

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

Infantry

**Item number:** 23/25/11

**Title:** 8th Infantry Battalion

December 1915



AWM4-23/25/11

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.

I

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

8<sup>th</sup> Battalion A.I.F.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Alyar	1/12/15		Another fine bright sunny day, no wind. Three 6 inch and two shrapnell shells landed near and in vicinity of Brunau 3 casualties only. Cold night. Troops reduced to one pint of water per day.	
	2/12/15		Bright sunny day. Water difficulty causes increased number of fatigue parties bring water in cans from Salt Beach 2 miles away. Cold night. Ben stands to Arms at 0645 (daylight)	
	3/12/15		Water allowance 2 pints per man. Troops exposed to wind & weather. Great scarcity of sandbags iron and timber for protecting "dugouts" from weather. Cloudy day	
	4/12/15		Water difficulty being gradually overcome 4 pints per man. Lieut Elsberg invalided sick. Warships and Mountain shelling "Clair Grou" battery.	
	5/12/15		Fine and rather warm. Whole Battalion absorbed daily in fatigue work carrying etc. Winter scale of rations commenced. Oatmeal greatly appreciated.	
	6/12/15		Fine and rather warm. Lecture by Capt Blackshaw R.E. on "Gas attacks" and Gas helmets. Broom stick bombs thrown into Brunau nightly. No casualties so far.	
	7/12/15		L. Robertson with 8 & 9 Coy's totalling 245 arrived and taken on strength also	



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.

2

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

2-6

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Alger	7/12/15		17 returned from Hospital. Sick parade now 36 strength of Bn 901	
	8/12/15		21 <sup>st</sup> Lt Col O'Connell and 1 man of reinforcements arrived. 2 men wounded by shrapnell both reinforcements still in reserve Bn to the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Bde.	
	9/12/15		Dull cold day. Water difficult, not yet overcome. Half the Bn on carrying water from the track.	
	10/12/15		Intense bombardment at 1100 of OLIVE GROVE batteries by warships. 1 mortar in our artillery co-operating.	
	11/12/15		Bde H.Q. and 5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> Bns left at 1500 for Ambros. 7 <sup>th</sup> Bn relieved them on the front. 8 <sup>th</sup> Bn still in reserve and attached to 1 <sup>st</sup> Bde. Saw that Major Ebdling had been awarded D.S.O.	
	12/12/15		Bn H.Q. Ans A & B Coy moved into trenches. C & D Coy remained in houses. Rumoured that ANZAC was to be evacuated.	
	13/12/15		Quiet day. Bn engaged in fatigue night.	
	14/12/15		Major Coulter returned to duty. Instructions issued. Confidentially to Bn commanders re evacuation. Everything normal. Turk apparently ignorant of our movements.	
	15/12/15		Gen Smyth G.O.C. 1 <sup>st</sup> Bde went over route to be taken by covering parties of the	



III

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.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

163

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Aiyas	15/12/15		evacuation. Took all Officers & N.C.O. over same route Wind blowing from the land.	
	16/12/15		Under orders to remain at unnamed lake Mathus named.	
	17/12/15		Pn still in reserve to 1 <sup>st</sup> Bde apparently Turk ignorant of evacuation	
Mudros	18/12/15		Left Aiyas at 2100 for Mudros on SS at-bania, transhipped to Urmispedem at 0300 and	
	19/12/15		finally disembarked and went into camp at Sarpi with the remainder of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Bde. Party well settled at 1600 shalage in tents	
	20/12/15		Setting down. Still short of kuts Many men sleeping out. Severe dust storm raged all night.	
	21/12/15		Very wet day. Pn out on rough march and returned wet obtained 300 pair socks and 200 shirts from Mr H.E. Budden Awt Compt Sund. Received 864 Bitties and 440 plum puddings	
	22/12/15		Coys training resumed. Rumours of trouble in Egypt. Large mail arrived £1400 issued as pay.	
	23/12/15		Under orders to move at short notice x mas Bitties 1 per man and x mas puddings one between 2 men issued.	
	24/12/15		Orders for embarkation cancelled.	



IV

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.)

12-4

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Mydros	25/12/15		Church Parade. March past G.O.C. Division Gen. Chauvill. Half Holiday	
	26/12/15		Church Parade Lt Bolton to Hospital Sick	
	27/12/15		Rough March excellent day.	
	28/12/15		Ad. Brand to Hospital suffering from scabies	
	29/12/15		Rough March.	
	30/12/15		Whole Holiday	
	31/12/15		Inspection by G.O.C. Bow	
			Strength. OFF 23: OR 846.	
			<p>G. Bennett. Major. a/c Co. 8 Bath AIF.</p>	

