

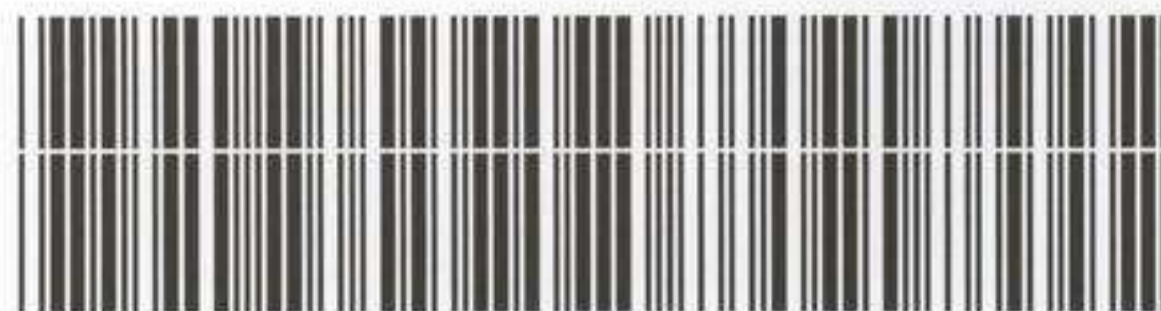
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Infantry

Item number: 23/25/1

Title: 8th Infantry Battalion

August - October 1914



AWM4-23/25/1

War Diary Lieut. Col. W.K. Bolton 8th BN. AIF.

Date.

Place and Time.

Remarks or References
to Appendices, &c.,
attached.

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5-8-14

Being mobilised, for duty as O.C. Reserve
Military Dist. Australia, from 5th Aug. 1914, I received instructions to
report at D.H.Q. for duty with A.I.F. on 14th Aug. 1914, on which date, I reported to Col. McEay
Brigadier, 2nd Inf Bde A.I.F., & by his directions, I proceeded with recruiting the
8th Batta, having recruiting depots at Drill Hall, Surrey Hills, H.Q. Reserve
Depot Victoria, Drill Halls Geelong Ararat & Ballarat, with sub
depots at all Area Officers, in the 48th, 69th, 70th, 71th, 72nd & 73rd Batta Areas,
and at various police stns in Batta Areas, the police rendering
valuable assistance in scattered country areas. On 19th Aug the
first draft of the Batta, 600 odd, assembled at Victoria Barracks &
marched to concentration Camp Broadmeadows, from thence to
completion of Establishment, recruiting was carried on at various
centres as above, drafts being forwarded - - -



Date.	Place and Time.	Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
	<p>at frequent intervals to Bathn. H.Q. The method of perinting left much to be desired. The dual control + responsibility of DHQ + AIF staff being unsatisfactory. It would have been better that DHQ. should have full responsibility of furnishing drafts as required to Bathn H.Q. The very small percentage of existing Citizen Forces volunteering for service was disappointing.</p> <p><u>Camp Site.</u> In my opinion the Camp Site was totally unsuitable for a standing military camp. The most important & necessary features having apparently been sacrificed in facilitating communication with D.H.Q. and the port of Embarkation. Fortunately the abnormally fine weather conditions rendered occupation of the site possible.</p>	

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	<p><u>Supplies</u> On arrival at Camp it was found that great difficulty existed in obtaining necessary Camp + Field equipment for the Unit. due largely to the fact that the 8th Batten. was the last Batten. of the Bde. in numerical order and Ordnance stores being located East of the site instead of in a more Central position for distribution.</p> <p>Generally the food supplies were good; water supply intermittent + inadequate in hot weather.</p> <p><u>Organisation</u> Organisation was necessarily hurried; not sufficient time to form a correct estimate of capacity and qualification of candidates for N.C.O. rank. Appointments consequently all provisional until arrival in England.</p> <p>Officers appointed largely on personal knowledge of their qualifications extending over a considerable period</p>	

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	<p>Companies were formed on a Territorial basis from the areas mentioned</p> <p><u>Training</u> Training was also necessarily hurried rank & file displayed remarkable aptitude, not sufficient time devoted to elementary training each Company should have had at least one permanent instructional staff Sgt Mijor attached for instructional purposes up to date of Embarkation. Musketry practice inadequate.</p> <p><u>Discipline</u> On the whole very good. Location of Camp near State Capital, facilities of communication with same, command of money in all ranks, induced overstay of leave & breaking Camp. These were practically the only crimes in the Unit.</p>	

Date	Place and Time.	Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
19-10-14	<p>Battalion left Concentration Camp by train at 9 am + 9.30 am est Broad meadows for Embarkation. 32 Officers 978 O.R. + 10 horses embarked on A24 "Benalla". 11 men + 49 horses being on the "Karoo" Of the two men thus under strength one had embarked but was removed to Fairfield hospital as he had developed measles and orders were received by wire for the discharge of the other man. The Embarkation Staff expressed satisfaction at the manner in which Embarkation was carried out. Embarkation was completed & the transport sailed at 2.27 P.M. During the voyage to Albany routine work as per syllabus was carried out. Boat stations was practised Washing + bathing parades carried out by Companies. Vaccination was commenced on 21st Oct + completed on 27th Oct</p>	