canteen obtained large supply of stores. Half holiday.	
	7-2-18		One coy on rifle range remainder of Dn doing Syllabus work. Parcel 42 pms of socks from Compt. Fund - Capt G J Lovell proceeded to attend 2 <sup>nd</sup> Army School of Instr. Lecture of "Food Economy" in Dairkul to QM and officers of Dn. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt HC Dyer proceeded to Pigeon School.	
	8-2-18		Two coys on rifle range, remainder of Dn bathing at LOCRE Baths. Lt W G Blaridge returned to duty from Hospital. Dn beat 7 Dn AIF in 2 <sup>nd</sup> round inter Dn football matches.	
			ES 51 - 953 RS 32 - 673.	

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LOCRE	9-2-18		Special Dn in attack practises carried out on Rifle range during morning. Lecture delivered to off. NCO's & men in local YMCA. on "General strategy of the War" by Capt. Bles- (Capt. G. J. Lovell) Dn Transport off. congratulated by G.O.C. on fine turnout of transport.	
	10-2-18		Sunday. Church parade held in YMCA. G.O.C. attended & at conclusion of parade presented medals. Guard of Honor inspected by G.O.C. before church parade.	See App. No 1
	11-2-18		Parades as per Syllabus. Dn Box Respirators inspected by Dde Gas Officer.	
	12-2-18		Lecture to troops in YMCA by Rev. W. A. Elliot. on "Germany in Africa". ES 51-959- RS 31-684.	
	13-2-18		Dn route march carried out in morning - Route from camp via La. Clytte - Rertinghelsi - Westoutre - thence back to camp. Lieut. J. H. Wicks proceeded on leave. Dn beat 5 <sup>th</sup> Dn AIF in inter-Dn Football competition.	
	14-2-18		Three Coy's moved to Linderhoek. Camp. and relieved 3 coy's of 6 <sup>th</sup> Dn on fatigues there. Dcoy & Dn Hqs remaining at LOCRE. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dde comforts fund Xmas Boxes arrived & distributed - Dn beat 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dde Hqs AIF in Football comp. thus winning Dde comp. unbeaten.	
	15-2-18		Platoons at LOCRE doing special preparatory work for rifle competition. Weather wet. Major JHP Eller, DSO returned from leave.	
	16-2-18		Weather fair. Bathing carried out during day. Dn represented Dde in Diab. competition - met and defeated 10 <sup>th</sup> Dn AIF - representing 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dde.	
	17-2-18		Sunday. church parade held in local YMCA hut. ES 51-964. RS 32-684.	
	18-2-18		Syllabus work continued with. Groups of photographs taken of Dn officers, Dn Band, & Dn NCO's at 'The Horpree' LOCRE - Lt R. Hilton, Lt A. Finlayson & Lt J. Douke returned from X <sup>th</sup> Corps School -	

WAR DIARY

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LOCRE	19-2-18		Syllabus continued with. Dn defeated 2 <sup>nd</sup> Artillery Bde in Divisional Football competition.	
	20-2-18		Weather wet. Lt J. G. Pitt returned from School. barnteen restocks. Syllabus work continued.	
	21-2-18		Training carried on. special attention paid to musketry. 330 prs of socks received from 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dae Depot comfort's fund. Lt J. Hickson, MC returned from leave. Dn defeated 1 <sup>st</sup> Div Train.	
	22-2-18		Musketry Syllabus carried out on range. boys on detached duties return to Dn at LOCRE.	
	23-2-18		Morning training as per Syllabus. Afternoon cleaning & mending clothes and equipment. Dn beat run 2 <sup>nd</sup> in Dae Musketry competitions. ES 51-983. RS 38-713.	
	24-2-18		Sunday. Church parade held. H/Capt. E. Freeman & Lt. F. Tuckle MC proceeded on leave 6 off. & 152 OR's proceeded to TILQUES as part Dae group. for special musketry training.	
	25-2-18		Lt P. G. Perkins proceeded on leave. Two new Bag pipe players joined Dn. Night patrol work carried out (defensive & offensive) Light rain fell.	
	26-2-18		Syllabus carried on with. Afternoon route march to Football ground led by Bag pipes, & David returning by 6.30 pm. Dn met & defeated 1 <sup>st</sup> Div. Pioneers A.I.F. thus winning Divisional competitions undefeated under Australian rules. Night patrol carried out.	
	27-2-18		Day spent on preparations for move to new area. 2/Lt N. D. Hooper proceeded to 2 <sup>nd</sup> T. Bn.	
L.A. CLYTTE	28-2-18		Dn moved to DEZON camp near La Clytte in relief of 1 <sup>st</sup> Dn A.I.F. move completed within 1 hr 6-30 pm Dn warned of suspected enemy attack & standing on in readiness to move at a moment's notice. Troops sleep in cloths. Night passed quietly. Enemy shelling towards morning & rained front line Dn. ES 50-996 RS 31-628.	

J. Mitchell  
Commanding 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion. A. I. F.  
Lieut-Colonel

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<u>APPENDIX N° 1</u>	
			The undermentioned NCO's & men were presented with Medals by GOC on 9-2-18.	
			N° 6383 Pte F. Asker	
			5330 " A. Attwood	
			6836 L/cp. A. Baddock	
			1345 C.S.M. J Breeze	
			3097 L/cp. B. Ferri	
			591 Pte. A. C. Greene	
			3105 L/Sgt. E L Gilmore	
			1321 Pte. S. Lucas	
			1228 " V. Geard	
			1700 Cpl. A C Hall (now 2/L)	
			6362 Pte A F Wilson	
			N° 307 L/cp. R. Hooley (now C.Q.M.S)	
			6526 Pte. L. Haddock	
			575 Sgt. E Jones	
			3531 L/cp. L. Kittle	
			4273 Pte. D. Mitchell	
			4269 " J. Murray	
			3582 " J. J. Pearce	
			1480 " L. Tormey	
			2707 " H. Tyrell	
			7061 " H. Todd	
			1256 " R W Thompson	
			G. Mitchell Lieut-Colonel Commanding 8 <sup>th</sup> Battalion. A. I. F.	

APPENDIX 1

WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p style="text-align: center;">APPENDIX 2</p> <p>(1) Number marching in during month from Hospital (Sick or Wounded) :- 1 Officer (Lt. W.G.M. Claridge) &amp; 131 Other ranks</p> <p>(2) Number marching in from Reinforcements :- 8 Other ranks.</p> <p>(3) Number evacuated to Hospital during month :- Officers Nil. Other ranks 64.</p> <p>(4) Number proceeding to Training Battalion to relieve Permanent Cadre :- 1 Officer (Lt. S.H. Beck) 4 Other ranks.</p>	

*G. Mitchell Lt. Col.  
C/O 8 Bn*

APPENDIX 2

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S E C R E T.

APPENDIX 3

6

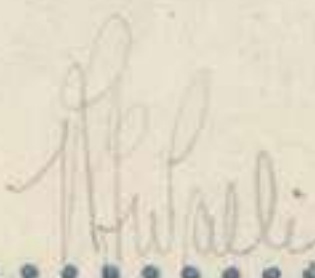
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BATTALION ORDER No. 18.

8th Battalion A.I.F.  
27th. Feb. 1918.

Reference Map: Sheet 28, 1/40,000.

1. The Battalion will move tomorrow and relieve a Battalion of the 1st Bde at D.ZON Camp. (M.12.d.2.4.)
2. Head of Battalion will pass starting point (LOCRE CHURCH) at 1-50 pm. Coys will be fallen in ready to move out at 1-30 pm.
3. Battalion will move in following order: H.Q. and "A" Coy - "B" - and "C" Coy, with 100 yds between. Transport 100yds in-rear of personnel, gaps of 25yds between every 6 vehicles. Brass Band will move in front of H.Qra. and "A" coy, pipes and Drum band in front of "B" and "C" coys.
4. Halts will be as ordered from head of column.
5. An Advance party of 1 N.C.O. per coy under Major J.C.M. Traill, D.S.O., M.C. will proceed to new camp leaving at 9-30pm and take over from outgoing Unit.
6. A rear party consisting of 10 O.R's from "B" coy under Lieut. I.G. MURDOCH will remain behind and correct any irregularities in Camp on Battalion moving out. This does not relieve Coys of the responsibility of leaving the camp and lines clean and satisfactory condition by 1 P.M. Lieut MURDOCH will obtain a receipt in duplicate as to satisfactory condition of Camp, from Area Commandant before marching outé
7. Troops will move out in Marching order carrying one blanket and waterproof sheet. Felt hats will be worn and steel helmets carried under pack straps. As move is not an early one there should be no difficulty in having a smart and neat turnout for the move.
8. The second blanket will be rolled in bundles of ten and stacked on platform in front of Q.M's store by 11 am ready for transport. Officer's valises will be rolled ready for transport by 12 am.
9. A party of 8 O.R's from "D" coy under Lieut. FENTON will move in rear of Battalion on march to collect stragglers etc.
10. Coys will report to Battalion Headquarters when ready to move out and also when established in new Quarters.

  
 .....Capt & Adjt,  
 8th Battalion A. I. F.

Copy No.	To whom	Time.	By.
1.	C. O.	12 Noon	Runner.
2.	2nd A.I. Bde	"	"
3.	"A" Coy	"	"
4.	"B" Coy	"	"
5.	"C" Coy	"	"
6.	War Diary	"	"
7.	Adjutant	"	"
8.	Battalion Details	"	"