

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

Infantry

**Item number:** 23/82/1

**Title:** Overseas Training Brigade

June-October 1917



AWM4-23/82/1



O. J. Bde.

About the 12th June 1917, Camp Headquarters and No's 4, 5, 6 and 7 Camps, Perham Down, were amalgamated and named "Overseas Training Brigade", under the command of Major. T. Heron Steel, 14th Battalion, A.I.F. The Brigade was to consist of four (4) Camp Battalions under the administration of a Brigade Headquarters. No. 7. Camp, or No. 1 Camp Battalion to consist of "soft" class men, namely, men who had just marched in to the Brigade. They remained in this Battalion for one week, during which time they were fully equipped, and then moved up to No. 6. Camp or No. 2. Camp Battalion, when they were called "medium" class men.

After remaining in this camp for a further week, they were transferred to No. 5. Camp, or No. 3 Camp Battalion, when they were known as "hard" class men. On the completion of one week's training, and if thought fit by the Medical Officer, they were then considered fit for draft. They were then transferred to "A" Company, No. 4. Camp Battalion, which was the Drafting Company. The rest of No. 4. Camp Battalion consisted purely of details, who remained in the Brigade for a fortnight, when they were transferred to their Depots in the United Kingdom, or Overseas, as the case may be.

From the 12th June until 15th October, 1917, the following numbers of men were dealt with.

12, 327 marched in to the Brigade.

7,150 marched out Overseas.

3,345 marched out to Depots in the United Kingdom.

On the 15th October, 1917, the Brigade moved from Perham Down Camp to Camps. No's 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15, Sandhill Camp, Longbridge Deverill, about 4 miles from Warminster. Shortly after its arrival there the Brigade was re-organised, under the command of Colonel W. Russell Watson, C.B., V.D., 24th Battalion, A.I.F. as follows:-

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| No. 1. Battalion. | Training Infantry and Pioneer "Casuals", (excepting Regimental Signallers and substantive N.C.Os of the 1st Australian Division.  |
| No. 2. Battalion. | Training Infantry and Pioneer "Casuals", (excepting Regimental Signallers and substantive N.C.Os of the 2nd and 3rd Australian Divisions.   |
| No. 3. Battalion. | Training Infantry and Pioneer "Casuals" (excepting Regimental Signallers and substantive N.C.Os of the 4th and 5th Australian Divisions.  |
| No. 4. Battalion. | Receives and distributes all personnel marching in to the Brigade, and is responsible for all drafting Overseas, or to Training Depots. Training all Officers and substantive N.C.Os. Training of all "casuals" of Arms, other than Infantry or Pioneers, but including Infantry and Pioneer Regimental Signallers. |

W. Russell Watson  
Col.  
O. J. Bde

84



# WAR DIARY

or

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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.

*O. J. Bde*

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sandhill Camp, Longbridge Deverill	<u>1917.</u>			
	Oct. 17th		Training as per syllabus.	S.S.
	18th		Training as per Syllabus.	S.S.
	19th		Training as per Syllabus.	S.S.
	20th.		Training as per Syllabus.	S.S.
	<del>21st</del>		Divine Services. Inspection of Camp by the Brigadier.	S.S.
	22nd.		Training as per Syllabus.	S.S.
	23rd		Training as per Syllabus.	S.S.
	24th.		Training as per Syllabus.	S.S.
	25th		Barrack Inspection of No. 13 and 15 Camps.	S.S.
	26th		Order re lighting restrictions.	S.S.
	27th		Training as per Syllabus.	S.S.
	28th		Divine Services. Inspection of Camp by the Brigadier.	S.S.
	29th		Training as per Syllabus.	S.S.
	30th		Permanent Board of Enquiry constituted.	
	31st.		Training as per Syllabus.	

*Amputation Col. O. J. Bde*