

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

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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:-

	<u>OFFICERS.</u>	<u>OTHER RANKS.</u>
29th. Battalion	26	1950
30th. Battalion	28	2100
31st. Battalion	28	2100
32nd. Battalion	26	1950
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TOTAL	108	8100
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Taking strength of Battalion on 31st. August 1917 as 44 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.

<u>AUGUST 1917.</u>	1st.	Strength of Battalion	36 Officers	1129 Other Ranks.
	2nd.)		
	3rd.)		
	4th)		
	5th)		
	6th	)	Nothing of interest noted.	
	7th)		
	8th)		
	9th)		
	10th.)		
	11th.	)	4 N.C.O's from France reported in and taken on strength of Permanent Cadre. (1 each for 29th. 30th. 31st. & 32nd Battalion).	
	12th.)		
	to	)	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.)		
	22nd.	)	Nothing of interest noted.	
	23rd.	)	4 N.C.O's from France reported in and taken on strength 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.	
	26th.	)	4 Officers, 300 Other Ranks marched in.	
	27th.	)	Nothing of interest.	
	28th.	)	3 N.C.O's 29th. Battalion and 1 N.C.O 32nd. Battalion 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:-

	WEEKS OF TRAINING.							Special Courses	Unavail	TOTAL.
	2nd.	6th.	7th.	9th.	11th.	12th.	14th.		able.	
29th.Bn.	143	5			26		27	16	62	279
30th.Bn.			146		18	7	70	24	65	330
31st.BN.	130	17			55		81	30	59	372
32nd.Bn.	159		20	12	28		45	17	30	311
Machine Gunners	43									43
	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.

HEALTH.

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.

GARDENING.

Good results from our Gardening efforts are assured. Every available Plot between Huts 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 is made to conduct rationing of a most up-to-date lines i.e. efficiency combined with economy.

A. H. C. O.

.....Major.,

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

HURDCOTT
17-9-1917