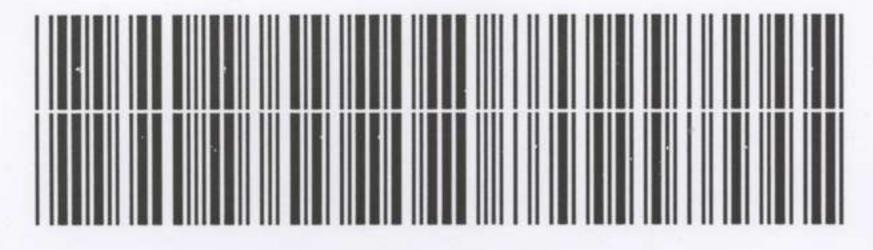
AWM4 Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries, 1914-18 War

Infantry

Item number: 23/88/1

Title: 8th Training Battalion

January - August 1917



AWM4-23/88/1

8th.TRAINING BATTALION A.I.F.

COMMANDING OFFICER.

ADJUTANT.

MAJOR H.W. SLOAN

CAPT. P.C.ECKERSLEY

This Training Battalion was formed in Egypt on 18-1-1916 and comprised 29th.Battalion (Victoria) 30th.Battalion (New South Wales) 31st.Battalion (Queensland and Victoria) 32nd.Battalion (South Australia and Western Australia).

First Draft of Reinforcements arrived on 23-1-1916.

Training Battalion moved out from Egypt on 4-6-1916 and arrived at Lark Hill England on 17-6-1916, removed to Codford Camp on 29-9-1916 and on 15-11-1916 to Hurdcott Camp the present Headquarters.

Since the formation of the Battalion the total number of Reinforcements taken on strength of Battalion is as under:-

OFFICERS.	OTHER RANKS.		
26	1950		
	2100		
Contract of the Contract of th	2100		
26	1950		
108	8100		
	26 28 28 28 26		

Officers and 1593 Other Ranks (which includes 65 Machine Gunners) an approximate total of 67 Officers and 6600 Other Ranks have been trained and sent to the several Battalions in France.

AUGUST 1917.1st.	Strength of Battalion 36 Officers 1129 Other Ranks.
3rd.	
4th	
5th	
6th	Nothing of interest noted.
7th	
8th 9th	
10th.	
11th.	4 N.C. Oss from France reported in and taken on strength
	of Permanent Cadre. (1 each for 29th.30th.31st.& 32nd
2012	Battalion).
12th.) Nothing of interest noted.
19th.	
20th.	3 Candahar N.C.O's and 2 Permanent Cadre N.C.O's
	marched out to France to join respective Battalions.
21st.) Wathing of interport moted
22nd.) Nothing of interest noted. 4 N.C.O's from France reported in and taken on strength
23rd.	of Permt.Cadre (1 each for 29th.30th.31st.and 32nd.Bn)
24th.) Nothing of interest noted.
25th.	2 Officers, 150 O/Ranks Infantry 42 Reinforcements
	8th. Machine Gun Company marched in. 4 Officers, 300 Other Ranks marched in.
26th.	Nothing of interest.
27th. 28th.	3 N.C.O's 29th.Battalion and 1 N.C.O 32nd.Battalion
20011	marched out to France.
29th.	
30th.) Nothing of interest noted.
31st.	N.C.'s as follows marched in from France and taken on
	strength of Permanent Cadre.

August 31st.1917 Continued. 4 - 29th.Battn. 5 - 30th.Battn. 5 - 31st.Battn. 4 - 32nd.Battn.

GENERAL REMARKS.

TRAINING.

At the close of the month the various Stages of

Training received by men fit for General Service were as under:

29th.Bn. 30th.Bn. 31st.BN. 32nd.Bn. Machine Gunners	2nd • 143 130 159 43	6th.7	VEEKS 7th. 146 20	9th.	11th. 26 18 55 28		.14th. 27 70 81 45	Special Courses 16 212 30 17	Unavail able. 62 65 59 30	TOTAL. 279 330 372 311
	475	22]	166	12	127	7	223	87	216	1335

The number shewn in Final Week of Training viz:- 223 therefore being fully trained and available for Overseas.

During the month 17 N.C.O's from Permanent Cadre (Speciallists) have been relieved by other N.C.O's from France and have proceeded over to take their place with the Battalions. The Division being out of the "line" and up to strength Drafts of Other Ranks have not been required.

The health of the Troops has been excellent, only one death having occurred since March 1917 which synchronized with the close of the extremely cold Winter, the cause of the death referred to was Acute Bronchitis. All burials are carefully recorded and in every case the grave is marked with a white Cross giving particulars of the deceased. Next of Kin or relatives being furnished with full information.

WEATHER CONDITIONS.

During the month there were an abnormal number of wet days which necessitated Training being carried on under a "Wet Day" Syllabus.

Good results from our Gardening efforts are assured.

Every available Plot between Muts and every spare portion of Parade
Grounds have been cultivated and sown with Potatoes, Cabbage, Onions
Lettuce, Radish, Parsnips, Carrots, Beans and Pumpkin for a total

expenditure of £65 in seed, fertilizers and Gardening Tools, a conservative estimate gives the value of Vegetables which will be available for the Troops at £350.

MESSING.

All Ranks appeared to be thoroughly satisfied with good Messing arrangements and complaints regarding the quality and quantity of Rations supplied are practically nil. Comprehensive instructions and directions have been issued to Messing Officer and a keen endeavour as made to conduct rationing of a most up-to-date lines i.e. efficiency combined with economy.

C.O., 8th. Training Battalion A.I.F.

HURDCOTT 17-9-1917